

BUCKS UNITED

UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT & MAGAZINE

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United Way
of Bucks County

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Jamie Haddon

Jamie Haddon
President & CEO
United Way of
Bucks County

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

Impact. Investment. Outcomes.

Most cultures have the habit of seeing things in a series. Native Americans see things in fours; people from China expect that things come in fives.

We Americans like to see things in threes. Classic stories about billy goats, little pigs, and kittens all start with three. We find three word phrases easy to remember: win, lose, or draw; good, better, best; be the change.

As I reflect on what we need to do over the next year, I keep coming back to the same three things: impact, investment, and outcomes.

IMPACT

United Way of Bucks County is changing the way we do business. We are moving toward a collective impact model. Simply put, it means that stakeholders representing many different areas (nonprofits, government, businesses, and members of the community) come together.

These stakeholders form cross-sector groups. Groups formulate a specific agenda to solve a problem and then collaborate to act on that agenda. The objective is to achieve significant and lasting change.

Our groups, called Bucks County Solution Teams, are focusing on six areas: hunger and food insecurity; housing and homelessness; emergency assistance for basic needs; information and referral systems for those who need help; early child care and education; and access to benefits for seniors.

We don't expect that this will be quick or easy, but we do believe that this is the only way to make a meaningful and measurable change in our community.

INVESTMENT

Our staff and partners always look for low- and no-cost solutions, but one fact remains: achieving real change will always require a real investment.

We have some incredible partners here in Bucks County. Individual donors and local businesses have stepped up and shown tremendous support. But to truly achieve what we are planning, we need more help. We need more individuals and companies to stand with us. We need people who are willing to invest in our new initiatives and a new way of doing business.


It pains me to say this, but we expect we may lose some donors over the next year. Some people believe it's not our job to invest in efficiency; it's not our job to find innovative or cost-effective solutions. They believe our job is simply to raise money and give it out. I disagree.

I believe that both the collective impact process and the six areas we have identified are worthy of investment. I hope you agree.

OUTCOMES

As we shift our impact and investments, outcomes will change. We will constantly be testing ourselves and our partners to answer these questions: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Who is better off as a result?

Our successes will be shared because they are not the work of one person, one group, or one organization. Positive outcomes come from a part-time cashier giving \$1 a week and a vice president joining our Tocqueville Society with a \$10,000 gift. Success comes from all of us doing—and giving—what we can. Everyone doing a little adds up to be a lot.

And that's what it means to Live United. 

*“How much did we do?
How well did we do it?
Who is better off as a result?”*



LEARNING AT SCHOOL SHOULDN'T END ONCE YOU'RE HOME

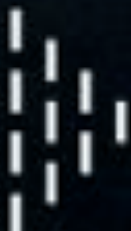
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MESSAGE FROM COO



John Ramirez

John Ramirez
Chief Operations Officer
United Way of
Bucks County

“

*At United
Way, we
are ready to
define and
take action
for progress.*

”

My Honey was watching TV one night. A certain gecko was on heavy rotation, commercial-wise.

Honey asked, “What does this lizard have to do with insurance?”

I briefly disconnected from my email to answer, “Nuttin’ Honey. It’s just a meme.”

“What’s a meme?”

“Like Grumpy cat. The ice bucket challenge. That Carly Rae Jepsen song, *Call Me Maybe*. Memes are things that leap from brain to brain. They’re the things we hear, see, and imitate.”

Most memes are nothing—quick cultural touch points without a lot of meaning. But I like to think that there’s room in the world for something new: a meaningful meme.

When Richard Dawkins coined the term meme, he explained “[w]e need...a noun that conveys the idea of a unit of cultural transmission, or a unit of imitation... ‘Mimeme’ comes from a suitable Greek root, but I want a monosyllable that sounds a bit like ‘gene.’”

He said that a meme acted as a replicator in “the soup of human culture.” Forty years ago he claimed memes were already, “achieving evolutionary change at a rate that leaves the old gene panting far behind.”

He impressed that memes have both positive and negative aspects. More, they have the ability to be passed down the generations, to evolve—some will even survive for thousands of years.

Professor Almeida, Sao Paulo University, defined “cosmopolitan society” as a structure to solve big problems. In a cosmopolitan society, he explained, politicians, businesspeople, academics, and faith leaders—people from all generations, people from all levels of community—come together in a “*spirit of hospitality*” to define and then take action for progress.

That is a pretty decent definition of collective impact. Maybe it even becomes a *unit of imitation*.

That’s the beauty of it. If Dawkins is right, we are hardwired to imitate, to replicate, to evolve. If it works for the silly, maybe it can work for the serious.


At United Way, we are working to gather momentum, to shift our focus and energies to a collective impact model. We are ready to define and take action for progress.

My wish is for collective impact to become a meme in Bucks County; for people to be inspired and inspire others; for those who want to make a difference to, well, call us maybe? 🍷

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MESSAGE FROM CDO

Happy Bucksgiving

Marissa Christie
Chief Development Officer
United Way of
Bucks County

There's hard evidence that being grateful is good for us. Over and over, studies show that keeping a gratitude journal—or even just counting our blessings once a week—makes a difference. Being consciously grateful has been shown to boost the immune system, reduce hypertension, improve sleep and heart health, and (not surprisingly) make us much, much happier.

So, what stands between us and gratitude? More than 50% of people say that not expressing gratitude stems from being too busy or too forgetful. I understand those feelings (trust me).

The solution is this: don't make gratitude a

“
*Together,
we will give
more people
reasons to be
grateful.*
”

task. Make it a habit. When expressing gratitude becomes part of what we do regularly, it becomes part of who we are. And most of us have good reason to be grateful.

If you will eat as much as you wish today and then sleep in a safe place, you are better off than 75% of the world's population. If you have money in the bank and can even spare some change to help others, you are among the 8% of the wealthiest people in the world. If you are truly grateful for these things, you will have 10% fewer stress-related illnesses and better overall health.

This is the year of Bucksgiving—a year of giving thanks public expressions of gratitude; a year of celebrating the wonderful people and organizations that care for Bucks County. Together, we will give more and more people reasons to be grateful.

So, Happy Bucksgiving. Today I am grateful to (and for) you. 🙌

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Dr. Stanton Kelton Service Award!



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Each year, a member of the United Way of Bucks County Board of Directors is awarded the Dr. Stanton Kelton Award. This long-standing award recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution over the past year to the goals of the United Way of Bucks County and its mission in the community. This award honors the memory of Dr. Kelton, a compassionate and generous board member from 1966 to 1993, who was dedicated to advancing this community.

KELTON SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Jeane Coyle



This year, Jeane Coyle is being honored with this prestigious award. Ms. Coyle is President and CEO at Penn Community Bank. She is Vice-Chair, Community Impact, on the Executive Committee of the United Way of Bucks County's Board of Directors. She also serves on the governance and personnel committees. She is being honored for her incredible contributions over the past year, which include helping United Way staff manage a shift to collective impact and overseeing a growing United Way campaign—all while managing the unification of two local institutions: First Federal of Bucks County and First Savings of Perkasié.

What do you like best about living and working in Bucks County?

Having lived in Lehigh, Montgomery, and Berks counties before moving to Bucks County, I can certainly say that Bucks County residents and business owners see themselves as unique! With that comes a demonstrated commitment to do business locally and to give locally, which connects with what I stand for, both personally and professionally.

People in Bucks County often recognize and celebrate your commitment to the nonprofit community. What drives that commitment? Who has influenced you?

Ten years ago, when I first joined First Federal of Bucks County, I discovered a match for my commitment to do business in a highly ethical and personal manner. Long before I started at the bank, its leaders and team members already had established a tradition of service, modeled by a board of directors with an established reputation for the highest ethics, a commitment to doing business locally, and giving back to the community through volunteerism and financial donations. The power of this giving is felt throughout the organization, and it has enhanced

my own interest to be involved in various organizations that help improve the quality of life throughout Bucks County.

Can you recall the first time in your life that you gave—time or money—to a nonprofit?

What do you remember about that experience?
After I graduated college, I worked for a bank in Lehigh County that was highly committed to the community. It had established a huge United Way campaign, and I was eager to participate. I have continued that participation since then, so my individual payroll deductions have gone to one United Way or another for more than 30 years!

What are some of the organizations and causes that you are most proud to support in Bucks County? Why?

I have such a genuine connection to the Bucks County Opportunity Council, whose core mission is to help people leave poverty permanently and to not just survive, but to thrive. My father was born in Wheeling, West Virginia on coal mining property and was orphaned at age 15. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he attended and graduated from West Virginia University and became an electrical engineer. I personally witnessed the transformative benefits that education and community support brought to my family. The work the Opportunity Council does is truly amazing.

In 2015, First Federal of Bucks County and First Savings of Perkasié unified to form Penn Community Bank. How did you manage that

“*The power of this giving is felt throughout the organization, and it has enhanced my own interest to be involved in various organizations that help improve the quality of life throughout Bucks County.*”



process and still remain so active as a volunteer?

Together with many members of our leadership team, I did stay involved in community organizations, but at a reduced pace. Now that the unification is final—and the amazing team members and Penn Community Bank are working together as one whole—I am getting back into the swing of a “normal” schedule, and I look forward to renewing my connections with the groups that make Bucks County great.

The entire team at Penn Community Bank shows an enormous commitment to nonprofits in Bucks County. Do you think you hire people who are community minded? Or do you think they begin to support nonprofits because it’s part of the culture at Penn Community Bank?

It is a little bit of both. The energy that so many of our team members put towards community efforts is contagious, and the

bank supports many types of volunteer efforts.

What has been the most rewarding or memorable volunteer experience you’ve had through UW Bucks?

The power of Bucks Knocks Out Hunger is really strong; the experience of having so many people working together to pack food to meet on the common goal of ensuring our neighbors don’t go hungry was moving. Wearing the hairnet was not so moving!

The work I have done on the funding panels also is very special to me. It is important for people to know that the process used to determine where money goes is a major focus of United Way.

What would you tell someone thinking of getting involved with a Bucks County nonprofit?

Don’t wait. Do it now—thinking only goes so far! Pick a cause or a group that you feel a personal connection to, and call

or email to find out how you can help.

If you could change one thing about Bucks County, what would it be?

One of the great things about folks in Bucks County—that feeling of being unique—can also be a challenge. Sometimes unifying to make something happen becomes like herding cats. We are working very hard to focus on solving problems for those in need in Bucks County. I think we can do even more by working together —nonprofits, businesses, and local government.

What might people be surprised to know about you?

I watch Andy Griffith every night that I am home! Don Knotts reminds me of Arnie [Porter], who recently retired as the police chief of Bristol Borough.

What is your favorite place to travel?

Home! I am not home enough! 🍷



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The Paul Sauerbry Award is given annually to a volunteer who, over an extended period of time, has demonstrated commitment to the community through innovative leadership, stimulus for volunteer action by others, courage to overcome obstacles, and dedication and creativity in the development of programs to meet community needs. The award honors Paul Sauerbry, President of United Way of Bucks County from 1964 to 1974.

“
*C.E.O.—that’s
Children,
Education, and
Opportunity—
represents our
future.*
”

PAUL SAUERBRY AWARD

Vince Mandes

This year, Vince Mandes is receiving this prestigious award. Mr. Mandes is the Senior Vice President of Finance/Chief Financial Officer at the American Board of Internal Medicine and ABIM Foundation. He serves as treasurer on the Executive Committee of the United Way of Bucks County’s Board of Directors. For more than a decade, he has also volunteered as a member of the organization’s Finance Committee.

As a financial professional, he is straightforward, challenging, insightful, no nonsense, and highly exacting. His advice, insight, and oversight are invaluable to UW Bucks. His focus on sustainability and managing the bottom line have driven the staff to scrutinize all aspects of the business and pushed them to perform at a higher level.

Still, what makes him respected is not just his expertise and business acumen. It’s who he is: a good and honest person who treats others well.

Your peers on the United Way of Bucks County board of directors and finance committee recognize you as someone who demonstrates exceptional leadership and dedication. What inspires you to serve your community?

I’ve lived in Bucks County my entire life. My inspiration to serve comes from my desire to see even my small little corner of the world, Bucks County, become more vibrant, healthy, and sustaining. If everyone focused on just their small little corner of the world, collectively, the impact would be overwhelming.

How did you first get involved with United Way of Bucks County? Fifteen years ago, I was working out at the Newtown Athletic Club (NAC) and was approached by Eric [Stark, then CEO]. Eric knew I was the CFO of the Rose Group, a local Newtown based company, and he asked if I would be interested in serving on the Finance Committee. The CEO of the Rose Group, Harry Rose, encouraged me to give back to the community in some way. Working with the Finance Committee of UW Bucks offered me the opportunity to do this.

Why do you continue to support UW Bucks? I believe in the mission and purpose of UW Bucks. When I see first-hand the passion of UW Bucks staff and others in the community that serve UW Bucks in their efforts to bring positive change, it’s an easy decision to make. You see it and say, “This is something I want to be part of.”

What other causes or organizations do you support? Some of the other organizations I support include Children International, Christ’s Home, Sunday Breakfast Rescue Mission, and Archbishop Wood High School.

In your opinion, what is the best way to inspire the next generation of donors, advocates, and volunteers? Through my actions. If I don’t provide an example, I have no right to expect others to do more than me.

