

BUCKS UNITED

UNITED WAY OF BUCKS COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT & MAGAZINE

CELEBRATING
65
YEARS



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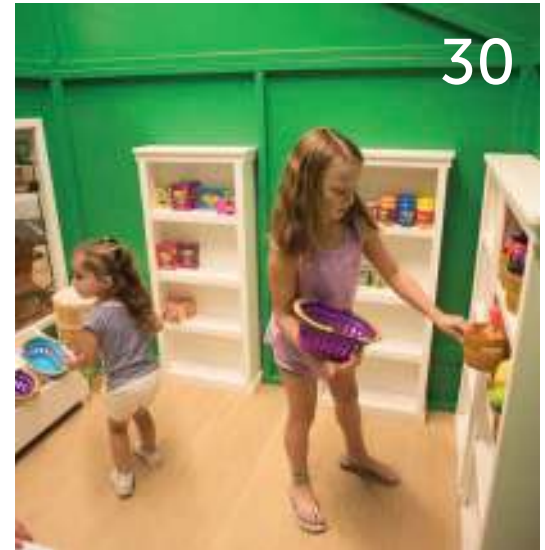
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For a community to thrive, we all must do our part.

Thank you to the United Way of Bucks County for working to make sure there is food on tables, money in pockets, children in classrooms and roofs over heads.

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Marissa Christie
President & CEO
United Way of
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MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT & CEO

Motivation to Succeed

Over the course of 6 years at United Way of Bucks County, I worked my way up from a project director, serving at-risk kids and teens, to Chief Development Officer overseeing campaigns, marketing, and communication.

When I was offered the chance to become CEO in December 2016—the first woman in our organization's 65-year history—I knew the organization well and I knew what challenges lay ahead.

Organizationally, it's no secret that United Ways nationwide are struggling to adapt to changes in the way people want to donate. Professionally, my team and I were just about to announce a new funding cycle for nonprofits in our community; one that would break with 65 years of tradition and mean that not all of our partners would continue to receive the same

“My team and I agreed that the bigger the challenge, the bigger the opportunity.”

support. Personally, I had a 2-year-old son at home and was about 3 weeks away from giving birth to a daughter.

The prospect of managing all of these challenges at once was scary. I worried that I wouldn't be able to do enough for my family,


my colleagues, our board of directors, and our community all at the same time.

In the end, I decided that all of these challenges would have to drive my motivation to succeed. My team and I agreed that the bigger the challenge, the bigger the opportunity.

During my first week as CEO, we made the announcement about how funding would change, with major investments now going to fight hunger, support seniors, provide education for young kids, give families emergency assistance, and help people get connected to the services they need. You can read more about these areas and the Collective Impact process starting on page 41.

This represents a big shift in how we serve our community, but I am excited to tell you that our partners are exceeding our expectations. Our donors and stakeholders tell us that they appreciate the importance of narrowing and defining the United Way's focus in Bucks County.

Looking forward, there are certainly more challenges ahead. To continue to serve our community and make meaningful change, we need to advance our Collective Impact strategy; to increase donations; to engage more people and encourage greater diversity; to stay focused on what matters.

Together, let's see all of these challenges as opportunities. 



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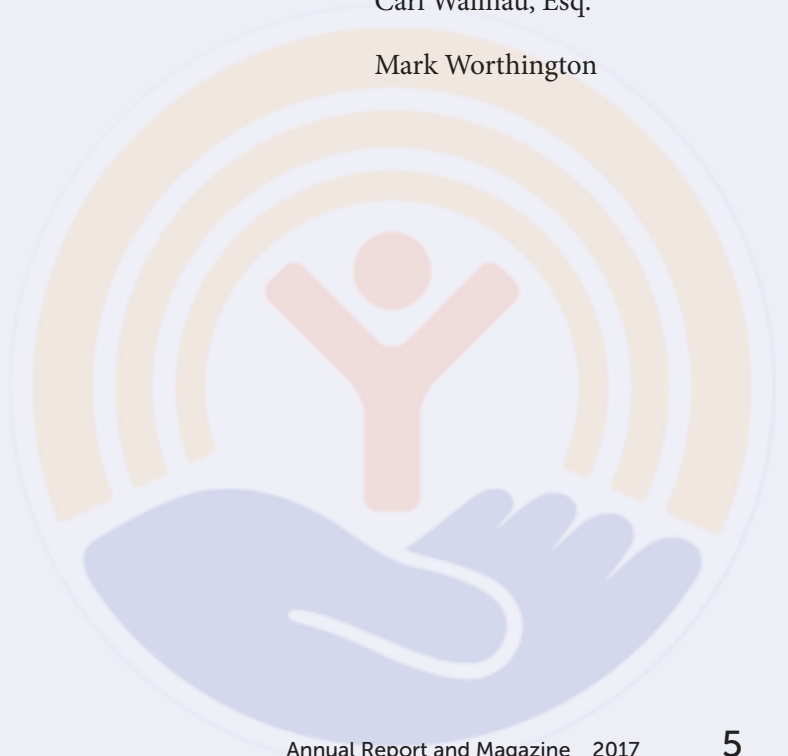
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KELTON SERVICE AWARD WINNER

Todd Alderfer



This year, Todd Alderfer is being honored with this prestigious award. Mr. Alderfer is Senior Vice President/Commercial Lending Team Leader at QNB. He is a member of United Way of Bucks County's Board of Directors and is being honored for exceptional contributions over the past year, which includes helping staff with fundraising and leadership giving. He is kind, wise, and generous with his knowledge—traits valued by both United Way's staff and his fellow board members.

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.

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

What I like best about working in Bucks County is the variety of different businesses that have been attracted to the county. We have a lot of manufacturing, service businesses, retail, and more. Because we have a variety of different businesses, we have many different types of people here.

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

My first experience in volunteering was in Montgomery County many years ago. A woman by the name of Sally Lee was instrumental in my decision. She was the head of the local United Way in Pottstown. She kept urging me to consider volunteering for the United Way.

Sadly, Sally is no longer with us on this earth, but my service to United Way is because of her and I can honestly say that it's one of the best things I've ever been a part of.

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?

When I started my volunteer efforts for United Way in the early 90s, I was part of the team that visited nonprofits that were looking for funding.

Doing that just got me. I had no idea there was so much need in our own back yards. To see and experience what nonprofits do to support people in our communities is moving. What a blessing that these nonprofits exist!

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

Causes that tug my heart are early childhood education and food insecurity. The more preschool education that we can provide for our children, the better. We all know the power in knowledge. For children, it's a first step to success in their lives.

Bucks County is definitely perceived to be a wealthy area. What some people don't understand is the number of adults and children who still go to bed hungry each night. It breaks my heart!

QNB Bank (QNB) team shows dedication to supporting 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 QNB?

My personal experience is that a lot of employees who join QNB are already community minded. Our senior management team also does a lot

“
Once you step out of your comfort zone and give of yourself, you will never regret it.
”

to encourage the support of nonprofits in Bucks County. The great thing is that QNB empowers us to take time to volunteer for nonprofits we're passionate about in Bucks County.

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

By far, the event that has caught my attention is Bucks Knocks Out Hunger. When hundreds of volunteers come together for that volunteer event, the energy is amazing! We package 100,000

meals for various food pantries in Bucks County. It's a humbling experience.

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


Just do it! Once you step out of your comfort zone and give of yourself, you will never regret it.

What might people be surprised to know about you?

When I first got into commercial lending, it actually scared me! There were so many

zeros in the amounts that customers wanted to borrow! Today, I love the field that I am in – especially meeting business people and learning more about how they run their businesses.

What is your favorite place to travel?

