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visited our
site?

UNITED

Every Day



United Way of the
Dutchess-Orange Region

WWW.UWDOR.ORG

Spring 2019

What's inside...

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An essay by Board Vice
Chair Kevin Cleary

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Be inspired by the work of
our great Hudson Valley
CA\$H volunteers

4 Why Give?
Joey shares why your
support of United Way is
so important.

SAVE THE DATE!

April 7-13 National Volunteer Week
United Way offers organizations
and individuals a great way to give
back every year during National
Volunteer Week. For more
information, call
845-471-1900 ext 3106.

May 1 Celebration of Service
See story at right.
www.uwdor.org/celebration2019

**June 4 Nonprofit Professional
Development Training**
Free for nonprofit staff and key
volunteers. For more information,
call at 845-471-1900 ext 3128

**June 21 Free Community
Health Screenings**
In partnership with Hudson River
Health Care Community Health.
Family Partnership Center. For
more information, call
845-471-1900 ext 3106.

June 21 United Way Day of Action
On the longest day of the year,
United Ways across the country
celebrate volunteerism. For more
information, contact Candace
Nicoletti at 845-471-1900 ext
3106.

June 29 Pull the Plane
It's the ultimate tug of war! See
story to right.
www.uwdor.org/pulltheplane



IT'S THE ULTIMATE TUG OF WAR

On Saturday, June 29th YOU can claim bragging rights to pulling a Boeing 757 across a runway at New York Stewart International Airport! Teams of 20 will join together to pull a 757 the fastest for 12 feet. Prizes are awarded to top team fundraisers and individual fundraiser and there are great incentives! Join us for this exciting new challenge that's going to put the fun in fundraising! Sign up today! www.uwdor.org/pulltheplane



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

Join United Way on Wednesday, May 1, for our annual Celebration of Service Awards Dinner to be held at Anthony's Pier 9 in New Windsor. The celebration begins at 5:30pm with a cocktail reception, silent auction and nonprofit showcase. At 7:00pm the Awards Dinner begins and we'll be honoring some amazing people, including community leader Maureen Halahan of Orange County Partnership; organizations including top campaign Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp; and two nonprofit partners, Hudson River Housing & The Newburgh Ministry! There's also a live auction and entertainment!

www.uwdor.org/celebration2019



Congratulations!

This campaign season we wanted to give special recognition to Employee Campaign Managers who increased their campaigns the most this year. We are thrilled to announce the winners of our Employee Campaign Manager Contest:

- Dorrie Chelak from EFCO Products, Inc.
- Travis Podolec, Cassandra Paupst and John Nardi from Orange Bank & Trust
- Jessica Caserto & Joe Hally from Central Hudson

Congratulations!! Thank you for all your hard work and for helping make a difference in our community!

2018 CAMPAIGN FOR ALICE – GOAL \$1.3 MIL

95% RAISED – \$1.24 MIL



Why I Volunteer by Kevin Cleary

I grew up in Bainbridge New York, a small upstate New York town where dairy farming was the major occupation. Bainbridge did have an Elmer's Glue factory, which employed about 150 people, but farming was the way of life for most residents. I learned at an early age the importance of helping your neighbor in need because you never knew when you'd need help in return. With only 1,500 residents Bainbridge depended on volunteers to staff our Fire Department,

Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, Grange, Lions Club, Little League, and many other civic organizations. I was fortunate to grow up in a family who stressed the importance of education, hard work, and being socially responsible to give back to your community by volunteering.

I volunteer at United Way for an opportunity to work alongside the most dedicated, talented, compassionate, hardworking staff who truly "Lives United." United Way provides financial support to more than 45 partner organizations across Dutchess and Orange counties reaching more than 165,000 people in need. United Way has the ability to respond immediately to requests for assistance from individuals or organizations. United Way has a proven track record of helping Dutchess and Orange county residents break the cycle of poverty through their programs targeting financial stability, education, and wellness. Nothing is more rewarding than visiting my neighborhood elementary school seeing the smiling faces of the children knowing the United Way is making sure they have books, school supplies, proper clothing, a safe home, and food to eat.

I encourage you to join me in supporting United Way of the Dutchess-Orange Region.

Why I Volunteer is a new feature for our newsletter. In each issue, different board members will share their views of and involvement with United Way.

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*Associates from other organizations
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Dutchess-Orange Region

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Volunteers in Action

Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition helps low to mid-income community members receive the tax refunds they deserve - at no cost to them.



Many generous volunteers in the Hudson Valley have chosen to donate their time

in a somewhat off-the-beaten-path of typical volunteerism: tax-preparation.

One such dedicated volunteer is Elizabeth "Elisa" Morey. Elisa has volunteered with the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program for four years. Elisa is a local coordinator in the Newburgh location, where she oversees a small group of people doing taxes.