Can you recall the first time in your life that you gave—time or money—to a nonprofit? What do you remember about that experience? The first time I gave of my time to a non-profit was UW Bucks. I remember that I felt an overwhelming sense of responsibility to not only the organization and its Board, but to the community as well. I looked upon my role as an opportunity to take responsibility for positive change rather than just talk about positive change.

You have a strong background in finance, strategic planning, and business development. Does viewing nonprofits through this lens influence how you interact with them? Absolutely. From my perspective, the long-term viability of a non-profit with a purposeful mission starts first with its commitment to financial accountability. If there is no consideration of financial viability when making decisions, then the impact of the nonprofit



Mark J. Milnazik President

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on society—no matter how honorable and beneficial—will be very short-lived. Does anyone really benefit if the existence of a nonprofit with a purposeful mission is short-lived?

You have lived in Bucks County for a long time. How have you seen the community change over the years? I have, and in my opinion, it has changed for the better. I think Bucks County is more aware of the challenging issues faced by residents every day, thanks to the messaging provided by organizations like UW Bucks. I am not so certain there was awareness of what the real issues were and what needed to be done when I was younger. I don't think it was as clear. The obvious challenge now is how do we address these issues and make the positive changes we seek?

If you could change one thing about Bucks County, what would it be? I'd ensure that every child in Bucks County would at least be provided with an opportunity to make their life better. Some would be better able than others to take advantage of the opportunity, but to not give all children an opportunity in the first place is unacceptable and needs to change. C.E.O.—that's Children, Education, and Opportunity—represents our future.

Who would play you in a movie of your life?

Ray Liotta.

Where is your favorite place on earth?

Hockey rink or baseball field.

What might people be surprised to know about you? I don't think about finance and accounting 24/7. 🍷



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The Founder's Award was established to recognize a truly outstanding community builder. Honorees must demonstrate exceptional commitment to positive community impact in Bucks County over an extended period of time.

This award is only given by special request of the United Way of Bucks County's Board of Directors.

FOUNDER'S AWARD

Calkins Media: Proud to Support Bucks County

Calkins Media is being honored with the Founder's Award for their truly exceptional service to the residents and nonprofit community of Bucks County. Projects like Buck Up Bucks and Give a Christmas have changed countless lives. Their ongoing support of initiatives like Bucks Knocks Out Hunger show that their team is willing to share their passion, expertise, and resources-and give more than a little sweat equity-for the greater good.

by Amy Gianficaro

Calkins Media has been a contributor to the high quality of life in Bucks County ever since William Levitt encouraged the company's founder, S.W. Calkins, to establish a newspaper to serve the new American suburb that he was creating.

For nearly 60 years the Calkins family has operated news organizations with a commitment to Bucks County, exemplified through consistent high-quality local news and support of the community through philanthropy and engagement.

The *Bucks County Courier Times* was established in Levittown in 1954 and, not long after, Calkins Media acquired one of the oldest continuously published newspapers in America, *The Intelligencer* in Doylestown.

Today the *Courier* and *Intell* serve Bucks County, Montgomery County and beyond with printed newspapers, digital-first reporting, mobile and video news delivery, and the rapid adoption of innovative communication methods for its modern audience.

"We realize we have a journalistic responsibility to shed light on the important issues to our community," Executive Editor Shane Fitzgerald said. "We also have a responsibility to tell the great stories of the many good and heroic things that happen every day, things the United Way embodies in its mission. We are proud of our role here."

In addition to the journalism, Calkins Media believes operating a news organization that belongs to the community means doing the work that allows local business and our communities to thrive.

More recently, projects like Buck Up Bucks County demonstrate that principle. A simple idea of shared contribution, the *Courier* and *Intell* asked what could be achieved if everyone in Bucks County contributed just \$1 to aid the homeless. In partnership with Family Services Association, the Buck Up Bucks County concept was created in 2013 and in two



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successful campaigns, about \$500,000 was raised to purchase a bus to transport Lower Bucks' homeless community and for the renovation of a kitchen and bathrooms at the homeless shelter.

From the early days of Calkins Media, leadership in that sort of grassroots community effort was here. The newspapers' Give A Christmas campaigns raise about \$250,000 annually for distribution to needy families in our communities in partnership with the Levittown-Bristol Kiwanis Club and the Bucks County Opportunity Council. The projects have been a holiday help in the community since 1958 at the *Courier Times* and since 1988 at *The Intelligencer*.

Moreover, countless Bucks County nonprofit organizations and charitable initiatives have been advanced over the years through the newspapers' reporting, donation of advertising space, and the volunteer engagement of the news organizations' leaders and employees.

"Our commitment to provide the communities

we serve with relevant news and information runs deep," Michael Jameson, president and publisher of Calkins Media Philly region, said.

"So does our passion to see these communities thrive and prosper. It's where we live also, sharing the benefits of the many wonderful things this area has to offer. At Calkins Media, we take pride in our ability to reach people, make them aware of important issues and opportunities to engage and help. In a place where kindness and generosity are fiercely abundant, that work is even more rewarding."

Working together to make Bucks County the best it can be for all its citizens is what we share at Calkins Media, the United Way of Bucks County and all its partner agencies. We're proud to stand with you and humbled to have been selected as this year's Founder's Award recipient. 🍷

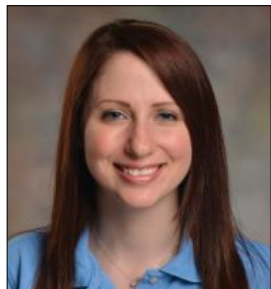
About the contributor: Amy Gianficaro is the Director of Community Affairs for Calkins Media Philly region.

“
Our
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The Campaign Volunteer of the Year award recognizes the year-round creative work of an individual or team in support of a United Way of Bucks County campaign. Winners use best practices, imaginative special events, and strong communication plans to get their colleagues involved. Whether they're called campaign coordinators, campaign volunteers, or ECCs, these are the volunteers who plan, monitor, communicate, and advocate to ensure success. They are, without question, some of the most important and impactful United Way volunteers.

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Kelly Ducsik



This year's award goes to Kelly Ducsik. Ms. Ducsik is Service Manager at Wegmans in Warrington. She is committed to running a smart and impactful United Way campaign—and getting her entire team involved. In her second year as campaign coordinator, she led her store's most successful campaign on record, with 100% of pledge cards returned and over \$44,000 in contributions.

Professionally, she is described as a "star." Personally, she is a pleasure to be around: kind and respectful; committed and caring; humble and highly intelligent.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I grew up in Canandaigua, New York, with my two older brothers. I started with Wegmans as a cashier when I was 15 years old. I received a scholarship through Wegmans, and graduated from SUNY Buffalo with a bachelor's degree in business. In 2010, I received a full time position with Wegmans in the Pennsylvania division and relocated with my husband. I have worked in five stores, spending the past four years here at the Warrington location. Currently, I am in the role that I have always aspired to: Service Area Manager. And I absolutely fell in love with Philadelphia and Bucks County and plan to raise a family here!

What does your job at Wegmans entail?

In my role as Service Manager, I am one of the assistants to Store Manager, Steve Gallucci (a member of the United Way Board of Directors). I oversee a wonderfully diverse group of over 450 employees. Our employees range from 15-year-old cashiers (where this is their first job) to those with much life and work experience.

Under my umbrella, I manage customer and community relations. I also assist with running the Warrington Wegmans' CARE team. Our CARE team consists of employees from all areas of the store who want to get involved in employee appreciation and community events. I am responsible for all donations, as well as the



“

We always express our gratitude, regardless of the amount of the donation. We ask people to get involved beyond their campaign donation.

”

sustainability program (“Green Team”) at our store.

What do you like about working at Wegmans?

I love knowing that I am part of a family owned company that has been in business for 100 years near my hometown.

Wegmans has been integrated into my family and my community life since I can remember.

There is a great sense of pride when I say, “I work for a company that has been in the FORTUNE 500’s Top Places to Work since 1998.” I feel personally connected to Wegmans “Who We Are” values: *Making a Difference, Empowerment, Respect, Caring, and High Standards*. These are values that were instilled in me by my own family.

Our company is continuously evolving in order to better serve our employees and clientele. I love sharing the joy and passion I have for food and service. I love seeing what we can do together, and making an impact in our customers’ lives and in the new communities we enter.

Why do you personally give to the United Way campaign?

I have been donating to the United Way every year since I started as a cashier.

Wegmans has partnered with the United Way, starting in Rochester, NY, for many decades. The late Robert Wegman stated, “Never think about yourself, always care for others.” His message and philosophy about giving back and doing what you can to help those in your community resonated with me even at a young age. It’s been a natural evolution since then. It is ingrained in our culture here and I have always been encouraged to get involved.

During the campaign, I want our employees to receive this message in

a sincere and honest way. I care about giving back and helping others. I want to motivate them to do the same. I want to have open discussions about why I give and the personal connection I feel. That way, I can encourage others to follow my lead. It needs to come from a genuine place. I explain to them that you never know when you, or someone close to you, may be in a position where they call upon the United Way for support—and that every little bit counts.

Why do you think so many people at Wegmans choose to give?

It starts with our values and our culture at Wegmans. Education is also important. We share stories and give real perspectives—how our donations help in areas like food insecurity, housing, and education.

We always express our gratitude, regardless of the amount of the donation. We ask people to get involved beyond their campaign donation. Employees volunteer through #girlSTEM, Stuff the Bus, Bucks Knocks Out Hunger, and other projects. We also ask employees to put together their own fundraising events—something they take great pride in.

What is your biggest accomplishment as a campaign coordinator?

During our most recent campaign, we had 100% of all pledge cards returned and raised over \$44,000! This has been the most successful campaign since the Warrington store opened 10 years ago! It is incredibly humbling to see our group of employees come together.

Between our donations, fundraising, and volunteering, we have improved the lives of many in need in Bucks County. Our customers were also happy

to contribute and be a part of the many fundraising events we had throughout the year. We have been able to celebrate this amazing achievement with our teams, making each employee feel special.

What are some of your tips for other workplace campaign coordinators?

I have been a campaign coordinator for the past two years. I feel a tremendous responsibility to continue to share and communicate our campaign message with the team at Wegmans—especially to people who are new.

I think you have to be invested and feel a connection to the campaign. It starts with the passion and ability to motivate others. You also need a team of people dedicated to the cause. You cannot do it on your own.

You have to educate, educate, educate! It helps to bring in staff of UW Bucks or the agencies to speak to employees and personally thank them. And make it fun! Show sincere thanks and continue to get your employees involved throughout the year. Finally, be committed: never stop communicating the message!

What might people be surprised to know about you?

I am a huge animal and music lover. I rescued a retriever from Tennessee who is truly my best friend. I collect vinyl and love listening to my family’s old records.

What is your favorite place to travel?

So far, it has been the Pacific Northwest. I visit my brother in Portland as much as I can. I absolutely love having access to mountains, ocean, and in my opinion, one of the coolest cities in the country—especially for a foodie and music lover like myself! 🍷

LIVE UNITED

Collective Impact

Shifting United Way Investments for the Greater Good

For more than 60 years, United Way of Bucks County has focused on strengthening our community. By bringing together people and organizations with the passion, expertise, and resources needed to make a difference, we've been able to invest in some innovative solutions.

That will not change. What will change is how-and why-we invest with our partners.

We are seeing a trend in Bucks County. The issues facing friends, neighbors, and members of our community are increasingly complex. We're seeing changes in our education, health, and economic systems. While most of these changes are for the better, they have consequences. As systems change, they can become more difficult for some to navigate. The sheer complexity and interdependence of systems and issues can become overwhelming. As a result, the gap between those who thrive and those who barely get by is growing.

As our community changes, so must the way we address community issues. Investments need to be more strategic. Collaborators need to be included in planning from the beginning. All sectors-non-profit, businesses, government, education, faith-based groups, neighborhood organizations-must be invited into the process. Goals need to be shared; achievements need to belong to everyone.

Collective impact is the way forward.

6

AREAS OF
EXPLORATION



Hunger &
Food
Insecurity



Housing &
Homelessness

Emergency Assistance
for Basic Needs



“ *Collective impact is a model of collaboration that moves beyond short-term solutions to focus on long-lasting community change.* ”

by Matt Uhler

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

When it comes to addressing issues that destabilize our community, many people and groups already own a piece of the solution. The goal of collective impact is to bring those pieces together to form a complete picture.

Collective impact is a model of collaboration that moves beyond short-term solutions to focus on long-lasting community change. It does this by engaging a broad cross-section of the community that includes nonprofits, government agencies, businesses, schools, the faith community, foundations, donors, advocates, volunteers, community leaders, and anyone with the passion and will to make change happen. It begins with a common agenda and the commitment to work together to change conditions and improve lives.

As a starting point, UW Bucks has identified six areas for exploration. Together with cross-sector partners, we're looking at the issues of hunger and food insecurity; housing and homelessness; emergency assistance for basic needs; information and referral systems for those who need help; early child care and education; and access to benefits for seniors. As a community we'll look at what is, what could be, and figure out ways to get there. Throughout the process, we will measure success by asking three

simple questions: How much did we do? How well did we do it? Who is better off as a result?

HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Because collective impact focuses on long-term change, it takes time, commitment, trust, funding, and a constant infusion of new ideas and energy. As an organization with a long history of solving community problems, United Way of Bucks County is uniquely positioned to provide the backbone support for this type of an initiative. The entire team is committed to putting in time, building trust, and reaching out to the broader community so that we all own a piece of the solution.