Telluride, Colorado, is one of my most favorite places to travel. My youngest daughter and her husband live there. I love to ski and enjoy the scenery. It is without a doubt the best skiing I have ever experienced. There is nothing like that soft, fresh snow. 

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PAUL SAUERBRY AWARD

Michael B. Connor



This year, Michael B. Connor is being honored for his dedicated service. Mr. Connor has been actively supporting United Way of Bucks County for more than 10 years. He has served as both Treasurer and Board Chair. As an experienced finance professional, he has been able to help the organization focus on sustainability and manage the bottom line. He has made himself available to help and support the staff time and time again, deftly navigating any challenges that arise. His leadership in Bucks County extends well beyond United Way – but the United Way is extremely grateful to have him.

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.

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 guess it goes back to realizing that all people are not as fortunate as I am. By giving back to the community, we can help people overcome their circumstances. We can help them have good, useful lives. That starts with giving back.

How did you first get involved with United Way of Bucks County?

Dan Bates, who was acting CEO of United Way of Bucks County at the time, asked me to serve on the finance committee. I believe this was around 2006. I've been working with the United Way ever since then.

Why do you continue to support UW Bucks?

I continue to support United Way because I believe in both the mission and the manner in which we are trying to achieve it.

What other causes or organizations do you support?

I am currently on the board of the TMA of Bucks County, a Transportation Management Agency. I also serve as the Chairman of the TMA Foundation, a group responsible for awarding scholarships each year. I've been involved with the Lower Bucks County Chamber of Commerce for quite a while. I'm actually the only individual who has served as the Chairman twice!

In your opinion, what is the best way to inspire the next generation of donors, advocates, and volunteers?

I believe that the best way to get people to give is to show them the past successes and what we're currently doing to make a difference. When people see and understand that, they want to give.

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 to nonprofit was about 30 years ago. I gave to the United Way of Philadelphia bi-weekly through a payroll deduction. I decided to give because of how many groups were helped through United Way gifts. I liked the wide scope of United Way's distribution of funds.

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

I think I would make the people less parochial in their outlook. In essence, there are still three Bucks Counties: Lower, Middle, and Upper. I would love for that to change.

Who would play you in a movie of your life?

Tom Hanks.

Where is your favorite place on earth?

Our home in Ocean City, New Jersey.

What might people be surprised to know about you?

People would be surprised to know that I am a "C" Licensed soccer coach and that I coached at Father Judge High School for almost 13 years. Soccer is actually the only sport I follow! 🙌

“By giving back to the community, we can help people overcome their circumstances.”

The Campaign Volunteers 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.

“

Our success starts with an engaged group of committed coordinators who are driven by their desire to help the community.

”

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Team at Dow

This year's award goes to the team at Dow in Bristol, PA, including: Fabian Casteblanco, Dinorah Craven, Craig Bunce, Sylvia Gautier, Mary Mignogna, Linda Kervick, Debbie Scassero, Walter Epp, Brittany Leco, Shawn Gibson and Barbara Gyenge. This team runs a smart, energetic, and impactful campaign – and makes it a point to share the United Way message with all of their colleagues. What really stands out about these volunteers is their personal commitment to improving lives in our community. Their passion for helping others shows in everything they do. We asked our friends at Dow to tell us a little about why (and how) their campaign remains so successful. This is what they told us.

What are the top 5 things that make your United Way campaign shine at Dow?

PEOPLE

The Bristol site has some of the best talent at Dow, and this is reflected in the types of campaigns we organize each year. Months in advance, our team begins the planning process by carefully reviewing the critical steps that need to be accomplished to ensure a successful campaign. Our success starts with an engaged group of committed coordinators who are driven by their desire to help the community. We are led by passionate individuals who put their heart into leveraging the best, and not only from each other but the company as well. Help is enlisted from everyone who wants to contribute, regardless of position.

EVENTS

The United Way team at Dow selects their events each year to ensure employees have a good time as well as a wide variety of events. This is driven by Dow's message to "go out and celebrate the campaign by having fun and giving back to the



“Go out and celebrate the campaign by having fun and giving back to the community at the same time.”



community at the same time." We are continually diversifying our activities to keep the campaign spirit alive, and there is always something for everyone. One of our most successful events, with the most consistent donations, is the annual poker tournament.

We engage in a number of food related campaign events. We have an annual bake sale where individuals bring in baked goods for those with a sweet tooth and salty snacks are available, too. The site hosts Chipotle night, where anyone who brings in a flyer will enjoy great food and fun knowing a portion of our purchases go directly back into the community. Finally

Mary Mignogna and Craig Bunce show their support of UW Bucks.



- 1 Members of the Dow team at BKO 2016.
- 2 Members of the Dow team help UW Bucks Stuff the Bus!
- 3 Raffle Prizes at the Dow campaign closing luncheon.
- 4 The Dow band playing at the campaign closing luncheon.
- 5 Dow staff members get raffle tickets to win prizes.

“
 Dow is
 committed to
 "setting the
 standard for
 sustainability."
 ”

there is a Taco Tuesday, where the food is supplied by the employees and all proceeds go to the United Way campaign.

For several years we have had a traveling flamingo, Martha, in the Croydon plant. The traveling flamingo goes from office to office, and the only way to get rid of her, and transfer her to a coworker is to make a donation to the United Way. We have a lot of fun as well as employee support for this event. We also hold a Penny War between each of our three locations. Pennies add value and silver coins and dollars deduct from the value of the pennies collected. In the end, all the monies are donated to the campaign and the location with the highest money collected wins extra raffle tickets for the grand finale or an ice cream treat for their location.

SUPPORT

As part of Dow's 2015 Sustainability Goals, Dow is committed to "setting the standard for sustainability" and this includes "contributing to community success" in the places where we live and work. By working with United Way, Dow and Dow employees are able to make a difference and support our local communities.

However, Dow's support of United Way did not just begin with our 2015 Sustainability Goals. Dow has been working closely with United Way for more than 75 years – demonstrating the company's long-standing commitment to community success.

Through United Way, Dow employees help their local communities and neighbors in need. By donating money or spending time volunteering, Dow employees showcase the spirit of the human element in their local communities. By conducting a North American company-wide campaign each Fall, we are able to have a greater community impact than any one of us could ever have alone because employee donations are combined with Dow's local corporate donations.

The United Way campaigns succeed at

7 The Dow crew gets ready to have lunch and win prizes.

8 Dinorah Craven prepares to start the raffle during Dow's campaign luncheon.

9 Dinorah Craven and Fabian Castebianco draw winners of the many great prizes.





10



11



12

Dow because they encourage employee involvement at every level of campaign planning. The people that are helped by the United Way are neighbors, friends, and often, our families. When a crisis hits the community or a family, it's great to know that many Dow people care enough to support these agencies with the resources needed to help. Dow's United Way campaign is all about celebrating and caring for our community.

COMMUNICATION

A campaign will succeed or fail based on how well we communicate to our employees at the site. Communication is facilitated through excellent messaging from our United Way team. We utilize many channels of communication and we create flyers and spread the word through daily meetings.