Elisa first heard about the Tax-Aide program in 2014 as a student at Mount Saint Mary College. As an accounting major with a passion for numbers, Elisa saw this opportunity as a "good way to gain experience." However, her volunteer experience soon proved itself to be an avenue through which she could extensively help others.

Elisa's work with the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition and AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program has developed into a passion far beyond numbers. She volunteers for the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition as a way to have fun while experiencing "a sense of achievement and accomplishment." Beyond finding

enjoyment in numbers, Elisa enjoys "helping others and making a difference in people's lives." Throughout Elisa's continued involvement, she has developed a personal connection with each individual whom she has been able to help. Although Elisa only spends one hour with clients, she values this time as a way for her to learn a variety of things from a multitude of people.

Elisa is especially proud of the program's ability to reach the Spanish community. Elisa is a bilingual volunteer and is able to communicate directly with those who speak Spanish. Bilingual volunteers are a pivotal connection to the Spanish-speaking residents of Newburgh. As Elisa emphasized through her experiences, "Being able to have bilingual volunteers who can communicate with this community has immensely helped the program. In many cases, they actually tell me their stories. Not just about taxes, but about their personal experiences with immigration or their family members." This connection is two-fold: members of the Spanish community see Elisa as a welcoming presence who can assuage any possible concerns or fears.

Elisa's favorite part of volunteering for the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition, however, is the opportunity it provides to connect



with like-minded volunteers. According to Elisa, there is an observable sense of dedication that exists among the volunteers: "Everybody who is there has the passion to volunteer for the program. Everybody has their Monday to Friday jobs, but they decide to volunteer." The inspiration that Elisa feels from those around her is why she remains so committed to the work she is doing.

Volunteering for the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition program has proven to be a "life-changing experience," she said. Becoming a volunteer requires making a choice—one that Elisa is glad to have made four years ago.

For more information on the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition, how to make your free tax preparation appointment and volunteer opportunities, go to www.hv-cash.org.

Last year, 7,797 filers received help from the Hudson Valley CA\$H Coalition preparing their tax returns. Thanks to this help, these hard-working individuals and families received \$6,608,331 in tax refunds. United Way, AARP Foundation Tax Aide and Community Action Partnership of Dutchess County join together every year with community partners and businesses to present this free tax preparation program at 40 sites in Dutchess, Orange and Putnam counties. To make an appointment for your free tax preparation, call United Way's 211 helpline from 9am to 7pm daily. Appointments are available through April 15th. www.hv-cash.org



GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED.



Help us stay in touch by providing updates with your preferred mailing address, email and phone number. Send an email with your information to donorservices@uwdor.org or call 845-471-1900 today!

*Thanks to the support of the
New York State Volunteer Generation Fund*

WHY WE GIVE ...

Joey's Story

We sat down with Joey to learn more about how our mentoring programs are helping young adults. Here's what we learned from him:

I'm 18 years old and live in the City of Poughkeepsie on Mansion Street with my aunt. I've had a tough time in school from the very beginning. I had what they call "developmental delays" when I was little, but they didn't realize it until I was in middle school. They just thought I wasn't smart.

When I was 10 my mother died. I still really miss her. My dad is really tough. He kicked me out when I was 13. That's how I wound up living with my Aunt Mary. She's kind of tough, but she gives me a place to stay.

It's my senior year. I decided I wanted to finish my high school education as I heard it's much harder if you drop out. I also started going to the Teen Resource Activity Center (TRAC) after school.

When I was off from school, I started hanging with some kids on my block. They're into some bad stuff. I got in a fight with one guy and didn't realize he had a knife. I got stabbed.

I got into trouble and the cops told me if I didn't pay \$500, I was going to jail. Right then, I just wanted to go to jail to take a break from it all. But I told one of the coaches at TRAC and he didn't agree – at all. He called



my dad. I hadn't spoken to him in a long time, but he paid the \$500 for me.

After that I realized if I kept doing what I was doing, I might go away for a while or maybe I'd get really hurt if I kept getting in fights. I didn't want to die and I was getting scared. My coach at TRAC really sat down and talked to me about all this and we decided there was another option for me.

We found a program out of Poughkeepsie that helps kids like me with education and vocational skills called Job Corps. I went for it and was accepted. I've been in the program for a few months. My coach from TRAC still calls me every week. I'm so glad someone was there to help.

Your donations provided this chance for Joey and for many other teens to escape tough street life and find another path. United Way supports TRAC and 47 other programs this year in Dutchess and Orange counties.

To see more reasons why, visit our Success Story page: www.uwdor.org/success-stories

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Make a gift today: www.uwdor.org/donate



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Dutchess-Orange Region**

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