But without your help, your time, your ideas, and your willingness to answer the call and build a better Bucks County, our impact will fall short of what we know it can be. To learn more about collective impact or to join one of our Bucks County Solutions Teams visit www.uwbucks.org/unitedsolutions. 🍎

About the contributor: Matt Uhler is Impact Director of Financial Stability programs at United Way. He also serves as the secretary for the Housing Continuum of Care of Bucks County and is a lifelong resident of Bucks County.

Collective Impact Case Study: Reducing Childhood Obesity

Campbell's soup company, based in Camden, New Jersey, was determined to make a difference in the health of the city's youth. Targeting childhood obesity, Campbell's convened a consortium of local organizations with similar concerns using a collective impact model.

Instead of employing their substantial resources to simply fund individual programs, Campbell's engaged the entire community as part of the solution, setting ambitious goals to increase physical activity, improve access to healthy food, and reduce fat intake.

The results have been outstanding: Kids in Camden are now more physically active and have lower body fat and families are able to access fresh fruits and veggies at local corner stores.

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Community Conversations

Turning Outward



“

When people and organizations turn outward, efforts to solve challenges have a much greater chance of having a lasting impact, generating more support and resources, and creating a community that is better equipped to sustain the change—and tackle other challenges.

”

Listen: There are many ways we can show compassion, respect, and empathy. There's only one way to do all of these things and truly understand the perspective and experiences of others. We have to drop our preconceptions, turn outward, and truly listen.

by Matt Uhler

In 2015, United Way of Bucks County partnered with the County of Bucks to conduct over 30 kitchen-table style community conversations. Using a format developed by the Harwood Institute for Public Innovation, these conversations connected hundreds of people from all corners of Bucks County. The information gathered during these listening sessions is shaping the way UW Bucks is approaching community investments. It is how we ensure that work in the areas of education, income, and health are rooted in, and aligned with, the aspirations, concerns, and needs of the community.

The Harwood model walks people through a series of questions and allows all voices to be heard. Each conversation explores what aspirations people have for their community; what challenges they see; and what they imagine

the path forward to look like. Each conversation gives a better understanding of what we can accomplish by working together.

Here are some of the things learned from Bucks County Community Conversations—so far!

ASPIRATIONS

Bucks County residents have a clear vision of the community they want. Words like *safe*, *connected*, *caring*, *engaged*, and *respectful* came up repeatedly all across the county. As people expanded on these ideas, they highlighted that it was important to them to live in a diverse community where differences are accepted. They want to feel comfortable getting to know their neighbors. They frequently talked about wanting to live in a “close-knit” community.

CHALLENGES

Bucks County residents say that their top

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Thank you for serving the community in
many great ways.

In addition, we would like to congratulate our CEO, Jeane Coyle, for her
dedication and receiving the Dr. Stanton Kelton Service Award.



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concerns—and the challenges they see in the community—are safety, civility and values, family stability, employment, drugs and alcohol, and connectedness. They often tied issues of safety and crime to the presence and use of drugs, a lack of common values, and the disappearance of the neighborhood community.

Overwhelmingly, residents feel that they are disconnected from their neighbors, their government, and the services available to them. For many, there was nostalgia for a simpler time. They said things like “there are too many hoops” when it comes to volunteering and being involved. This sense of being disconnected was closely associated with an overall lack of trust and a lack of time. Both of these things pose significant barriers to the civic engagement necessary for vibrant communities.

A PATH FORWARD

The good news is that those who participated in the conversation process were generous with both their time and ideas; they demonstrated a willingness to build a better community. Additionally, many people recognized that Bucks County is a safe, caring, and good place in which to live and raise a family.

While there are some gaps in trust, community members do trust the county’s faith-based community, school systems, non-profit agencies, and themselves to make positive changes. Their vision of a path forward includes building a more connected, safe, and trusting community; creating more opportunities to connect with their neighbors; having better leadership in our community; seeing more positive news stories about the good things going on in Bucks County; and having better coordination among agencies, businesses, government, and residents.

CONTINUED LEARNING

Listening is a continuous process and this is only the beginning. Cultivating public knowledge and providing forums for many voices to be heard must be an ongoing process. All of this is being folded into United Way of Bucks County’s work; into the way business is done.

To add your voice to the conversation, consider joining one of our Bucks Community Solutions Teams at www.uwbucks.org/unitedsolutions.

You can also have trained facilitators from UW Bucks facilitate a community conversation for your group by contacting Matt Uhler at mattu@uwbucks.org. 🍷

About the contributor: Matt Uhler is Impact Director of Financial Stability programs at United Way. He also serves as the secretary for the Housing Continuum of Care of Bucks County and is a lifelong resident of Bucks County.



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The "force" was definitely present this year at GE Water and Process Technologies.



Proud to Give Back to the Community

by Natalie Solov

United Way of Bucks County is dedicated to improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities. GE is committed as well and encourages involvement and relationship building within the community at all levels of the company. Companies that engage in local giving reap various benefits, including: increased employee involvement, camaraderie, engagement, and stronger relationships with the community. Whether it be helping schools, or providing food for local food pantries, GE employees are always eager to help.

"Being a great company also means being a good company in the communities where we live and work. The partnership between GE and the United Way allows both of our organizations to meet our respective missions of improving people's lives," explains John Kochavatr, Chief Information Officer.

One of GE's many activities during the year is a summer food drive. Since the food pantries in the summer typically run at low levels, it is one of the most critical times to provide support. This is not just any food drive though; the employees turn it into an intense competition to see which group can collect the most food and win the coveted trophy.

As the company's annual United Way campaign approaches every fall, you can feel the excitement build at the site. The "force" was definitely present this year at GE

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Not only do the employees feel good about [GE], but it provides an opportunity for them to connect with the community while truly enjoying themselves.

”

Water and Process Technologies. Executives could be found dressed as Jedis, encouraging participation in multiple games and activities to raise money. The month long campaign is truly a collaborative effort and takes immense dedication. The results are phenomenal, and can be felt throughout the community.

"The United Way campaign on the Trevoise Campus is a tremendous opportunity to help so many people in our community—combined with a great excuse to have a little fun at work," says Mark Klaiber, Engineered Systems Service Leader. 🍕

About the contributor: Natalie Solov has been with GE for 14 years and has been an Executive Leader of GE Water & Process Technologies' National United Way Campaign for the last 2 years. Natalie and her husband Andrew live in Wrightstown with their daughter Isabella. They are very active in their parish, and with school, sports, and volunteerism.

You Can't Prevent It.

You CAN Prepare for It.

Bucks Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) is a coalition of nonprofits, businesses, and individuals who share knowledge and resources to help

When disaster strikes, chaos can ensue. Depending on the disaster, people could be forced out of their homes or trapped inside them. Trees may fall, power lines might go down, and transportation options can be limited. But those who are less affected will want to help.

Bucks County Emergency Management Agency is proud to announce their newly launched Bucks Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), supported by United Way of Bucks County. Bucks VOAD is designed to prepare Bucks County to respond to an emergency or disaster as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Bucks VOAD is a coalition of nonprofits, businesses, and individuals. These organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle—preparation, response and recovery—to help disaster survivors and their communities. VOADs are

rooted in cooperation, communication, coordination, and collaboration.


Scott T. Forster, Director of Emergency Services Bucks County, explains the need for Bucks VOAD: “Every county should be able to provide assistance to people affected by a disaster. It’s okay to rely on other counties when we’ve exhausted our resources, but there are many organizations in Bucks County that can help in an emergency. Without Bucks VOAD, we wouldn’t know their willingness to help or their capabilities. When we get these organizations involved in Bucks VOAD, they are able to help in their own backyard in times of need.”

The goal of VOAD is to have the comprehensive capability to respond to a disaster or emergency effectively. By getting local businesses and organizations involved, VOAD is able to utilize their specialty services and resources to most efficiently meet the

needs of those affected.

“As commissioners, we are happy to support this collaborative effort in our communities. We know that we have many residents who want to help, both in times of disaster and normalcy, and this is a unified way to set up a network to do just that,” says Commissioner Chairman Robert Loughery.

“The most important thing to understand about Bucks VOAD is that it is an umbrella organization. VOAD works with volunteers, churches, workplaces, and nonprofits and anyone in between to help anyone impacted by a disaster. It gives everyone the opportunity to help their neighbors, their friends, and their community when a disaster strikes,” Forster explains.

To join Bucks VOAD, visit www.bucksVOAD.org. When creating a profile, simply select, “Yes, you may contact me in a disaster.” 



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Your Impact: Basic Needs

Every one of us has faced a set back or two in our lives. There are thousands of books written on how to handle adversity, and even more quotes and platitudes on the subject. Yet, when faced with a crisis, we find little comfort in books, advice, and pep talks. In those moments, what we need and want most is a way out: a lifeline that fixes the immediate problem and helps us see past our crisis to something a little less uncertain, something brighter, and more hopeful. For many years, non-profit agencies in Bucks County have worked together to be that lifeline.



Things happen. You can help.

“

United Way of Bucks County is looking for innovative ways to prevent small setbacks from becoming major issues.

”

To support this work, go to www.uwbucks.org/donate and select “Emergency Needs.”

THE CHALLENGE

Bucks County is a highly desirable community with lots of amenities. It boasts of one of the lowest poverty rates in the state of Pennsylvania. It's home to some of the best schools in the state. It has a natural beauty, historical significance, and artistic sensibility that draws people in, both to live and to visit.

But all of these things come with a cost. Bucks County has one of the highest costs of living in Pennsylvania. While the rate of poverty is lower than in most places, the number of people barely getting by is far too high.

The people “getting by” are often one life event—a medical bill or a car repair—away from having life unravel. They have no cushion. They have nothing to keep them from getting caught in a cycle they can't break.

This is where United Way's new emergency needs fund can help. With your help, we can intervene before a one-time medical bill leaves a family homeless or an older person

without heat; before a parent loses a job because they can't afford a car repair.

CHANGING THE STORY

Together with our Bucks County Solutions Team on basic needs, United Way of Bucks County is looking for innovative ways to prevent small setbacks from becoming major issues.

You can help. Over the next 12 months, we hope to raise \$100,000 in seed money for this purpose. To support this work, go to www.uwbucks.org/donate and select “Emergency Needs.” If you can be a pacesetter for this campaign by giving a leadership gift (\$1,000 - \$10,000+), please contact Marissa Christie at marissac@uwbucks.org or 267.795.7833. 🍷

About the contributor: Matt Uhler is Impact Director of Financial Stability programs at United Way. He also serves as the secretary for the Housing Continuum of Care of Bucks County and is a lifelong resident of Bucks County.

12 Reasons to Visit Bucks County in 2016

From a centennial castle celebration, notable anniversaries and brand new events, to property expansions, grand re-openings and a fashionable museum exhibit, Bucks County has many new and exciting happenings to celebrate in 2016. Discover 12 reasons why Bucks County is a must-visit destination this year.

by Visit Bucks County

- 1 Children rush to give hugs to Cookie Monster, one of their favorite characters, at Sesame Place, a theme park with more than 25 rides that are perfect for young children.



Photo by R. Kennedy, courtesy of Visit Philly

Bristol is bustling with exciting activity and fun on the water, thanks to its close proximity to the Delaware River.



Photo courtesy of Parx Casino

Parx Casino in Bucks County is the largest gaming complex in Pennsylvania.

- 1 Sesame Place® announces a brand-new show premiering in April. There is endless magic for young and old at Sesame Place. In the new show, “The Magic of Art”, guests can join Abby Cadabby and friends on a magical adventure to help Abby figure out what she should create for Sesame Street’s® big Art Show. With the help of friends Elmo, Cookie Monster, Grover, and Telly, Abby learns that art comes in all shapes and sizes. Sesame Place opens for the 2016 season on Saturday, April 30.

- 2 The Mercer Museum commemorates its 100th anniversary. A centennial celebration is set for the Mercer Museum in Doylestown as the historic site celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2016. On July 16, the Mercer presents a Cultural District Free Day and admission to the Mercer Museum, Fonthill Castle, Moravian Pottery & Tile Works, and the James A Michener Art Museum will be free. This year, the Mercer Museum also welcomes two major special exhibits: American Adventure (January 30-June 12) and Long May She Wave: A Graphic History of the American Flag (July 2-November 6).



Photo courtesy of Sesame Place.

5

Children can operate a lock on the Delaware Canal or build a bridge in Waterways at the Bucks County Children's Museum in New Hope.

Photo by Natalie Wi, courtesy of Allure West Studios

6

Hotel Du Village has dedicated event specialists to cater to your every need and tailor your next special event to your taste, be it a wedding or a social, nonprofit, or corporate event.

Photo courtesy of Hotel Du Village

3 Bristol Borough continues its revitalization with new businesses and the Mill Street Wharf Project. Bristol Borough's transformation continues as several new businesses open in town, including a café, Calm Water Coffee Roasters, and a Mexican restaurant, Mill Street Cantina. In addition, construction began in the fall on a multi-million-dollar project to build a 28,000 square foot riverfront property, expected to house luxury townhouses and a restaurant/bar, overlooking the scenic Delaware River. The project is expected to be completed this spring.