THE BIG FINALE

Every United Way campaign ends with a big celebration hosted at our Dow site. Our grand finale this year was a festive Halloween-themed luncheon where we raffled away sports tickets, a big screen TV, and over 50 baskets of great prizes, much of which was provided by fellow employees or community members. This all happens while enjoying great food and a live performance from our site's very own band. It's an amazing feeling to have the employees at the site rally behind a great cause like the United Way campaign. This reflects the great pride that Dow employees have for our local community. 🍂

“
A campaign will succeed or fail based on how well we communicate to our employees at the site.
 ”

10 Many of the great prizes given away at the Dow campaign closing lunch.

11 Leo Otting and Fabian Castebianco select prize winners.

12 Craig Bunce and Dinorah Craven get ready to give out prizes.

GE: Making a Difference by Giving Back



Each day, United Way of Bucks County partners with businesses and community members to provide programming and resources that support self-sufficiency and give those in need a hand up. GE Water has been a corporate partner of United Way for many years. Hundreds of GE employees give their support through the annual campaign, advocacy, and volunteerism.

by Karen Johnson-Susko

“Outreach and support in the communities where we live and work have been core elements of GE’s pledge to be a strong corporate partner. At GE Water, this partnership provides Bucks County residents with key resources, but it also gives our employees an important opportunity to give back in a meaningful way,” explains Ian Preddy, Global Operations Leader.

GE Water enjoys programming year-round connecting with member agencies through the United Way Planning Committee, and the larger GE Volunteers organization. Bucks Knocks Out Hunger is a favorite event, with 100 employees joining other businesses and community members to package food for

local food pantries. Each year, there is always such a feeling of excitement and caring as the GE team packages nutrient rich meals for neighbors in need.

“BKO is one of the largest volunteer events we do at GE Water each year,” says Cathy Janoson, who has served on the campaign leadership team for 10 years. “We typically have a waiting list to participate in this impactful and fun event each year!”

Once the temperature starts to drop and fall arrives, GE’s Trevese Campus is transformed into a hub of activity for both employees and community members, where everyone is encouraged to have “Top Fun” as they give back. The Safe Halloween event allows for several hundred children from the community to trick-or-treat in the transformed training

Left: Karen Johnson-Susko and Cathy Janoson prepare for GE’s United Way campaign.



Right: President & CEO Heiner Markhoff leads the GE Team at Bucks Knocks Out Hunger.



Members of the GE Team participate in a 5k to benefit UW Bucks.





Top:
GE employees enjoy bowling in support of United Way.

Bottom:
GE employees ran a "Top Fun" United Way campaign this year.



center. The fan favorite Chili Throw Down (soon to be in its 9th year), brings out a myriad of chili cooks and employees who are ready to sample their creations to determine which chili will “reign supreme.” Games of sport, skill, and intellect, provide multiple opportunities for employees to flex their muscles and connect with each other to encourage participation year after year.

Giving back through the United Way is part of GE Water culture. Every dollar raised, every volunteer hour logged, every pledge makes a difference. GE Water is fortunate to be a partner of the United Way in supporting others in achieving their goals. 🍷

About the contributor: Karen Johnson-Susko has been with GE for 17 years and has been a National Leader of GE Water & Distributed Power's United Way Campaign for the past 10 years. Karen and her husband Jim live in Sellersville with their daughter Bella. They are active volunteers in organizations throughout Bucks County.

“ Outreach and support in the communities where we live and work have been core elements of GE’s pledge to be a strong corporate partner. ”

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Proud to Give Back to the Community



by Mike Rainone

Established in 1872, BB&T has always believed that giving back is the most important part of being a good corporate citizen. Looking toward the future, the BB&T team is committed to sharing their strength and knowledge to enrich local neighborhoods through community development, leadership, and innovation.

Together, this team volunteers, supports financial literacy, and generously invests in our community.

BB&T LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT

Through the BB&T Lighthouse Project, a nationwide community services program, team members actively support BB&T's goal of improving lives in the communities served by their branches. Employee teams are allotted four hours of their workday to volunteer on community projects during May and June. Since 2009, BB&T associates have collectively donated more than 385,000 volunteer hours to local charities and improved the quality of life for more than 11 million people.



Right BKO Hunger:
Ready. Set. Go!
The BB&T Team works together to help pack over 100,000 meals at Bucks Knocks Out Hunger.

Bottom BKO Hunger:
There's no slowing down in the fight against hunger. The BB&T Team speed through the packaging of nutritious meals for their neighbors in need.


SUPPORTING FINANCIAL EDUCATION

BB&T focuses on financial education in several ways. The BB&T Financial Foundations program reaches high school students throughout their footprint. Since the program began in 2010, BB&T has provided over 326,000 students with basic concepts about banking, insurance, investments, budgeting, higher education, and more.

Since 2006, the BB&T bank bus – a 40-foot mobile financial classroom – has become a focal point for local festivals, street fairs, and community events. The bus visits approximately 110 events each year and is equipped with 11 Internet-accessible computers.

INVESTING IN BUCKS COUNTY

New to Bucks County through the merger with National Penn, BB&T's goal is to develop new relationships and maintain those already established. When communities thrive, families realize financial stability and children have a clearer path to bright futures.

To that end, BB&T is proud to support United Way of Bucks County through Bucks Knocks Out Hunger, sponsoring the #girlSTEM Conference, and by being a Platinum Sponsor of the Bucks United Breakfast & Annual Magazine. 

About the contributor: Mike Rainone is Market President at BB&T.





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#GIVINGTUESDAY

Fostering a Culture of Generosity

1-3 Volunteers use their creative skills to create handmade holiday greeting cards for teens in need at Bucks County Community College as part of the #GivingTuesdayBucks festivities.

4 United Way of Bucks County's Director of Volunteer Engagement, Danielle Bush (right) talks with a Giving Tuesday volunteer about how to make a difference year-round.

LEARN MORE
www.givingtuesdaybucks.org

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 in the spirit of generosity and philanthropy. Community involvement in #GivingTuesdayBucks – or #GTB – continues to grow each year as the Giving Tuesday movement gains momentum.

On Tuesday, November 29, 2016, more than 100 Bucks County nonprofit organizations came together to promote #GivingTuesdayBucks. Caring community members responded by donating their time and treasure to nonprofit organizations throughout the county.

Donations raised on Giving Tuesday made it possible for local organizations to complete special projects – and offer services – that wouldn't be possible without the additional support. A Woman's Place, the only domestic violence organization in Bucks County, focused on bringing Peace Works Camp to children in Lower Bucks; Penn Foundation raised funds for Camp Mariposa®, a summer camp program that provides a safe and caring environment for children coping with family addiction; Bristol Township Senior Center purchased the supplies they needed to seed a garden project; Bingo's Foundation, a feline rescue, raised enough money to replace their failing HVAC system.

In addition to expanding services and completing projects, organizations embraced





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“

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

”



collaboration on #GivingTuesday. Bucks County Community College and United Way of Bucks County worked together to organize a holiday gift card drive for teens going through some tough times. This joint venture included a service project – creating handmade holiday greeting cards for the teens – hosted at Bucks County Community College, the official #GTB headquarters.

What is most exciting about the #GTB movement is the fact that so many organizations in Bucks County come together to collectively promote generosity in our community. While each organization’s mission might be different, they are all, without a doubt, working towards a similar goal – to make Bucks County a better place to live, work, and go to school.

If you, or your organization, would like to participate in #GTB 2017, please contact Jenny Salisbury at givingtuesdaybucks@outlook.com. 🇺🇸

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.

8 Reasons to Visit Bucks County in 2017

Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the bucolic countryside backyard of the City of Brotherly Love, is gearing up for an exciting new year. From monumental anniversaries to historic developments, a visit to Bucks County, PA is a must for 2017! Here's what's new in Bucks County for the year ahead.

by Visit Bucks County

1 Join fellow citizens from around the country for a Bucks County tradition featuring several hundred reenactors clad in Continental military dress and George Washington himself at Washington Crossing Historic Park.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County



1

Washington Crossing Historic Park offers more than 500 acres of American history, natural beauty, and family fun.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County



2

With three growing greenhouses, multiple hoop houses, a large nursery yard, and aisle after aisle of plants, Froehlich's Farm has one of the best plant selections in Bucks County.