4 Parx Casino begins first property-wide expansion since opening. For the first time since opening in 2009, Parx Casino has begun a multi-phase expansion project, expected to increase the casino's blueprint to 176,592 square feet of gaming. Phase one of the expansion includes 700 of the hottest new slot machines and innovative live-action table games, and the swanky new Xlounge which boasts a high-end menu, cocktails, wine flights and craft beer offerings, and a gift shop.

5 Bucks County Children's Museum expands exhibits. The beloved Bucks County Children's Museum in New Hope will install a new 14-foot interactive

Waterways water table exhibit to help children explore the water cycle and canal history. The exhibit is slated to open in spring 2016 and will be enjoyed by the museum's 35,000 annual visitors. The four-year-old museum also entered into a 10-year lease agreement, securing its place in New Hope through 2026.

6 Hotel du Village celebrates a grand reopening. Returning to Bucks County under the new ownership of Landmark Hospitality, Hotel du Village is poised to become one of Bucks County's top venues for meetings, weddings and special events. This historic French country estate has been completely renovated and features two ballrooms, each complete with private entrances, separate cocktail rooms, and ceremony spaces. With 10-foot ceilings, The Colt Ballroom can accommodate up to 200 guests while The Historic Ballroom can seat up to 140 guests. The hotel offers 22 rooms, a built-in swimming pool, tennis courts, and fire pits throughout the grounds.

2 Step back in time in a castle housing more than 40,000 early American artifacts. View a Conestoga wagon, horse-drawn carriages, and antique fire engine suspended overhead in the museum's Central Court area.

Photo courtesy of J. Totaro

New Hope & Ivyland RR engine #40 pulls a pair of passenger cars through the Bucks County countryside. The 1920s steam locomotive pulls passengers on a 45-minute, 9-mile round trip to Lahaska and back.

Photo courtesy of the New Hope Ivyland Railroad.



Bristol Riverside Theatre is a professional regional theatre in the historic district of Bristol Borough.

Photo by R. Kennedy, courtesy of Visit Philly



8 The James A. Michener Art Museum in Doylestown houses a large collection of Pennsylvania Impressionist paintings and works by significant local and regional artists.

7 **Earl's New American opens and Peddler's Village welcomes new events and shops.** Earl's New American reopens in spring 2016 with a new name and refreshed look and concept. Earl's will offer guests a polished, casual dining experience within Peddler's Village. Known for its roster of wonderful weekend festivals, Peddler's introduced a new event in celebration of the Fourth of July, The Red, White & Blue BBQ bash, which will take place on July 2. Peddler's Village also welcomed several new shops in recent months, including David J. Witchell Salon & Spa, Let's Steep, and Colts Sportscards.

thirsty for more couture. The Michener delivers with stunning pieces from the remarkable Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection at Drexel University. In 2016, the Michener will host 12 special exhibitions, including *Philadelphia in Style*.

8 **Fashion exhibit hits the runway at the James A. Michener Art Museum.** Move over, NYC! Philadelphia fashion takes center stage during the Michener Art Museum's "Philadelphia in Style" exhibit, running from March 13 through June 26. The exhibit features approximately 30 dressed forms and accessories spanning a century of high fashion. Coming off the successful Grace Kelly exhibit in 2013, visitors are

9 **Oldest continuously-run inn in Bucks County renovates.** Logan Inn in New Hope, under the new ownership of Landmark Hospitality, is currently undergoing a complete renovation, both to the inn, as well as the restaurant. The inn's restaurant features more casual fare, describing itself as "an old-style tavern feel" with a farm-to-table menu concept. As part of the renovations, the inside bar and outdoor patio were completely redone and there are plans for expansion that will include 22 new hotel rooms, private glass-enclosed dining, revamped year-round outdoor dining, and new catering hall. Logan Inn is the oldest continually-run inn in Bucks County and the only in-town hostelry in the National Register of Historic Places.

10 **New Hope & Ivyland Railroad celebrates 50 years.** This year marks the 50th



Photo by Bob Krist, courtesy of Visit Philadelphia

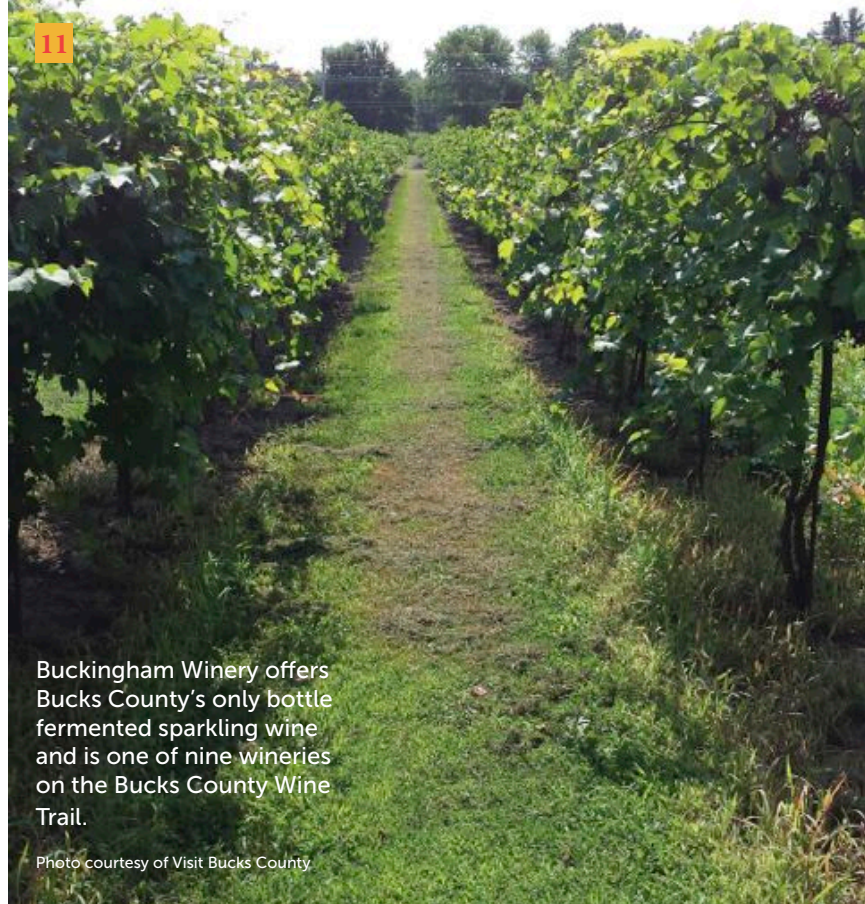
7



Enjoy shopping in 65 unique stores at the 18th century style Peddler's Village.

Photo by Anthony Sinagoga, courtesy of Visit Bucks County

11



Buckingham Winery offers Bucks County's only bottle fermented sparkling wine and is one of nine wineries on the Bucks County Wine Trail.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County

anniversary of the New Hope and Ivyland Railroad, a historic Bucks County attraction. Guests can ride in an antique coach pulled by a 1925 steam locomotive. Commemorate the train's big year by taking a scenic ride along the railroad.

11 Bucks County's first winery is turning 50. Buckingham Valley Vineyards & Winery on the Bucks County Wine Trail is one of the largest wineries in Pennsylvania with more

than two-dozen varieties of wine. Toast to Buckingham's anniversary with a bottle of their high-quality Bucks County-made wine.

12 Bristol Riverside Theatre marks 30 years of performances. Bristol Riverside Theatre has been bringing professional theater to Bucks County for 30 years now.

The theatre, located in historic Bristol Borough, produces more than 200 performances every year. Enjoy a night out at the theatre to celebrate its milestone achievement. 🍷

About the Contributor: Visit Bucks County (VBC) is the official tourism promotion agency for Bucks County, PA. Check out www.VisitBucksCounty.com for planning ideas and travel inspiration. Be sure to follow the tourism office on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram for the latest buzz about Bucks County.



9 Groups are welcome at the Logan Inn where outdoor dining is available.

Photo by Mandee Kuenzle, courtesy of Visit Bucks County

Michener Art Museum: World-Class Art in the Heart of Bucks County

by Lisa Tremper Hanover



The beauty of Bucks County has inspired many artists, a number of whom have been elevated to the world stage. Showcasing their remarkable work and the longtime creative talent in the region is part of the mission of the James A. Michener Art Museum—a vibrant visual arts institution in Doylestown that is dedicated to collecting, preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting American Art, with a focus on work by artists with ties to the Delaware Valley.

This accredited world-class facility, with its Pennsylvania Impressionist paintings collection and other permanent installations, many special exhibitions, and outdoor sculpture garden, attracts 135,000 visitors annually from around the globe. It has also become a premier arts education center, offering art classes in a variety of media for children and adults.

Named for the Pulitzer Prize-winning author and supporter of the arts, the Michener Art Museum opened in 1988 on the site of the former Bucks County Jail, built more than a century earlier. It was a stunning transformation both aesthetically and ideologically: the dark, gloomy rooms that once housed prisoners became spacious, art-filled galleries, and the tall stone

1 Green-eyed girl from *National Geographic* cover. Steve McCurry (b. 1950), *Afghan Girl*, Sharbat Gula, at Nasir Bagh refugee camp near Peshawar, Pakistan, 1984.

2 Hook & Knowles (England, 1850 – c. 1930s), *Shoes*, c. 1918, Polychrome silk brocade with silver kid, crystal, and metal, Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, Drexel University, Gift of Mrs. Upton Sullivan. Photo by Michael J. Shepherd.

3 Walking dress, Green satin, pink velvet and lace, 1900, USA, Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection, Drexel University, Gift of Mrs. James Creese. Photo by Michael J. Shepherd.





wall surrounding the jail became a spectacular, dramatic backdrop to a light-infused glass event pavilion that now serves as a venue for musical concerts, lectures, and other public events.

Over the last quarter century, the Michener has built a permanent collection of more than 2,800 objects that reveals the rich artistic and cultural heritage of Bucks County and beyond, including paintings created in the early 20th century by artistic luminaries such as Daniel Garber, Edward W. Redfield, and William Langston Lathrop, all of whom settled in Bucks County and depicted the grandeur and rustic beauty of the local landscape. The growing collections include American paintings, sculpture, works on paper, decorative arts, and Arts and Crafts and Modern Studio furniture.

Major special exhibitions in 2016 include *Philadelphia in Style: A Century of Fashion from the Robert and Penny Fox Historic Costume Collection*, Drexel University (March 13 - June 26); *Unguarded, Untold, Iconic: Afghanistan through the Lens of Steve McCurry* (July 16 - October 23); and *The Death of Impressionism?: Disruption and Innovation in Art* (November 12 - February 26, 2017).

The James A. Michener Art Museum is located at 138 S. Pine St., Doylestown, PA, 18901. For more information, visit MichenerArtMuseum.org or call 215.340.9800. 🍷

About the contributor: Lisa Tremper Hanover is the director and CEO of the James A. Michener Art Museum.



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Bucks Knocks Out Hunger: A Day in Photos

Behind the scenes, volunteers, partners, and United Way of Bucks County staff work for months to make Bucks Knocks Out Hunger a success. All of that work is prologue to one incredible day. The day opens like a gift and then wraps quickly, leaving behind a deep feeling of gratitude and satisfaction—and (literally) tons of shelf-stable meals, fresh fruits and vegetables, and pantry staples for those in need.

Here is what Bucks County's biggest one-day hunger fighting event is like, start to finish.

1 At 6:00 am, long before most volunteers arrive, 20 tables are set up with room for 13 volunteers each. These tables serve as food packing assembly lines, turning raw ingredients into nutritious, shelf-stable meals.

2 When each new shift of food packing volunteers arrives, they are quickly trained. Some will add an ingredient, some will seal bags, some will add stickers with the preparation date, and some will pack meals into boxes. No one is too young or too old to help.

3 Nutritious meals begin to roll quickly off the assembly lines. Ingredients are constantly being refilled by volunteers.





4 Resupplying things like soy protein requires some heavy lifting.

5 As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” At BKO Hunger, many hands make light work of preparing over 100,000 meals. Meals are distributed to families in our community through dozens of Bucks County food pantries, thanks to the help and support of the Bucks County Opportunity Council, the Bucks County Housing Group, and others.

6 Making sure that people who use food pantries have access to fresh fruits and vegetables is an integral part of BKO Hunger. Each year, this program puts tons of local produce into the hands of people who need it. Partners from Rolling Harvest Food Rescue and Hope of the Harvest Charitable Garden at Delaware Valley University make it possible—with a little help from volunteers.

7 It’s a long day, with volunteers working anywhere from two- to eight-hour shifts. Even with all of the hard work and heavy lifting, enthusiastic volunteers rally for a quick victory cheer once all of the meals are packed.



Bucks Knocks Out Hunger is made possible by hundreds of donors and volunteers, dozens of partners, including presenting sponsor Penn Community Bank. Additional sponsors include BB&T, Bucks County Women’s Initiative, Comcast, Cummins Power Systems, Dow, GE Water & Process Technology, Parx, PECO, The Gormley Furlong Group at Stifel, and Bucks County Courier Times and The Intelligencer.

To learn more or get involved with BKO Hunger, visit www.uwbucks.org/bkohunger.





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Susan- Doylestown

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Bucks County

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Early Childhood, Early Intervention: Collaboration is Key

by James Coyle

Have you ever seen a group of three-year-olds playing together? They can get a little caught up in their own egos. They're starting to understand the concept of cooperation, but they have a hard time with the execution.