Photo courtesy of Froehlich's Farm

1 **Washington Crossing Historic Park Celebrates its Centennial Anniversary.**

This popular park is celebrating its 100th birthday with lots of large updates! Restoration of the Grist Mill is on the top of the list, as well as the eventual restoration of many of the buildings, a new garden, and a move for the administration offices from the visitor center to a new building. Washington Crossing Historic Park also plans on hosting their seventh annual 'Washington Crossing BrewFest' at the park in May 2017, and is adding their first ever 'CiderFest' in October 2017!

2 **Froehlich's Farm Turns 75.**

Bucks County is home to many family-run farms and the Furlong, PA, based Froehlich's is in its fourth generation of ownership. For years, Froehlich's Farm supplied Campbell Soup their tomatoes and was a staple for produce in the local community. Today, they are famous for their vast selection of greenhouse and nursery plants, pick your own pumpkin patch, Christmas Trees, everyday seasonal items, and more.



3

Highland Farm has cultural ties with one of the nation's most influential lyricists of all time. Relax on the wrap-around porch where Oscar Hammerstein II wrote lyrics for the great American musical, *Oklahoma!*

Photo by Creative Commons, courtesy of Visit Bucks County

4

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

Photo by R. Kennedy, courtesy of Visit Philly



3 Oscar Hammerstein's Estate 'Highland Farm' Begins Transformation into a Museum.

Legendary lyricist Oscar Hammerstein wrote the words to popular musical plays like *Oklahoma!*, *The Sound of Music* and *South Pacific* at his Doylestown home, Highland Farm. After Hammerstein's passing in 1960, the homestead passed through several private hands. Today, it serves as a bed and breakfast. But just this past year, Oscar's grandson, William, received permission to transform it into a museum! Expect to hear a lot more about this estate becoming a tribute to Oscar and his music for all to see with a proposed opening date in 2018.

5 Visitors to the James A. Michener Art Museum can enjoy lunch and reflect in the Patricia D. Pfundt Sculpture Garden, where the old stone prison wall is juxtaposed against the contemporary award-winning Edgar N. Putman Event Pavilion. Sculptures can be seen throughout the garden.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County

4 Bristol Riverside Theater Turns 30.

Located in the heart of up-and-coming Bristol, the renovated movie-house turned theater hosts more than 200 performances every year, including mainstage productions, a summer music fest series, reading series, Christmas concert, and more. An anniversary gala will be hosted on June 3.

5 Exhibit on 1920s Fashion

Photographer Lights Up the James A. Michener Museum.

“Charles Sheeler: Fashion, Photography & Sculptural Form,” an exhibit highlighting Philadelphia native and Doylestown resident Charles Sheeler (1883-1965), will be at the Michener Art Museum this Spring/Summer. One of America's most celebrated modernist artists, Sheeler spent five years honing his skills as a fashion and portrait photographer for Condé Nast magazines *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*. Featuring his work from that era as well as paintings, fashion ensembles, and other photographs, the exhibit is set for March 18 – July 9, 2017. Visit the Michener Art Museum's website for more upcoming and permanent exhibits.



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 by J. Totaro, courtesy of Visit Bucks County



6 Visitors can choose their own paths through the Mercer Museum. Most of the 55 exhibit rooms and alcoves display the tools or products of an early American craft, trade or occupation.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County

6 **Exhibit Featuring Religious Culture's Fragments "Shakes" Up the Mercer Museum.** "Gather Up the Fragments: the Andrews Shaker Collection" tells the story of Shaker art, religion, and the Faith and Edward Deming Andrews family, prominent scholars of Shaker lifestyle. 'Shakers' was a nickname given to those who followed the United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing religion and were known

to shake during worship services because of their enthusiasm. Approximately 200 household objects, such as baskets, furniture, textiles and more, that original Shakers from the 18th century once used will be on display from January 28 - April 23, 2017. The objects on view are imbued with the Shakers' timeless, high standard design aesthetic. Visit the Mercer Museum's website for more upcoming and permanent exhibits.



7



8



7 New Hope Winery offers wines for every palate from light, fruity whites and versatile blush wines to sophisticated reds and seasonal fruit wines.

Photo by Anthony Sinagoga, courtesy of Visit Bucks County

8 Buckingham Valley Vineyards & Winery is a family-owned enterprise dedicated to growing and making the best possible Bucks County wines.

Photo by Rachel C., courtesy of Visit Bucks County

7 Bucks County Wine Trail Offers World Class Wineries Just Minutes Apart. The gentle rolling hills, deep well-drained soils, and moderate climate combine to make Bucks County one of the premier grape growing regions of the East Coast. The Bucks County Wine Trail was launched in 2004 and includes Buckingham Valley Vineyards, Crossing Vineyards, New Hope Winery, Peace Valley Winery, Rose Bank Winery,

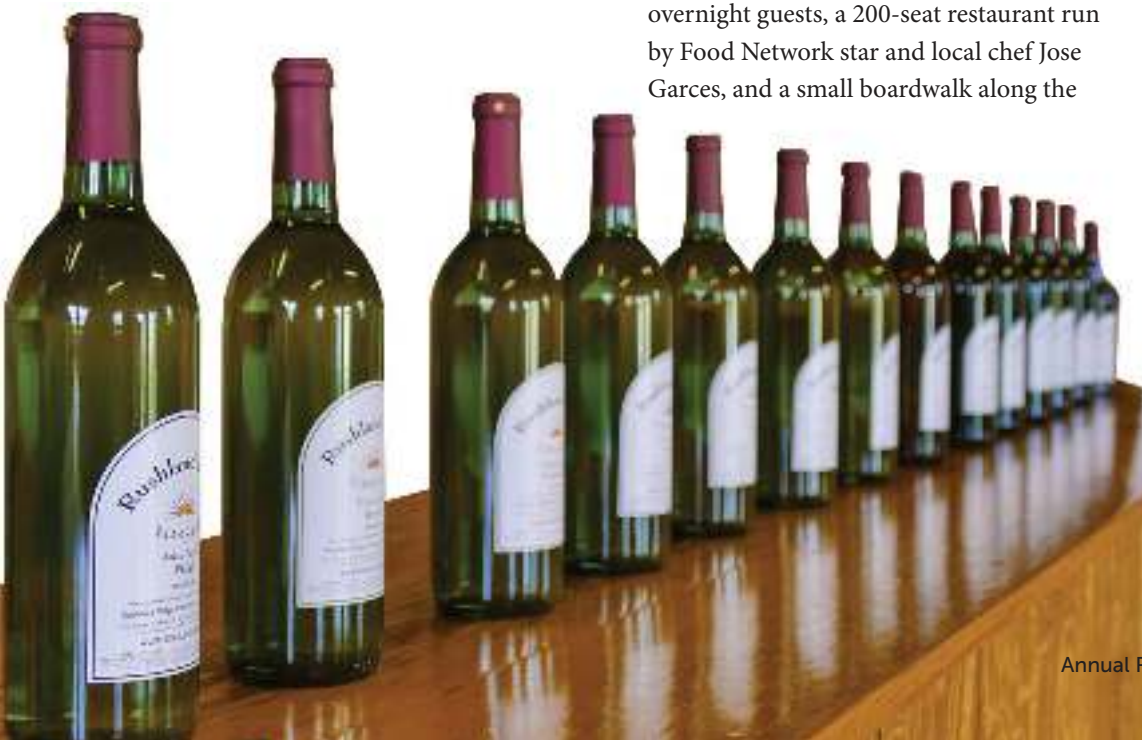
Rushland Ridge Vineyards, Sand Castle Winery, Unami Ridge Winery and Wycombe Vineyards.