A year later, it's a different story. By age four, things fall into place. Kids start to see the true value in collaboration. Through play, they start to tackle bigger projects together.

I'm proud to say that the Bucks County's early childhood education community follows a four-year-old model: We have a rich history of collaboration; of working together to meet the needs of every child.

I have been involved in early intervention for young children with developmental delays or disabilities for many years. As a long-time education administrator, I've had the honor of working closely with our county's early childhood leadership.

There are so many benefits to collaboration, but from my perspective, the impact on children requiring early intervention services is one of the most significant.

Early intervention is critical to ensuring that young children learn to make the most of their skills and abilities. When the early childhood education community comes together, we can provide better service and navigation. We can connect families with the educational services and supports their infant, toddler, or preschooler needs.

Our centers can provide a resource for families; a setting to conduct evaluations and gather information. Our educators can help early intervention teams understand the needs of the child. When teachers, caregivers, and early intervention teams come together—when they truly collaborate in the best interest of the child—the benefits last a lifetime. 🧡

EARLY INTERVENTION: WHO BENEFITS?

- Children who receive early intervention services show positive outcomes in health, language & communication, cognitive development, and social-emotional development. In the short-term, they are able to meet important learning and developmental milestones. In the long-term, they are able to successfully integrate into social, school, and employment environments.
- Families are better able to meet their children's special needs at an early age and throughout life. Early intervention supports parents and siblings and helps build a nurturing environment for the entire family.
- Schools save on special education and grade retention costs, and improve high school graduation rates.
- Communities save on social welfare and employment services and generate up to \$17 for each dollar spent on early intervention.

About the contributor: James Coyle was for many years a supervisor for early childhood services for the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 and more recently the director of the Bureau of Early Intervention Services. He is proud to be a continuing member of the Quality Child Care Coalition.



It May Cost Your Business Nothing to Give a Child Everything

Tax Credit Program Changes the Landscape of Early Childhood Education

Cynics may tell you that there's no such thing as a true win-win in business. Local business owners Dave Schmel and Glenda Childs disagree.

Schmel, founder of Pass Line Casino Parties, sees huge value in a program that benefits his business and the community. "For me, the Educational Improvement Tax Credit was a no brainer. I had a chance to help kids with money I was spending anyway," he explains.

Doylestown Bookshop owner Glenda Childs was immediately drawn to a program that allows her to help young children with virtually no cost. "Prior to acquiring the Doylestown Bookshop, my education and career were in the field of Early Childhood Education. Providing support, resources, and education for young children – and their parents – is very important to me."

Schmel and Childs are both part of a special group of donors: those who contribute directly to pre-Kindergarten scholarships through EITC, a unique state tax credit program.

WHAT IS EITC?

The Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program makes pre-Kindergarten scholarships available to children county-wide through select nonprofit partners, including United Way of Bucks County.

Businesses complete a short application. Through a lottery system, many businesses are then selected to participate. Approved businesses receive a PA state tax credit for contributing to UW Bucks' pre-K scholarships.

Those who donate to UW Bucks pre-K scholarships through EITC get a 100% tax credit for donations up to \$10,000 and 90% back for additional donations up to \$200,000. The full contribution amount is also deductible for federal tax purposes as a charitable donation.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Businesses that operate in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania can claim the EITC credit if they are subject to the following:

- Corporate Net Income Tax
- Capital Stock Franchise Tax
- Bank and Trust Company Shares Tax
- Title Insurance Companies Shares Tax
- Insurance Premiums Tax
- Mutual Thrift Institutions Tax
- Personal Income Tax - Subchapter s-corporations and other "pass-through" entities are able to use the credit against the shareholder, member, or partners' PA personal income taxes

Of course, the amount of the tax credit can't exceed the amount of tax a business would pay to the Commonwealth.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Supporting pre-K scholarships changes everything for low- and moderate-income children and their families.

Ninety percent of a child's brain develops in

LEARN MORE

www.uwbucks.org/eitc
215.949.1660



the first 5 years of their life. This is a critical time and barriers to education impact the rest of a child's life.

Quality pre-K programs in our community cost an average of about \$8,700 per year. For low-income, working families, this is about 38% of their household's expenditure—often their largest expense.

EITC donations help provide full and partial scholarships so children can attend carefully vetted and closely monitored quality early childhood education programs.

Through this program, children become more likely to graduate from high school and a post-secondary program. They also become more likely to find employment opportunities and become financially self-sufficient adults.

Businesses have the short-term benefit of a tax credit now and the long-term benefit of a better prepared work force down the road.

HOW CAN BUSINESSES GET INVOLVED?

Complete information is available at www.uwbucks.org/eitc, but the best way to start is to contact United Way of Bucks County at 215.949.1660 to set up a time to discuss how EITC would impact your business.

It is important to note that applications must be submitted on specific dates. Each year businesses that have fulfilled or are in the middle of a 2-year commitment submit their renewal application between May 15 and June 30. All other businesses must apply on July 1.

And how will it ultimately impact your business? Childs says, "United Way's EITC program is such a great opportunity for our community! It enables my business to easily support Bucks County's young children through the United Way's pre-K scholarships."

"It's a win-win all around," adds Schmel. 🍷



The ^{New} Operation Helping Hand

For 60 wonderful years, the community has supported the Operation Helping Hand food drive with nonperishable food donations. The one-day, county-wide food drive is typically held during the second week of March.

by Danielle Bush

In 1966, US Steel Workers implemented Operation Helping Hand (OHH) to give those who were struggling, including their employees, a “helping hand.”

This year’s OHH drive looked a little different from previous years—and in a very good way! For several years, the Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) ran a successful food drive called Adopt-a-Pantry. Rather than have two consecutively running county-wide food drives, BCOC and United Way of Bucks County joined forces to create one huge collection day under the OHH banner.

In addition, Inspire Federal Credit Union stepped up to become the first sponsor in OHH’s decades-long history. With new partners, new doors opened. OHH increased the number of sites collecting food, increased the amount of food collected, and reached more people struggling with hunger and food insecurity in Bucks County.

Erin Lukoss, Executive Director Bucks County Opportunity Council, immediately saw the value of collaborating. “To achieve the Opportunity Council’s mission of reducing poverty and partnering with our community to promote economic self-sufficiency, we knew it was an obvious choice to work hand in hand with the United Way, as a joint effort to raise awareness about hunger in Bucks County,” she says.

She notes that the agency sees a great need for projects like OHH. “We see

first-hand through our pantry network the many families who do not qualify for federal and state food assistance, and they rely on community support to make ends meet and keep food on the table. One county-wide

initiative of both Adopt-A-Pantry and Operation Helping Hand brings our community together on this important issue, and more businesses than ever participated in the food drive this year,” says Lukoss.

OHH boxes, posters, and flyers were provided to over 240 public and private schools, businesses, government offices, and senior centers serving as collection sites.

Volunteers from 22 food pantries collected food from each and every one of those sites and made sure it got to those in need.

Morrisville teacher Gloria Bramble believes that “the success of the program is based on the ‘family atmosphere’ created. Everyone becomes involved, thus demonstrating valuable lessons outside of the academic curriculum. It is a total team effort of administrators, teachers, staff, parents and students.” To Bramble, it means a lot to see her entire school community come together, “selflessly giving goods or monetary donations.”

OHH is more than a food drive. It offers many different volunteer and leadership opportunities. To learn more or get involved, contact Danielle Bush at danielleb@uwbucks.org. 🍌

We knew it was an obvious choice to work hand in hand with the United Way, as a joint effort to raise awareness about hunger in Bucks County.



About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director, Community and Volunteer Engagement has been with UW Bucks for six years. Danielle has a deep passion for matching those in need to the appropriate resources or project. Danielle enjoys spending time with her family and friends—especially at the beach in Cape May, NJ.

Oh, Deer: 7 Facts about Bucks

Technically, our original proprietor William Penn was thinking about Buckinghamshire, England, when he named Bucks County. But why let facts get in the way of a good list?

In honor of Bucks County, here are the top 7 things you should know about bucks.

- 1 Bucks are ruminants. That means that they (like cows, sheep, giraffes, and many others) eat plants, ferment them in one of their stomachs, and then eat them again. (Ewe, gross!)
- 2 Back in the day (5th – 15th centuries), the word deer had a broad meaning: a wild animal of any kind. The word cattle, on the other hand, included any domestic livestock that people could keep on their land. Over time, deer evolved to specifically mean what we call deer today and the word cattle morphed into the word “chattels” in modern English.
- 3 Deer like to establish their territory and many will refuse to leave it—ever. In fact, most would rather starve in their domain than go elsewhere for food.
- 4 A “buck rub” is how male deer mark their territory. That means they use their antlers to scrape bark from trees in their domain.
- 5 We often assume that bucks are dominant in the species, but more often, herds are dominated by an older doe.
- 6 Thanks to the size and position of their eyes, most deer have a field of view of about 310 degrees when they are standing still. However, they do have a hard time focusing on objects and can’t see as many colors as humans can.
- 7 Deer are strong swimmers. They have been clocked at up to 15 miles per hour in the water. According to our research, that makes them faster swimmers than goldfish, dogs, and Michael Phelps. 🏊





Six Things the Bucks County Free Library Does Every Day

by Michelle Wexler

If you live, work, or learn in Bucks County, Bucks County Free Library serves YOU. You may know all about Bucks County Free Library's traditional library services, but step inside and you'll find so much more.

1

CONNECTS YOU TO THE ONLINE WORLD

Visit a branch and connect to the web using public computers or use free Wi-Fi on your own device. Search online databases and educational resources using BCFL's website. Bring your computer problems and technology questions to BCFL's Help Desk technicians.

2

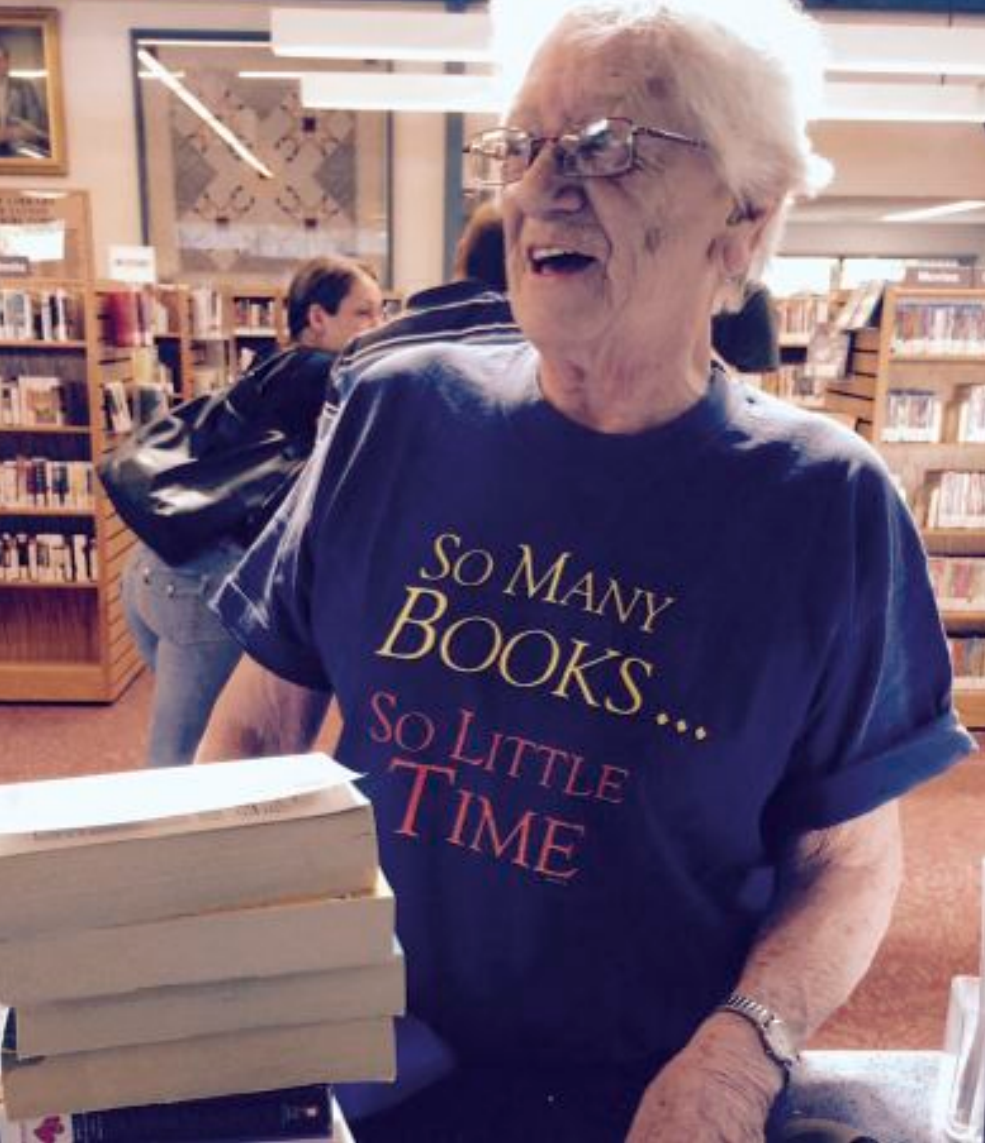
CREATES YOUNG READERS

BCFL preschool programs and services help children enter school ready to read, write, and listen. Take advantage of a broad collection of print and e-picture books, audiobooks, digital tablets preloaded with content, and educational toys. Attend a storytime, register your child for Summer Reading, and when you can't get to the library, visit Let's Play School, BCFL's online kindergarten readiness badge program.