Bridge Street Foundation Commences Renovation on 'The Playhouse Inn.'

The Bridge Street Foundation has begun construction on a new hotel and restaurant in New Hope, PA. Located adjacent to the famous Bucks County Playhouse, the Playhouse Inn will feature 12 rooms for overnight guests, a 200-seat restaurant run by Food Network star and local chef Jose Garces, and a small boardwalk along the

riverside. The original building came about in the 1950s and has been vacant and dilapidated for more than a decade. Locals and theater lovers alike are more than excited to see the inn open in Spring 2018! 🍷

About the contributor: Visit Bucks County (VBC) is the official tourism promotion agency for Bucks County. 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.



Rushland Ridge Winery has approximately six acres of vineyards, with Chardonnay, Cabernet Franc, and Traminette varieties.

Photo courtesy of Visit Bucks County



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VOTED #1

Mercer Museum & Fonthill Castle: Inspiring and Educating Audiences



1



2

1 View a Conestoga wagon, horse-drawn carriages, and antique fire engine suspended overhead in the museum's Central Court area. Photo by Allure West Studios, courtesy of Mercer Museum

2 Henry Chapman Mercer's home at Fonthill was inspired by the castles he saw on his trips to Europe. Photo by Rosemary T., courtesy of Mercer Museum


3 Step back in time in a castle housing more than 40,000 early American artifacts. Photo courtesy of the Mercer Museum

by Gayle Shupack

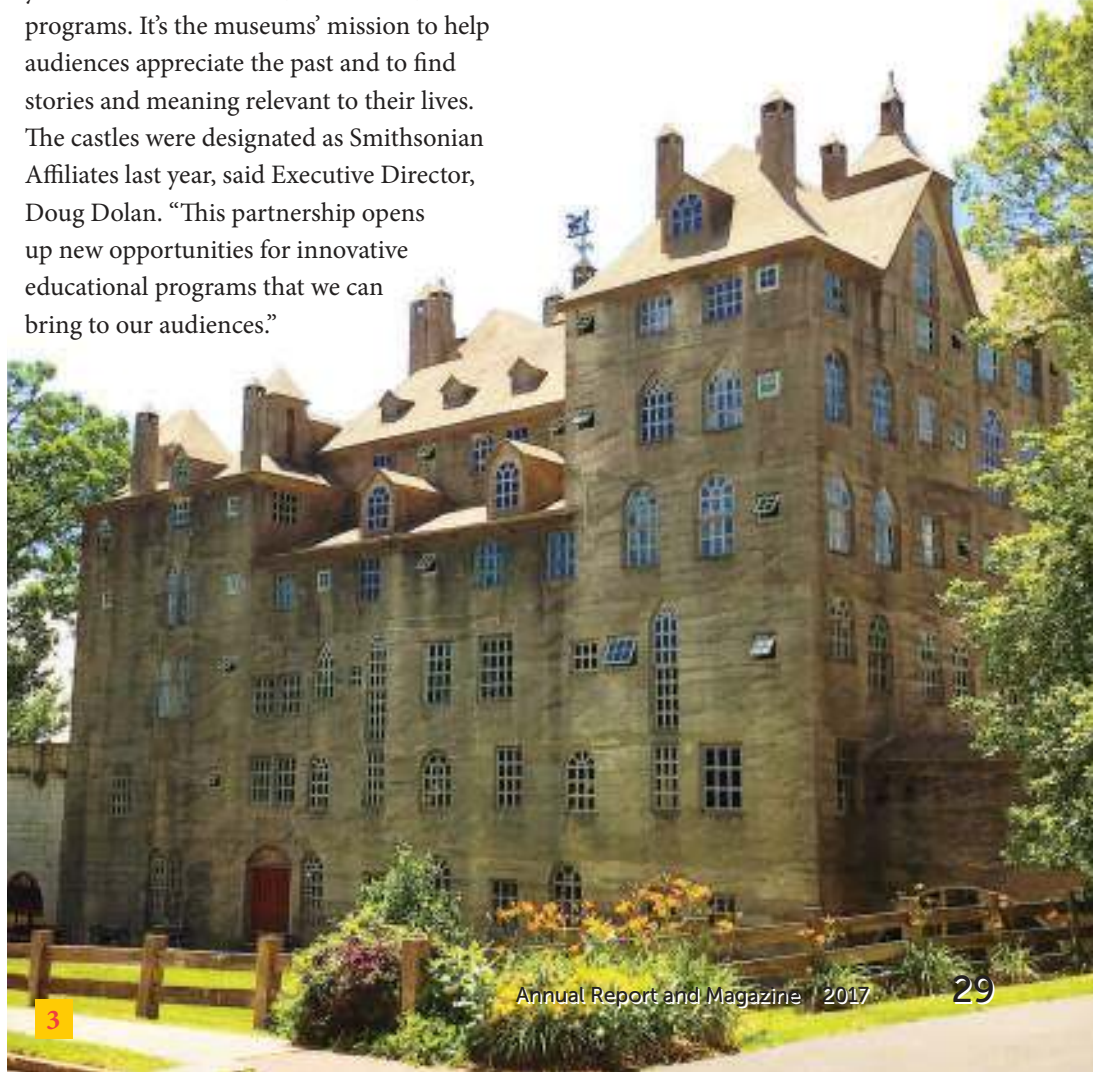
Noted tile-maker and archaeologist, Henry Mercer, built three amazing concrete structures in Doylestown in a burst of creativity during the early part of the 20th century. Inspired by the castles he saw on his trips to Europe, Mercer built two castles—his home, Fonthill, a showplace for his colorful, handcrafted tiles and the Mercer Museum, a place to house his collection of early American tools made obsolete by the Industrial Revolution. These National Historic Landmarks attract more than 95,000 visitors from around the world and 8,000 school children.

The Mercer Museum and Fonthill Castle educate and engage audiences with a year-round slate of tours, exhibitions, and programs. It's the museums' mission to help audiences appreciate the past and to find stories and meaning relevant to their lives. The castles were designated as Smithsonian Affiliates last year, said Executive Director, Doug Dolan. "This partnership opens up new opportunities for innovative educational programs that we can bring to our audiences."

Guests can enjoy daily guided tours of Fonthill Castle or self-guided tours of the Mercer Museum. Fonthill also offers Tower Tours once a month, and twice-yearly Behind the Scenes Tours.

Special exhibitions on view at the Mercer Museum this year include Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection (Through April 23), The Mary Schaffer Collection: A Legacy of Quilt History (May 13 – August 13), and Centuries of Childhood: An American Story (September 16 – December 31). 

About the contributor: Gayle Shupack is the Marketing & Public Relations Coordinator of the Mercer Museum.



3

LEARN MORE
www.mercermuseum.org

Penn's Little Village at Bucks County Free Library: A New Destination for Bucks County Children

by Michelle Wexler



For sixty years, Bucks County Free Library's preschool programs and services have helped children enter school ready to read, write, and learn. Last summer, BCFL enhanced its early-learning offerings by launching Penn's Little Village, an interactive space where children can learn while moving and playing pretend – two of their favorite activities.

Located at the Langhorne Branch, the Village is a preschool-sized early learning town designed for young children from six months to six years.

The Village has seven interactive stations: Penny's Market, the Friendly School, Woody's Service Station, Story Time Library, Little Penn Fire Station, Village Postal Service, and the Camper.

According to Village management, aka library staff, favorite visitor activities include: putting out a recurring imaginary fire in the schoolhouse, which is fortunately located right next door to the firehouse; shopping for groceries; and delivering mail from one building to another while wearing postal gear.



“

An interactive space where children can learn while moving and playing pretend – two of their favorite activities.

”



“

Children are building skills while having fun.

”

While they're extinguishing imaginary fires and delivering mail, children are building early literacy and math skills, developing fine motor skills, enhancing social skills, learning about their community— and having fun alongside parents, caregivers, and other children.

Children and their caregivers can visit the Village at 301 S. Pine Street in Langhorne. For more information about the Village and hours of operation, visit www.buckslib.org or call (215) 757-2510.

As Fred Rogers wisely said, "... for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." To learn more about how BCFL's early education programs and services help children play and learn, visit www.buckslib.org. 🧡

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

LEARN MORE
www.buckslib.org



Photos courtesy of Bucks County Free Library

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Volunteerism: Galilee Residents Making a Difference One Envelope at a Time

Throughout the year, the residents of Galilee Village volunteered more than 390 hours.

By Katie Matarazzo

When volunteers are needed, the residents at Galilee Village are always ready to lend a hand. Whether it's stuffing envelopes, sticking labels, or preparing UW Bucks annual campaign packets, they are excited to volunteer their time.

They work together to accomplish whatever tasks need to be done and have fun while doing it! It is a chance for them to get out and socialize all while doing good for the community.

"The residents say that this work helps keep them busy and gives them something rewarding and productive to do," says Danielle Bush, who helps coordinate volunteer activities with Galilee, "We couldn't do this without them!"

Throughout 2016, the ladies volunteered more than 390 hours. ♪

1 Residents working hard to get all of the pledge packets ready for United Way's Annual Campaign.

2 Dan Warvolis and John Ramirez from UW Bucks pose with the ladies while they work on pledge packets.

3 A few residents beaming with joy as to how many supplies they collected for Stuff the Bus.

About the contributor: Katie Matarazzo, Resource Development Associate, has been with United Way of Bucks County for 4 years. She is enthusiastic about working with UW Bucks and learning new ways to help the community in which she works and lives. Katie enjoys spending time with her friends and beloved dogs—Leela and Charlie.



The ladies, right where they like to be: with their friends and busy helping out.



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Holiday Gift Card Drive: Giving Older Kids the Gift of Cheer

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

”

For struggling, low-income families, the holidays can come with an additional stress of worrying about affording gifts for children.

by Danielle Bush

There are toy drives that provide something for younger children, but adolescents are frequently forgotten. To help with this, United Way of Bucks County holds a holiday gift card drive each year, designed specifically for low income teen and tweens. In 2016, 683 kids received gift cards from this drive. A mother of two older boys was so touched by the generosity of the community she wanted to share her story. She wrote:

“I was having a hard time finding a full time job which caused us to lose our home and spend a few months living in a cheap hotel. I found work making \$8.50 an hour and we were able to get an apartment. It took everything we had to make rent and pay utilities leaving nothing left for anything extra. When Christmas came I had no idea what we were going to do. I heard about the gift card drive from my older son’s guidance counselor. Through this drive the boys received gift cards to Dicks that they used to get things for baseball,



just what they’d wanted. We were in need of help and had no idea what to do. United Way of Bucks County was there to help. I’ll never forget that.”

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director, Community and Volunteer Engagement has been with UW Bucks for seven 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.

Top: Lisa Butler and Kathy Capodici volunteers from Delancey Court, Newtown delivering gift cards that their group collected.

Left: Danielle Bush with our favorite “Holiday Helpers” from Janssen Healthcare Innovation, a division of Johnson & Johnson.



Why I Give

Donor Spotlights

Donors are the heart and soul of United Way of Bucks County. Without them, we couldn't do the work that we do. Some have given for decades; some gave their first gift this year.



Nan Mauro
Community Member

Promoting Early Childhood Education has long been a passion of mine. Timely detection, identification, remediation and support are core to assisting those with challenges. It provides a life changing experience and is most influential on an individual's well being and future successes. United Way goes above and beyond in giving this endeavor the prominence it deserves in an extensive variety of ways.



Bill Shoffler
Public Citizens for Children + Youth

The decision to give to my community through United Way is a family decision at the Shoffler household. Supporting action that makes Pre-K and STEM education realities, providing food and shelter to those in need when needed, and helping those who need health services get access to those services are my family's goals. These things make our community better and no organization we can think of year after year can do those things better than United Way of Bucks County.



Danielle Bush
United Way of Bucks County

I know that when I donate to UW Bucks, my donations are going to help a mother with a one-time need to keep her lights on for her children, to provide fresh produce to food pantries across Bucks County for those who need to feed their families, and to provide a blanket or a pillow to someone making a new start after being homeless. I am honored to be a leadership donor and grateful for the opportunity to have my children see me in action—giving back to the community. For me this is one of the best ways that I can inspire my children and my family members to give back.

One thing that each and every donor has in common is that they believe enough in the collective power of UW Bucks to lend their support.

This year at our annual Leaders United event, we asked some of our leadership donors an important question: Why do you give?

Richard Coe
Retired Educator and
United Way of Bucks County Board Member

I have lived in Bucks County for 45 years. I know of no other organization that does so much for so many of our neighbors. My United Way contributions go directly to address the needs of Bucks County residents, young and old. We are blessed to have trusted, local, non-profit partner agencies that create the possibilities for those in need to become self-sufficient, educated, and healthy. I am happy to be a small part of it.



Brian R. Jeter
Comcast Senior Director Government Affairs and
United Way of Bucks County Board Chair

After almost two decades working with various non-profit and community-based organizations, I continue to see the need to improve the lives of families, children, and elderly in our community. Too often, families and seniors struggle with basic needs while children in our community go hungry every night. I give to the United Way of Bucks County because they work with Bucks County agencies to meet the critical needs of struggling families, seniors, and children. For me, giving directly to UW Bucks is simply the best way to help those in need where we live, work, and raise families.



Emma Dredge
Community Member and Middle School Student

It brings me great pride to know I am helping those who need a bit of encouragement and a hand up in today's society. I often think about how fortunate I am now to have a roof over my head and food on the table. Many years ago, my own family was food insecure and was having financial difficulties, and I remember hearing my mom say, "one day we will pay this forward to those who need help just like us." Watching my mom give back has made me aware of the struggles that our community faces every day. When we choose to help, others achieve their dreams.



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Leaders United

Each year, United Way of Bucks County leadership donors gather for two exclusive, special events: a cocktail reception at GE Water and Distributed Power in Trevose and a luncheon at Wegmans in Warrington. These events celebrate our leadership donors (those who give at least \$1,000 per year) and the transformative power of giving.

Rather than a traditional red carpet, guests stopped for photos on a green carpet, which symbolizes the seeds of hope, success, and happiness leadership donors plant in Bucks County. Through their generous gifts, our community continues to grow and flourish.

Leaders United events are hosted by GE Water and Distributed Power and Wegmans. Additional sponsors include Aon, Dow, Comcast, Johnson & Johnson, and Penn Community Bank.




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United Way Sets a Good Example of Collaboration

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

by Shane Fitzgerald

I have been a vocal critic of the amount of bureaucracy that comes with so many school districts, municipalities and other government agencies because of the vast waste of the public's money that comes from it.

So I do feel compelled to shed a positive light on something when I see it, too.

While the United Way of Bucks County is not a government agency, it certainly is responsible for and entrusted with a significant amount of the public's money. And when I wrote about its procedural changes for community investment last year, it was during a period of transition when the agency essentially was going to stop trying to be everything to everybody and start focusing more attention on fewer initiatives.