3

HELPS YOU EXPRESS YOUR CREATIVITY

BCFL gives you the tools and training you need to express your creativity. Attend a program. Study online tutorials on subjects like photography, music production, and coding.



These resources are free with a BCFL library card. Apply in person for a full-service card, or if you only want to use e-Library resources, and prefer to register online, apply for an e-Card.

4

OFFERS A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO VISIT

BCFL branches are vibrant community centers open to all. Spread your work out on a table. Relax and read in a comfortable chair. Meet and interact with others in a group study room or work individually, without distractions, in a quiet study room. You can even bring your latte!

5

SATISFIES YOUR CURIOSITY

Explore topics of personal interest and continue to learn. Check out a book on a subject you're curious about, listen to a college-level course from the Great Courses, or research your family history.

6

STIMULATES YOUR IMAGINATION

BCFL's collection includes new and popular materials in current and emerging formats for children, teens, and adults. In addition to traditional library materials, you can borrow audiobooks, e-books, e-comic books, e-magazines, games, streaming media devices, and cake pans.



About the contributor: Michelle Wexler, a life-long Bucks County resident, is thrilled to be the Development Officer at Bucks County Free Library, helping to enhance the valuable, important, and free programs and services that the library provides to this incredible community.

Stuff the Bus: Driving Kids to Success

by Danielle Bush

To become a sponsor or host a back-to-school supply drive in your workplace or neighborhood, contact Danielle Bush at 215.949.1660, ext. 112.

It's estimated that as many as 20,000 young people in Bucks County struggle to have their basic needs met. For families under pressure to meet those basic needs (food, shelter, utilities), getting the right back to school supplies is a huge challenge.

In Bucks County, supply drives like Stuff the Bus can make the difference between a young person starting school ready to succeed and one starting the year at a disadvantage. New school supplies can boost a child's self-esteem, which can improve their odds of success in school and beyond.

Thanks to more donors than ever before, over 1,900 students in Bucks County started the 2015-16 school year with a brand new backpack filled with school supplies.

This project truly represents a community-wide effort. Sites from Fairless Hills to Quakertown collected brand new supplies, backpacks, and donations to fill in the gaps. Some businesses were so successful with their internal drives that they needed U-Hauls to bring supplies to the UW Bucks office!

Volunteers gathered at Cummins Power Systems, LLC. in Bristol, and at the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce in Quakertown to sort and inventory supplies. Next, they worked to fill hundreds of backpacks with the donated supplies.

The Upper Bucks packing event was manned by the Professional Women's Business Network of Quakertown, as well as volunteers from Penn Community Bank in Perkasie. In the lower part of the county, employees from Cummins, Bank of America, PECO, and Johnson & Johnson joined many members of our community to pack bags.

After a long day, 1,932 bags were filled and ready to be distributed to young people in need. Bags were distributed through every school



district in Bucks County, Bucks County Head Start, and 22 nonprofit agencies county-wide.

Stuff the Bus couldn't happen without the generosity of our community and our sponsors: Sesame Place, PECO, Bank of America, and Cummins Power Systems in Bristol, as well as our partners at the Upper Bucks Chamber of Commerce, Quakertown Alive!, Doylestown Business & Community Alliance, and Penn Community Bank in Perkasie.

If you'd like to become a sponsor or host a back to school supply drive in your workplace or neighborhood, please contact Danielle Bush at 215-949-1660, ext. 112. 🍌

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director of Community and Volunteer Engagement, has been with UW Bucks for six years. Danielle is passionate about her work and the incredible things that UW Bucks does for those in need in our community. Danielle enjoys spending time in Cape May, NJ with her family and friends.



The Opportunity Council is a proud partner and supporter of the United of Bucks County.

Thank you for all that you do in our community!

Our mission is to reduce poverty and partner with the community to promote economic self-sufficiency.

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ASI® is dedicated to our members in the promotional products industry, but we're also committed to community service. Employees have supported local organizations including: Habitat for Humanity, Trenton Soup Kitchen and Women's Humane Society.

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Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Girls?

Bucks County's own #girlSTEM Conference, an exciting initiative of the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22 (BCIU), enters its 6th year in 2016. This event is funded entirely by donations to the United Way of Bucks County's Women's Initiative and hosted on the beautiful campus of Delaware Valley University.

Girls from Strayer Middle School share their powerful message.

by Dr. Lindsey Sides

#girlSTEM inspires young women in grades 6-10 to pursue STEM-related careers. The conference features three 45-minute sessions led by professional women, in addition to inspiring opening and closing sessions. Students get to choose from over 15 presentations during each session.

STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) jobs are often male-dominated. A recent report by the US Department of Commerce found that, while women fill close to half of all jobs in the United States, they hold less than 25 percent of STEM jobs. Because STEM jobs tend to be higher paying, this issue contributes to the wage gap between men and women. The study found that women in STEM jobs were making 33 percent more than women in non-STEM jobs.

#girlSTEM seeks to turn these statistics around! A survey of girls who attended the 2015 conference shows the impact the event makes. Of the 700 girls who participated in the conference, 99% said they planned to take more STEM courses in high school; 97% planned to declare a STEM major in college; and 98% of girls planned

to pursue a STEM-related career.

Ava Doty, a student at William Penn Middle School in the Pennsbury School District, believes that the #girlSTEM Conference is important to girls like her. "It's really good to have things like this for girls. It shows STEM careers and what is possible."

Kristian Randt, a STEM teacher from Snyder Middle School in the Bensalem School District, notes that this type of conference serves a critical role. "Girls can be deterred from entering STEM fields based on the idea that these fields are male dominated - but they don't have to be," he said. "It's important to show girls STEM in action."

#girlSTEM also inspires girls to think big. Maddalyn Erato, a student at William Tennent High School in Warminster, says the message she took away from the conference was clear: "Follow your dreams. If you like something, keep on going with it, and never stop. You can achieve anything."

#girlSTEM isn't possible without STEM presenters, mentors, or donors to the Bucks County Women's Initiative.

Key sponsors of last year's #girlSTEM Conference include: PECO (Presenting Sponsor); Dow (Gold Sponsor); Comcast and Parx Casino (Silver Sponsors); and National Penn Bank and Huntingdon Valley Bank (Bronze Sponsors).

Recruitment for conference volunteers begins in February and runs through April of each year. If you're interested in becoming a presenter,

A study found that women in STEM jobs were making 33 percent more than women in non-STEM jobs.





#girlSTEM volunteer presenters Sheela Venkitachalam and Neha Bhardwaj show girls "Chemistry Magic."

please contact Dr. Lindsey Sides at lsides@bucksiu.org.

Sponsors are encouraged to commit by the end of February. To discuss donations or sponsorship opportunities, contact Marissa Christie at marissac@uwbucks.org. 🍷

About the Contributor: Dr. Lindsey Sides is the Coordinator of Teaching, Learning, and Nonpublic Services at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22. She is passionate about encouraging girls to explore STEM! In her spare time, she enjoys spending time outdoors and traveling with her husband, four-year old daughter, one-year son, and bulldog.

Join the efforts

VOLUNTEER

✉ lsides@bucksiu.org

SPONSOR

✉ marissac@uwbucks.org

Ava Doty and Alexis Reed from William Penn Middle School decide which #girlSTEM sessions to attend.



Breanne Lyons, Shae Powell, Kelly Hastings, and Tiffany Corcoran of Sandburg Middle School.



#GIVINGTUESDAY™

National Reach, Local Impact



What happens when more than 100 local organizations come together to spread the word about a global day of generosity? #GivingTuesdayBucks (#GTB), of course!

by Jenny Salisbury

Since 2013, nonprofit organizations and businesses in Bucks County have joined forces on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving to encourage individuals and businesses to open their hearts and give as good as they get on that one day.

Established in 2012 through a collaboration between the 92nd Street Y in New York City and the United Nations Foundation, #GivingTuesday is an opportunity to create a huge impact through a large number of gifts of all sizes. In 2013, #GivingTuesdayBucks became the first localized initiative to join what has become an international movement.

Why is #GTB so important to our community? It helps raise funds and promote awareness of

the many essential nonprofit organizations that serve Bucks County residents. It also encourages generosity and provides individuals and businesses the opportunity to find organizations with missions that align with their philanthropic passions.

#GTB campaigns mobilize the community, giving organizations the opportunity to complete projects—and offer services—that wouldn't be possible without the additional support. Penn Foundation uses #GTB donations to send kids to Camp Courage; the Bucks County Community College Foundation awards scholarships to students who wish to earn their associate's degree or a professional certificate but may not be able to afford it on their own; A Woman's Place, the only domestic violence organization in Bucks County,

LEARN MORE

www.givingtuesdaybucks.org



has purchased a generator for their emergency shelter to ensure that the women and children who are staying there to escape dangerous situations at home are kept safe and warm at all times.

The more community members who join the #GTB movement, the greater the impact on the community as a whole. For more information on #GTB, please visit www.givingtuesdaybucks.org. If you would like to join the movement as an individual or corporate partner, please contact Jenny Salisbury at givingtuesdaybucks@outlook.com.

Each year, the world watches a little closer as #GivingTuesday unfolds. This year, let's show all those who are watching how generous Bucks County really is! 🍀

“The more community members who join the #GTB movement, the greater the impact on the community as a whole.”

About the contributor: Jenny Salisbury is the Assistant Director of Foundation & Alumni Relations at Bucks County Community College, and has been working in the nonprofit sector to make Bucks County a better place to live, work, and go to school for nearly 10 years.



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Helping Older Kids Get Through the Holidays

"I'm sorry, but your child is too old to receive help for the holidays." Imagine you are a struggling family looking for holiday help. What would it feel like to hear that?

by Danielle Bush

For families struggling to meet basic needs – to put food on the table and keep the lights on – the holidays bring added pressure. Traditional toy drives are the answer for some families, particularly for those with children 10 and under. For those children, a doll, stuffed animal, or board game is a great gift.

But what about families with older children? The resources to provide help for children 12-years-old and older are scarce. Unfortunately, there is a commonly held belief that people don't want to donate to help older kids; that older kids should just understand that their families don't have money for "luxuries" like Christmas presents.

Luckily, that's not the case in Bucks County. Our community proved the conventional wisdom wrong. Generous donors showed that all kids should be remembered, valued, and treated with kindness.

In 2015, United Way of Bucks County received a record 455 requests for holiday gift cards for older kids – double the previous year. The requests came through nonprofit agencies, school nurses and guidance counselors, and directly from families county-wide.

Through the support of the community, every single request was met. No child was left out. Every single kid—even the older ones—got something to call their own. In fact, each child on the list was treated to two gift cards: one "luxury" gift card of around \$25 to shop for themselves (Target, Wal-Mart, and favorite mall stores), plus a smaller gift card of around \$5

to get a snack or a meal (Burger King, Starbucks, Dunkin' Donuts, and other popular places).

In addition to the generous individuals and businesses, it's important to note that partners at Levittown Now and Johnson & Johnson provided additional support. Levittown Now worked hard to spread the word, particularly when there were concerns about meeting the demand. Volunteers from Johnson & Johnson helped purchase, sort, and distribute gift cards, saving UW Bucks staff an incredible amount of time.

Of course, there is always room for more helpers! If you want to help bring joy to older kids this holiday season, contact Danielle Bush at danielleb@uwbucks.org. Donors, advocates, and volunteers are always needed. 🙋

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director, Community and Volunteer Engagement has been with UW Bucks for six years. Danielle is passionate about her work and the incredible things that UW Bucks does for those in need in our community. Danielle enjoys spending time in Cape May, NJ, with her family and friends.

“
Every single kid
—even the
older ones—
got something
to call their
own.”





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LOCAL PERSPECTIVES

"The social workers at Neshaminy School District are extremely grateful to United Way for the support you have continually shown our students and families. The donations of backpacks and school supplies helped over 75 students start this school year with confidence and prepared to learn. In addition, the generous donation of gift cards helped spread some holiday cheer to over 60 middle and high school students this year!"

Barbara, social worker, Neshaminy School District

"Richard moved to our area from another state a few months ago—without a home, job, transportation, medical care and insurance, or hope. Thanks to United Way of Bucks County, he accessed case management at Family Service Association, obtained housing, and got a job... And he has hope! Richard is connected to excellent medical care, and is becoming fully self-sufficient!"

Mary Beth, Family Service Association of Bucks County

"My children's father passed away and I'm just in a really hard position right now. I reached out to United Way of Bucks County in hopes they could help me give my children something for Christmas. Within days, I received age-appropriate gift cards, like those to Hollister and Game Stop, which are both places my sons love to shop. It's such a wonderful agency, and I really, really am grateful."

Nicole, mother of two boys

"The Family Service Food Pantry received over 415 pounds of food raised during Operation Helping Hand Food Drive, which was coordinated by United Way. This effort provided much needed food and support to families who are without adequate resources. We are grateful for each donation as this helps our agency support individuals through difficult times. We would like to thank United Way for their caring and efforts to support people through their greatest times of need. "

Daniel Miringoff, Family Service Association of Bucks County

"I am extremely grateful that our team at work was able to incorporate a volunteer activity with United Way of Bucks into our traditional holiday gathering. What better way is there to get into the holiday spirit than in giving help to those in need? Our team was excited to participate in the holiday gift card drive by helping to purchase and deliver gift cards. It was a great teambuilding exercise and provided a true sense of accomplishment. We plan to come back and help again in 2016."

Paul, volunteer, Johnson & Johnson

"Our pantry patrons have been so blessed by the help they receive through Bucks Knocks Out Hunger. The eggs, milk, and pasta dinners have been a staple that keeps our families going."

Pastor Vicky Allen, Lester Bahrt Food Pantry – First United Methodist Church, Fairless Hills

"I'm thankful that the CONTACT/National Suicide Prevention Lifeline exists so that Bucks County residents have a place to call for a sense of connection and support. This program makes a difference every day and even saves lives. Whether callers are 13 or 93, they're treated with respect and there's always someone to listen. I am thankful for the numerous volunteers who generously give their time to be a Lifeline to others in their community and save lives every day."

Maria, Family Service Association of Bucks County

Choosing to Give:

Generosity, Gratitude, and the Greater Good

35,000. According to some estimates, that's how many decisions—large and small—you will make in a day. Some are easy: deciding to eat when you're hungry or putting on a coat when you're cold.

Some decisions are much more complex. When you decide to give to help someone you will never meet, you are making a complicated choice. You are putting the needs of a stranger ahead of your own. You are trusting that what you do will make a difference.

People give for many reasons. For some, it's a duty. For others, it's a habit. But giving is also something more: it's a privilege.

Giving is a privilege because it means that you have enough to share. It means that you come from a place of generosity and empathy. It means that you have the acumen to filter through 34,999 decisions to get to one. You choose to give.

At United Way of Bucks County, we are deeply grateful for your generosity. When you choose to give, great things are possible.

We have some expressions of gratitude to share with you; notes from people who are thankful for help and support. Each expression of gratitude was made possible through your gifts.

So, thank you. And do us a favor: As you read each of these expressions of gratitude, insert your name where you see "United Way" or "Bucks Knocks Out Hunger" or "Operation Helping Hand" or any other program, because you make these things possible. 🍀

"United Way has helped with bedding and other household items for our homeless clients moving into permanent housing. I am a case manager for the Path Program (CPS). Without this support and help from United Way, some of the people would not have had these things to start a new life. It is great that we can turn to you when there is a need for these items. We thank you for all your help."

Christopher, case worker, Path/ACM Pennndel Mental Health Center

United Way of Bucks County By the Numbers

100%

All of your contributions—time, talent, and treasure—stay here and directly benefit programs in Bucks County.

and

Every program we fund is focused on sustainable change. We believe a hand up is more valuable than a hand out.

17

Percent that LYFT coalition helped to reduce underage drinking among local teens in the past 5 years.

\$3,048,627



Dollars that Bucks County families have saved to date on prescription drugs by using free FamilyWize cards.

455

Number of low-income and at-risk teens who received a present, thanks to the Holiday Gift Card Drive.



106

Requests for help answered by people or groups through the Bucks VOAD site (www.bucksvoad.org).

\$144,725

Value of volunteer time donated to Bucks County through UW Bucks.



LIVE UNITED: Connect with UW Bucks Staff

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Statement of Operations

United Way of Bucks County Statement of Operations (Pre-audit) For the Year Ended 12/31/15

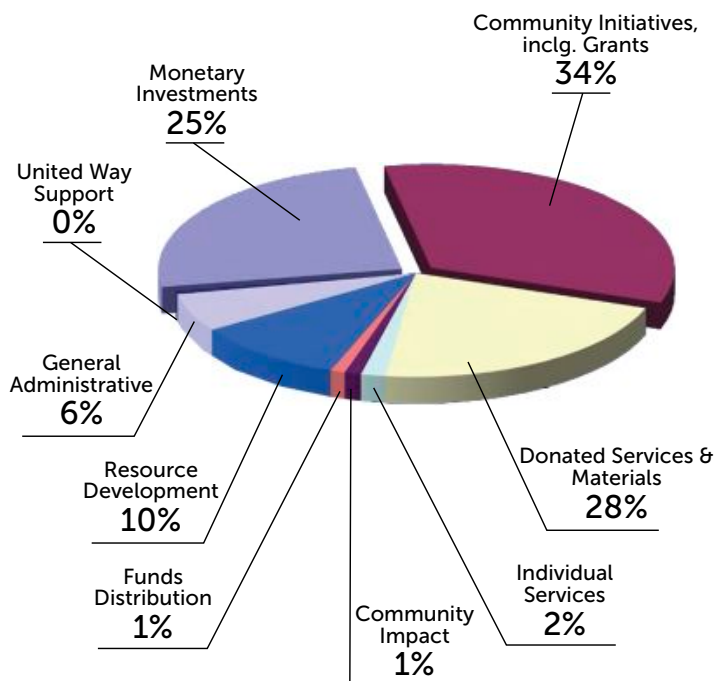
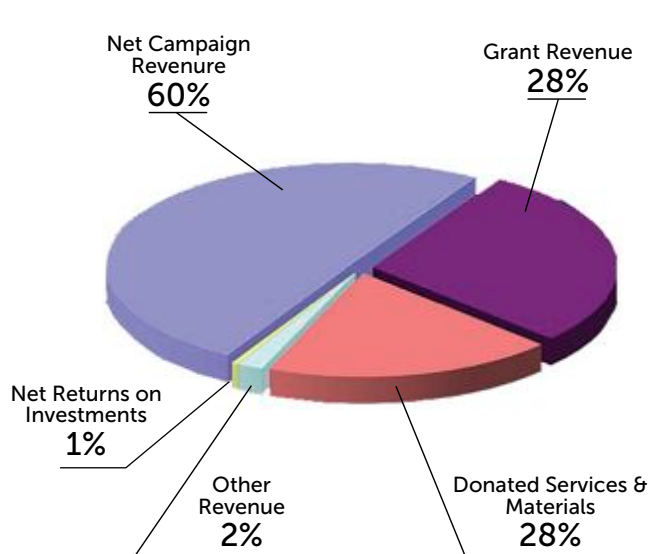
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Net Campaign Revenue	
Gross Campaign	2,367,655
Less: Donor Directed Gifts	(124,692)
Less: Provision for Uncollectibles	(165,449)
Net Campaign Revenue	2,077,514
Grant Revenue	1,174,216
Donated Services & Materials	791,112
Other Revenue	67,292
Net Returns on Investments	(19,065)
Public Support and Revenue	<u>4,091,069</u>

EXPENDITURES

Community Impact Expenses	
Distributions to Bucks County	1,033,767
Less: Donor Directed Gifts	(124,692)
Monetary Investments	909,075
Community Initiatives incl. Grants	1,234,106
Donated Services & Materials	791,892
Individual Services	60,630
Community Impact	39,940
Funds Distribution	35,954
Full Investment in Bucks County	<u>3,071,597</u>
Resource Development	370,348
General & Administrative	219,826
United Way Support	17,807
Expenditures	<u>3,679,578</u>

Net Surplus 411,491



Making an Impact in Bucks County

United Way of Bucks County has been mobilizing a variety of resources in the community—through people, time, talent, relationships, expertise, technology and financial support—to create lasting changes in community conditions that improve the lives of the residents of Bucks County.

The following is a snapshot of how UW Bucks adds value through a variety of community impact strategies.

EDUCATION **EARLY CHILDHOOD & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

Community Investments to Partner Agencies.

UW Bucks invested **\$298,000** to help children and youth achieve their potential through 14 programs provided by 9 agencies that support quality early education, school readiness, and academic success. These programs provide safe places and caring adults for young children and school-age youth to support families.

PA Pre-K Counts. Funded through the PA Office of Child Development and Early Learning, this is the eighth year UW Bucks has implemented

this program. This **\$365,500** grant provided quality Pre-Kindergarten education for 64 children throughout the county and professional development for teachers to support ongoing quality improvement in the classroom. UW Bucks serves as the lead agency (grant holder) for 4 Pre-K partner sites that participate in this program.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants. Funded by the PA Department of Education and implemented in three-year cohorts, 21st Century grants focus on providing quality out-of-school time opportunities for school-aged children. The Cohort 6a (2012 – 2015) funding totaled **\$1,092,000** and provides academic support, credit recovery, and workforce development services to students in grades 9 – 12 residing in Bristol Borough. In 2015, United Way of Bucks County was able to secure an additional **\$307,500** in funding to continue this program for a 4th and final year.

Success By 6. Through this program, UW Bucks is part of the largest network of early childhood coalitions in the country. With 39,000 children in Bucks County under the age of six, we work on a variety of projects which promote early literacy and school readiness. In collaboration with the Quality Child Care Coalition and our Pre-K partners, UW Bucks distributed “Kindergarten Readiness” and “Children Learn through Play” cards to support parents preparing their children for school and distributed “Kindergarten Here I Come” and “Learning Is Everywhere” calendars.

LYFT Community Prevention Coalition: Drug Free Communities Grant. With an 18 month grant of **\$97,000** from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, this program works with the Pennsbury School District through a community coalition, supporting efforts to minimize risk-taking



behavior and maximize access to prevention education opportunities and resources to assist youth and families.

Sober Truth on the Prevention of Underage Drinking Grant (STOP).

Managed by UW Bucks, this grant provides **\$200,000** over the course of four years to specifically support efforts to reduce underage drinking in the Pennsbury School District.

Community Resource Guide for Young Children & Families. UW Bucks continued to distribute an updated version of this directory ("Who to Call in Bucks County"). This guide provides information and phone numbers (including hotlines) that are important to families and children. This project is done in collaboration with the BCIU # 22 and the Quality Child Care Coalition.

Family Literacy Kits & Family Math Bags. By distributing Family Literacy Kits and Family Math Bags (complete with parent training) UW Bucks helped preschool children in Bucks County develop the literacy and math skills they need to start school ready to succeed.

Book Drives. For the eighth year in a row, Success By 6 was the beneficiary of the annual Barnes & Noble holiday book drive. Over **2,100 books (valued at over \$10,000)** were purchased by generous shoppers. Books were donated to UW Bucks to distribute to child care centers and preschools throughout the county.

Stuff the Bus. Our 2015 Stuff the Bus school supply drive provided nearly **\$58,000** worth of school supplies to



families in need. This program helps children start the school year prepared, confident, and ready to learn.

INCOME **FINANCIAL STABILITY/ SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Community Investments to Partner Agencies. UW Bucks invested **\$256,000** to promote financial stability and independence through 13 programs provided by 11 agencies. These programs support job skills training, affordable housing, and skills development for increased savings and long term stability.

Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Through funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, UW Bucks administers this program that brought **\$59,621** this year to the community in support of emergency shelter and prevention of homelessness.

Gifts In-Kind. Our membership in the GOOD360 program provides us with relationships to stores throughout the area. In 2015, these stores provided an average value of over **\$630,000** worth of goods for distribution to our partner agencies throughout the county. These items include bedding, clothing, furniture, toys, house wares, etc., for use by the agencies or their clients.

In-Kind Donations. In 2015, the business community and generous residents of Bucks County donated over **\$150,000** worth of goods and services. Donated items included food, media, coats, office furniture, sofas, TV's, and wheelchairs. These items are given to our agencies to use or be used by their clients.

Bucks County Women's Initiative. United Way's Bucks County Women's Initiative County helps girls become strong women, builds gender equality, and promotes a culture of philanthropy among women and girls. The #girlSTEM

Conference, funded entirely through the Women's Initiative, remains the group's biggest investment. #girlSTEM, facilitated by partners at the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and hosted at Delaware Valley University, now serves over 800 middle and high school girls representing every school district in Bucks County.

Holiday Gift Card Drive. In 2015, 455 under-served older kids and teens received holiday gifts through the annual Holiday Gift Card Drive. Gift cards, with a total value **\$17,050**, went to young people who are not served through traditional toy drives. The objective is to ensure that all children, even the older ones, have a joyous holiday season.

HEALTH

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Community Investments to Partner

Agencies. Investments of **\$238,000** promoted health services, access to healthcare, health and prevention education, and coordination of services through 9 programs provided by 6 agencies.

First Call for Help. In collaboration with Family Service Association, United Way of Bucks County runs this local phone information and referral service to connect people in the community to agencies and services.

Connections. Known as "The Red Book," this comprehensive listing of human services (both private and public) is available online at www.uwbucks.org and as a free mobile app that connects you to agencies and programs across Bucks County right when you need them.

Operation Helping Hand.

This annual food drive managed by United Way in collaboration with multiple schools (both public and private) collects food on one day each year in March. In 2015, this collection distributed **45,330 pounds of food** to food pantries throughout the county.

Bucks Knocks Out Hunger. In 2015, BKO Hunger made available **100,000 packaged meals, 64,835 pounds of fresh produce, and 10,000 pounds of lean proteins** as well as additional funds to nearly 30 pantries and senior centers throughout Bucks County. This project puts food on the shelves of our pantries and helps them keep their doors open.