New chief executive officer Marissa Christie and Matt Uhler, Tim Philpot and Brian Jeter stopped by our office on Thursday to chat about their 2017 plan and answer questions about how the new process — the Collective Impact Process — has gone.

By and large, they feel they accomplished what they set out to do. When they visited last year, one of their big fears was that agencies that previously had counted on the United Way for money might feel left out as the agency narrowed its focus.

So the new process saw workgroups meet monthly and more than 75 agencies participated, including county government and individual community members.

In reality, it appears that it worked very well. That group settled on the following five areas of focus:

- Information and referral (one-stop shopping for people in need starting to look for help and options)
- Early child care and education
- An emergency needs fund for those hit by difficulties suddenly
- Hunger and food insecurity
- Access to benefits and assistance for older residents

The United Way has a total investment of \$2.6 million, of which \$510,000 will be doled out to these five areas and serve 16 collaborative partners, including six new ones.

As we were chatting on Thursday, one anecdote really struck me: The Bucks County Opportunity Council, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, Philabundance and St. Mary's Medical Center — each on their own could have merited consideration by standing alone in the application process — decided to put together a single application to address hunger and food insecurity.

Christie and friends admitted they certainly had hoped such collaboration might take place, but to have it come together in such a way was heart-warming to them.

And hats off to those individual organizations, who realized they have a common purpose, a common drive. And they realized that together, they could make more of an impact collectively than flying solo.

And they weren't the only organizations that worked together.

It will take a couple of years to see if the new process truly accomplishes what it intended, the United Way folks said. But the early signs certainly are positive. With all the collaboration and focus, the United Way had to turn away only a few applications this year, which would suggest that overall they did a good job of communicating the changes in a way that kept those who have grown to count on the agency to buy in and participate in the process.

This certainly is good news this time of year as we reflect on all that we have and what we can give back. Hats off to the United Way of Bucks County and the organizations who do so much great, unheralded work in our community. And it sets a good example that more can be done together than separately, whether in the nonprofit world, the business world and certainly the government world.



Shane Fitzgerald is the Executive Editor of Calkins Media's Philadelphia Regional newspapers, including the Bucks County Courier Times, The Intelligencer, and the Burlington County Times. This editorial was first printed in the Bucks County Courier Times on Sunday, December 18, 2016.





United Way of Bucks County 2017 Collective Impact Initiatives

FOCUS AREA

STRATEGIES

PARTNERS

HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY

Mobile Food Distribution Program
Consortium of agencies work together to distribute food to low-income residents in targeted neighborhoods

Bucks Knocks Out (BKO) Hunger
One-day meal packaging which provides 100,000+ meals, fresh produce, and lean proteins to local food pantries

Operation Helping Hand (OHH)
Food drive to engage schools and businesses in replenishing food pantries

Bucks County Opportunity Council
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
Philabundance
St. Mary Medical Center
Delaware Valley University
Local food pantries
Bucks County schools
Local businesses
Volunteers / Community members

EARLY CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION

Family Education & Engagement
Provide home visiting and community-based parenting education and support

Pre-K Scholarships
Provide scholarships to low & moderate income families

Stuff the Bus
School supply drive with businesses and community members to help children in need start the school year prepared

Family Service Association of Bucks County
Child Home & Community
YWCA of Bucks County
Pre-K Counts partners (7)
Pre-K EITC partners (6)
Bucks County schools
Local businesses
Volunteers / Community members

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Enhance United Way’s “First Call for Help” Line
Develop a one-stop shop for county-wide information and referral

Family Service Association of Bucks County

EMERGENCY NEEDS FUND

Emergency Assistance for Basic Needs
Provide one-time assistance for housing, food, transportation, and other basic needs

Coordinated Emergency Assistance
A consortium of agencies provides support to help families with utility and/or transportation costs

Bucks County Opportunity Council
Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN)
Family Service Association of Bucks County
Lily’s Hope Foundation
Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA)
A Woman’s Place

Benefits & Financial Assistance for Seniors

Benefits Navigation
Provide assistance to low-income seniors in applying for and securing public benefits

Senior Emergency Needs Fund
Provide assistance for low-income seniors to meet basic needs

Family Service Association of Bucks County
Bucks County Opportunity Council

Neighborhood Food Distribution: Delivering on the Promise of Fresh Produce

A team of community leaders came together to develop a mobile farm market and pantry with the ability to distribute fresh food directly to those in need.

by *Tim Philpot*

In late February of 2016, more than 40 people representing non-profits, government, businesses, and community members came together at the James-Lorah Memorial Home to examine the issues of hunger and food insecurity in our communities. Determined to make an immediate impact, these dedicated volunteers met regularly for the next 10 months in search of data and potential solutions. Over time, the team identified that food distribution, making sure that already available foods get to the families that need them the most, should be the target of its collective work in 2017. Specifically, they learned that residents in certain parts of the county must either travel long distances to other communities to access food supports or they simply don't get any support at all. With this information in hand, the solution team decided to develop a mobile farm market and pantry with the ability to distribute fresh food directly to those in need. Funded by UW Bucks and lead by the Bucks County Opportunity Council, a robust partnership including Philabundance, Rolling Harvest Food Rescue, and St. Mary Medical Center Families

Living Well program is adapting an existing Philabundance initiative to reach families in need of food assistance in Bucks County. In 2017 two communities, one in Upper Bucks and one in Lower Bucks, will benefit from this program, with possible expansion in the future to more high-need neighborhoods. 🍅

About the contributor: Tim Philpot is the Impact Director for Health at United Way of Bucks County. Tim cares deeply about hunger and food insecurity and believes that solving these problems is possible when we all work together.

“In 2017, two communities—one in Upper Bucks and one in Lower Bucks—will benefit from this program.”



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BKO Hunger: A Feel Good, Do Good Event

Recruiting 650 volunteers sounds like it would be an overwhelming challenge, but for United Way of Bucks County's Bucks Knocks Out Hunger event, it's a snap. Volunteers eager to participate in the annual meal-packing event start calling the UW Bucks office in January. Many of them ask, "Are you guys doing BKO Hunger again this year? When can I sign up to volunteer?"



1

“Are you guys doing BKO Hunger again this year? When can I sign up to volunteer?”

What is it about BKO Hunger that makes people want to volunteer year after year? Is it the music and the fun atmosphere? Is it a passion to make a difference? Maybe it's as simple as having the chance to feel good while doing good.

“My husband and I have been volunteers at Bucks Knocks Out Hunger for the last three years. We received an email and signed up right away. It's something fun to do that is helping the community. It's a wonderful way to stay involved,” says Connie Kehs.

As for those 650 volunteers, keeping them smiling and having fun on the assembly lines hasn't been hard either. Outreach, Inc., a non-profit food relief organization from Iowa, facilitates the event and ensures

1 Proud of their work, these boys display some completed BKO Hunger meals.


2 A father and two helpers make boxes for the BKO meals – There's a role for almost anyone who wants to help.



2



there's enough room and volunteer work for everyone from young to old.

Bucks Knocks Out Hunger is made possible by hundreds of donors and volunteers, and dozens of partners. Keys sponsors of last year's BKO Hunger include Penn Community Bank (presenting sponsor), Anthony & Sylvan Pools, BB&T, Bucks County Women's Initiative, Comcast, Cummins Power Systems, Dow, GE Water & Distributed Power, Parx, PECO, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, and Calkins Media - *Bucks County Courier Times & The Intelligencer*. 

About the contributor: Tim Philpot is the Impact Director for Health at United Way of Bucks County. Tim cares deeply about hunger and food insecurity and believes that solving these problems is possible when we all work together.