Familywise Prescription

Assistance Program. UW Bucks distributes prescription discount cards throughout the county for use by people who do not have prescription insurance. In 2015, Bucks County residents made 12,259 claims and saved a total of \$440,147 on their medications. ♡

“*United Way of Bucks County—creating lasting changes that improve the lives of Bucks County residents.*”

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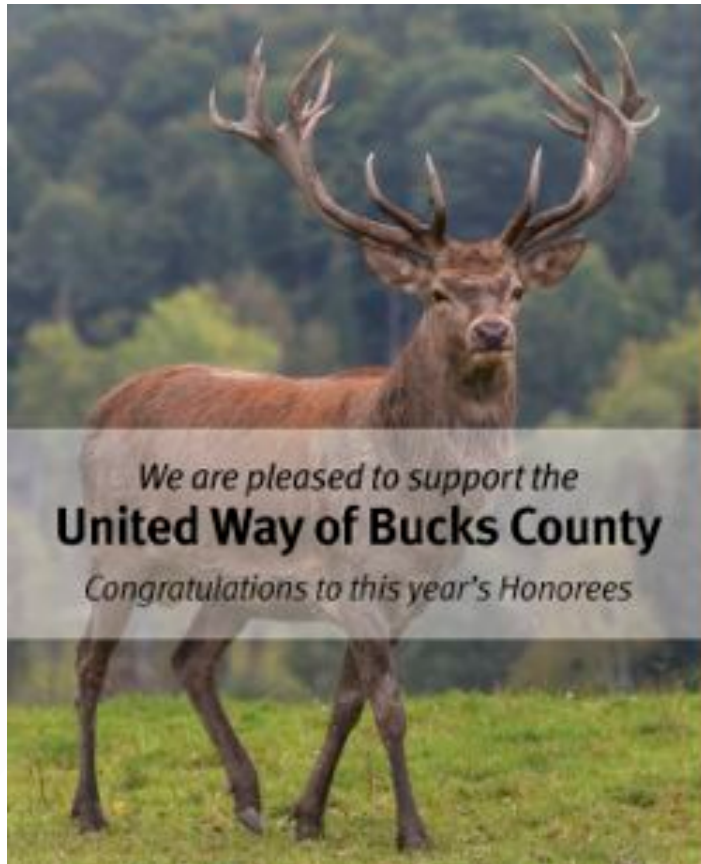
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United Way of Bucks County Funded Programs

Funded programs focus on the building blocks of a great life: a quality education, a stable income, and good health. They meet the greatest needs in Bucks County, as determined by our biennial Needs Assessment. These programs are devoted to creating sustainable change in our community. They are a hand up, not a hand out.

The programs listed here represent the people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise, and resources needed to get things done. Together, we address the issues that destabilize our community.

Funded programs by agency:

A Woman's Place

Healthy Families – Healthy Kids
Teens Leaning In *

American Red Cross, Eastern Pennsylvania

Emergency Services

BARC Developmental Services

JOBS Program (Joint Opportunities for Business and Society)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County

Bristol Community Based Mentoring
School Based Mentoring Program

Bucks County Housing Group

Comprehensive Housing Counseling Program

Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22

#girlSTEM Conference*

Bucks County Opportunity Council

Economic Self-Sufficiency Program
Emergency Services Program – Crisis Prevention for Self-Sufficiency and Independence (CPSI)

Central Bucks Family YMCA

Empower U.*

Child, Home & Community

Taking Charge – Adolescent Pregnancy and Parenting Continuum

Children's Developmental Program, Inc.

Parent Support Program

Credit Counseling Center

Certified Credit Counseling
Foreclosure Prevention & Loss Mitigation Program

Family Service Association of Bucks County

Bucks County Emergency Homeless Shelter
Call Center
Case Management for Older Adult and Disabled Residents of Bucks County Housing Authority
Outpatient Behavioral Health Program (OBHP)
Parents as Teachers Program (PAT)
HIV/AIDS Case Management and Prevention
The Teen Center

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania

Youth Leadership for At Risk Girls/Funded Troop

Good Friends, Inc.

Addressing Employment & Psychiatric Functioning within a Drug and Alcohol Halfway House

Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County

A Brush with Kindness

Legal Aid of Southeastern PA

Legal Resources for Financial Stability
Protection from Abuse Pro Bono Program

Libertae, Inc.

Clinical Life Strategies Program
Essential Life Skills Support

LifeSpan Senior Support Services

Promoting Health and Wellness for our Seniors

Lower Bucks Community Center, Inc.

Low Income and Special Needs Early Childhood Education Scholarship and Family Support

Lower Bucks Family YMCA

School Age Special Needs and At-Risk Youth Care
Early Childhood Education – Special Needs

Network of Victims Assistance

Direct Services to Victims of Crime & Violence

The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania, Inc.

Gateway to Work

Upper Bucks YMCA

Upper Bucks YMCA Childcare – Pre-K
Upper Bucks YMCA Childcare – School Age
Upper Bucks YMCA Childcare – Summer School Age

Vita Education Services

English as a Second Language Program

YWCA of Bucks County

YWCA Prevention Programs

** Funded through Bucks County Women's Initiative, an affinity group of United Way of Bucks County.*

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 Bucks County Bank
 Bucks County Community College
 Bucks County Housing Authority
 Bucks County Drug & Alcohol
 Commission
 Bucks County Housing
 Group
 Bucks County Opportunity
 Council
 Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
 Bucks County Technical High
 School
 Bucks County VOAD
 Bucks County Women's Initiative
 C & S Wholesale Grocers
 Carroll Engineering Corporation
 Centennial School District
 Central Bucks School District
 CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams
 Foundation

Ceridian
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 Child, Home & Community, Inc.
 Children's Developmental
 Program
 CIGNA
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 Click & Give
 Collective Brands (Payless Shoe
 Source)
 Comcast Cable
 CommScope, Inc.
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 GM Service Parts Operation
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 The Grundy Foundation
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 Lockheed Martin
 Lowe's
 Lower Bucks Chamber of
 Commerce
 Lower Bucks Community Centers
 Lower Bucks Family YMCA
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 Merck & Company, Inc.
 Microsoft
 Middle Bucks Institute
 Morgan Stanley
 Morrisville School District
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 Neshaminy School District
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 New Hope-Solebury School
 District
 New Jersey State Employees
 Charitable Campaign
 North Penn United Way
 Northampton Township
 Novartis
 Orange County United Way
 Palisades School District
 Parx Casino
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 Prudential Insurance Co.
 PSE&G
 QNB
 Quakertown Community School
 District
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 Santander Bank
 SAP Software Solutions
 SECA
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THANK YOU

To Our Leadership Donors

United Way of Bucks County Leadership Circles recognize and celebrate the vital importance of personal giving at exceptional levels. Members of our Leadership Circle are people of vision. Their community involvement creates solutions that shape tomorrow.

The Leadership Circle is comprised of local leaders and community philanthropists whose gifts of \$1,000 or more, invested in United Way of Bucks County, impact the quality of life in our community.

Many leadership donors also volunteer and provide guidance throughout the year, help with United Way's affinity groups, and are tremendous influencers at workplace campaigns.

We are deeply grateful for their support, generosity, and the tremendous impact they make in our community.

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Spirit of Bucks Organizations

Each company or organization that contributes over \$10,000 per year to United Way of Bucks County earns the distinction of Spirit of Bucks. Contributions can come through any combination of employee giving, corporate gifts or matches, or sponsorships. Through their generosity, they become the foundation of positive change.

Over \$100,000

GE Water & Process Technologies
Johnson & Johnson, Inc.
Penn Community Bank

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Dow Chemical
Giant Food Stores
Nationwide Insurance Enterprise

\$25,000 to \$49,999

Bristol-Myers Squibb
Comcast Cable
ITW (M&C Specialties and Brooks Instrument)
Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company

Merck & Company, Inc.
PECO
QNB
TD Bank
United Parcel Service
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

\$15,000 to \$24,999

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Cummins Power Systems, Inc.
Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
Macy's
National Penn Bank
Neshaminy School District
PPL Corporation
Sesame Place

The Grundy Foundation
United Way of Bucks County
Waste Management of PA

\$10,000 to \$14,999

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Community Award Winners

Each year, United Way of Bucks County's Board of Directors and staff acknowledge some of the highest achievers in our community; the people and organizations who bring the passion, resources, and expertise to make great things happen.

All of our award winners show what it means to Live United. We are deeply grateful for their contributions.

IMPACT AWARDS

Impact Awards celebrate the ways in which people come together for the greater good.

UNITED FOR EDUCATION

This award recognizes individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to advancing high quality educational opportunities by sharing their time, their expertise, or their financial resources.

This year's winners are:

Nicole Fetherman, Executive Director at LifeSpan School & Day Care for outstanding leadership, advocacy, and community engagement in early child care and education. Specifically, Nicole has expanded partnerships and collaborations to make quality pre-k accessible and affordable for more families in Quakertown.

Kate D'Auria, Associate Professor, Education Area Coordinator Department of Social and Behavioral Science at Bucks County Community College, for establishing new and innovative ways to provide continuing professional development for early childhood educators. Kate has developed course offerings that have helped dozens of local educators continue on the early childhood career path, and improve the quality of care and education in their classrooms.

UNITED FOR HEALTH & WELLNESS

This award recognizes individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution to improving the health or wellness of Bucks County residents by sharing their time, their expertise, or their financial resources.

This year's winners are:

New Hope-Solebury High School for collecting 8,353 lbs of food in support of Operation Helping Hand Food Drive.

Rolling Harvest Food Rescue for partnering with local farmers, volunteers, and nonprofits to ensure

that hunger-relief sites have access to fresh produce and other healthy foods.

UNITED FOR IMPACT

This award honors individuals or groups who help build a stronger community by contributing to more than one of the interdependent areas of education, health and wellness, and financial stability. Typically, winners in this category work in concert and with many partners, sharing their time, their expertise, or their financial resources.

This year's winners are:

Penn Community Bank for ongoing support of programs that improve access to education, health and wellness, and financial stability. The support that Penn Community Bank provides, in partnership with over 100 nonprofits and community organization, creates real change and touches thousands of lives here in Bucks County.

Jennifer Dredge for bringing passion and enthusiasm to projects like Stuff the Bus and Bucks Knocks Out Hunger. She works tirelessly to promote a culture of philanthropy at home, at work, and in the community, and always encourages others to give, advocate, and volunteer.



CAMPAIGN AWARDS

100% AGENCY PARTICIPATION

This award acknowledges nonprofit agencies that achieve 100% participation in their annual United Way campaign.

- Big Brothers Big Sisters Bucks County, Inc.
- Bucks County Opportunity Council
- Child, Home & Community
- Credit Counseling Center
- Good Friends, Inc.
- Legal Aid of Southeastern PA
- United Way of Bucks County

PUBLIC SECTOR CAMPAIGN EXCELLENCE

This award acknowledges the school district or nonprofit agency with the greatest increase in their annual campaign. The increase must be 15% or more and the campaign must generate at least \$5,000 annually. Winners make a special effort to reach all members of their organization through their campaign.

Centennial School District wins this year's Public Sector Campaign Excellence award.

MOST OUTSTANDING CAMPAIGN (multi-location)

This award acknowledges campaigns with multiple sites that make a substantial impact in both dollars and engagement.

GIANT Food Stores is being honored for having the most Outstanding Campaign (multi-location).

REGIONAL CAMPAIGN EXCELLENCE

This award honors the campaign, run outside of Bucks County, that makes the greatest impact in our community.

Johnson & Johnson wins the award for Regional Campaign Excellence.

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The Campaign Volunteer of the Year award recognizes the year-round creative work of an individual or team in support of a United Way of Bucks County campaign. Winners use best practices, imaginative special events, and strong communication plans to get their colleagues involved.

Kelly Ducsik is this year's Campaign Volunteer of the Year.

CAMPAIGN PACESETTERS AWARD

Pacesetter campaigns serve as an inspiration to others. They increase their annual campaigns 15% or more and have total giving above \$5,000 per year. Donations may come through employee giving, special events and fundraisers, corporate gifts, or a combination of these things.

- Avery Dennison
- Bank of America
- BonTon
- Bucks County Bank
- Bucks County Technical High School
- Centennial School District
- Insaco
- Middle Bucks Institute of Technology
- United Parcel Service
- Wegmans

CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR

This award goes to the company that runs the best overall campaign, including a creative theme, special events, and unique communication and outreach plans. Campaign of the Year most typically goes to a group that drives employee support through both events and corporate gifts or matches.

GE Water & Process Technologies is being honored for having the Campaign of the Year.

LIVE UNITED AWARD

This award recognizes a group that shows what it means to Live United. They support the community by being generous with time, money, and resources. Award winners must engage and educate their team, run a United

Way campaign, host special events, and invite colleagues to volunteer at one or more event during the year.

Wegmans in Warrington, PA, is the winner of this year's Live United Award.

TRAVELING TROPHY AWARDS

Traveling Trophies go to the campaigns that have the highest per capita giving ratios during their campaign. The Corporate Giving Trophy is calculated by including corporate gifts, matching gifts, and sponsorship gifts. The Employee Giving Trophy is calculated by including employee gifts and special event dollars raised by employees.

Corporate Giving: Business with More Than 100 Employees

Penn Community Bank

Corporate Giving: Business with Less Than 100 Employees

ITW (M&C Specialties)

Employee Giving: Business with More Than 100 Employees

GE Water & Process Technologies

Employee Giving: Business with Less Than 100 Employees

Bucks County Bank



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Learn more at www.fsabc.org.



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