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



3 Emma Dredge and friends get ready for a fun day packing meals for local food pantries at Bucks Knocks Out Hunger.

4 The crowd joyfully celebrates as they cross the line and finish packing their 100,000th meal.

5 The Mougis Auditorium at Delaware Valley University transforms into a hive of activity for the day.

6 This colorful thank you card was signed by hundreds at BKO Hunger to thank the Bucks County Commissioners for their ongoing support of hunger relief efforts.

7 UW Bucks and its BKO partners present the Bucks County Commissioners a colorful thank you card for their ongoing support of hunger relief efforts.





Operation Helping Hand: 50 Years Old and Still Growing

Over the years, UW Bucks has pulled community members together to provide more food to more people in Bucks County.

by Danielle Bush

“

2016 was a year of growth as well as new partnerships.

”

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director of Community and Volunteer Engagement, has been with UW Bucks for seven 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.

What started as a small act of kindness by a few people has grown into a huge group effort that touches thousands of people each year. With the help of UW Bucks, Operation Helping Hand (OHH) has become the longest continuously operating food drive in Bucks County.

OHH began in 1966 when the U.S. Steel workers implemented the drive to provide a “helping hand” to their employees and those in the community who were struggling. Over the years, UW Bucks has expanded the drive, pulling community members together to provide more food to more people in Bucks County.

March 2016, the 50th anniversary of Operation Helping Hand (OHH), was a year of continued growth, as well as new partnerships between Bucks County Opportunity Council’s Adopt – A – Pantry and the first sponsor, Inspire Federal Credit Union. The drive expanded from serving 12 food pantries to supporting 22 food pantries from Quakertown to Bristol. The drive engaged more than 100 volunteers and 240 public and private schools, local businesses, government offices, and senior centers as collection sites collectively bringing in 66,701 lbs. of nonperishable food for those in need.

If you are interested in a sponsorship or hosting a nonperishable food drive in your neighborhood or in your workplace, please contact Danielle Bush 215.949.1660 ext 112. 🍌



Hunger Nutrition Coalition: Partnership in Action



Top: The Lower Bucks County Joint Municipal Authority in Fairless Hills drops off donations for the HNC Thanksgiving food drive.



Bottom: Drew Mitchell and Himani Shah from Wells Fargo, Trevoese donate fresh produce in support of the Hunger Nutrition Coalition of Bucks County's Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Right: Megan Wetzel and Adelyn, age 2, drop off 100 lbs of fresh produce donated by members of the MOMS Club of Langhorne, PA.

by Heather Foor

The Hunger Nutrition Coalition (HNC) of Bucks County is a collaborative of hunger relief partners and dedicated community members, providing educational opportunities and other shared initiatives to combat food insecurity, improve nutrition, and promote healthy eating. HNC proposes innovative solutions to improve the local food system and promotes the efforts of the member hunger relief partners.

As a member of HNC, United Way of Bucks County partners with the coalition on many initiatives, including a Biennial Hunger Survey, a Biennial Hunger Forum, a Thanksgiving Produce Drive, and workshops on advocacy and other topics. In return, HNC members were a vital part of UW Bucks' community solutions team on hunger and food insecurity. 🍎

About the Contributor: Heather Foor is the Food Program Manager at Bucks County Opportunity Council.



LEARN MORE
www.hncbucks.org



Parenting Education: Supporting Family Stability & Well-Being

United Way of Bucks County and the Early Child Care & Education Community Solutions Team work collaboratively to support programs for families.

by Candi Guerrero

How often do parents wish they could reach for a training manual or a special guide to help them deal better with their children? Unfortunately, there is no secret recipe or creative hack that will guarantee success in parenting.

Although there is an enormous amount of information available to parents, it can be very difficult to find solutions to a particular kind of problem involving a particular kind of child. Many times, what parents need is a practical, easy to understand strategy that will help them deal effectively with their own unique situation.

Parent educators understand the complex needs of families and are specially trained in helping parents and caregivers to respond, not react, to challenging situations. They skillfully

work with families to identify issues, address them proactively, and establish and maintain a caring home environment.

All parents can benefit from the help of parent educators. But for families living in crisis, parent educators are more than just a helping hand. They make sure that parents are responsive to their children's needs during times when their own basic needs are not being met. They help parents who are losing everything keep and care for their children. Hundreds of families in the foster care system, for example, rely on parenting education programs to resolve issues and regain family stability.

UW Bucks recognizes the critical role that parenting education programs play in stabilizing families. In collaboration with the the Early Child Care & Education Community Solutions Team, UW Bucks is committed to supporting these programs and working together to strengthen families in our community. 🧡

About the contributor: Candi Guerrero, M.Ed. has been working on educational programs for children and families in Bucks County for over fifteen years. Candi enjoys spending time with her family and creating special memories with her husband and three children.

“ UW Bucks is committed to supporting these programs and working together to strengthen families in our community. ”



UW Bucks Pre-K Scholarships: Helping Our Youngest Learners to Excel

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

- More than \$700,000 invested
- 11 pre-k school partners county-wide
- More than 150 families supported

by Candi Guerrero

UW Bucks continues its commitment to providing UW Bucks pre-k scholarship program to families in need. Through the PA Pre-K Counts program and PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC), UW Bucks and its dedicated pre-k partners provide financial assistance to support high-quality education for many young learners in Bucks County.


HOW YOU CAN HELP

Here are two ways you can support UW Bucks pre-k scholarship program:

who pays any PA state tax through or because of their business - and that includes PIT or personal income tax - may be able to get a tax credit as follows:

- 100% back for the first \$10,000.
- 90% back for donations above \$10,000, with a maximum donation level of \$200,000 annually. Full amount of the contribution is deductible for federal tax purposes as a charitable contribution, subject to charitable contribution rules.

For more information on EITC go to: www.uwbucks.org/eitc

2 **DONATE DIRECTLY** to UW Bucks pre-k scholarship program through your UW workplace campaign or go to www.uwbucks.org/donate and target your gift to **Success by 6.** 

About the contributor: Candi Guerrero, M.Ed., has been working on educational programs for children and families in Bucks County for over fifteen years. Candi enjoys spending time with her family and creating special memories with her husband and three children.

“I appreciate the daily routine and structure, how quickly my child is learning new things (days of the week, numbers, letters), and the positive relationship with her instructors.”

Parent, LifeSpan School & Day Care

1 PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC):

Use business PA tax credits to designate money to local kids in UW Bucks pre-k programs. Anyone

“The teachers are wonderful! It’s incredible to watch my child grow under their care. This is truly a great early learning center.”

Parent, Jolly Toddlers

“Pre-K Counts has provided a jump start in my child’s education, top level instruction, and an amazing teacher!”

Parent, Tabor Children’s House

“Pre-K Counts has positively impacted me by encouraging me to further train and educate myself. I’m learning so much and having fun implementing new ideas into my classroom. Seeing the joy in the kids and the appreciation from the parents—that’s the reason I do what I do.”

Teacher, TLC Child Care Center



Stuff the Bus: Outfitting Students to Learn

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.

by Danielle Bush

For many Bucks County families living on a razor thin budget, it's a real hardship to come up with the average of \$312 in school supplies that each child needs at the beginning of the school year. Thanks to the United Way of Bucks County's Stuff the Bus (STB) drive, 2,138 students received a brand new backpack filled with the supplies they needed to start the school year prepared.

Collectively, over 160 volunteers inventoried the supplies, stuffed not one, but two buses destined for an assembly site at Sesame Place, and filled backpacks for Bucks County students.

"Our volunteers wanted to make sure that every student had a successful first day of class. Filling these backpacks with school supplies

helped students from all socio-economic backgrounds begin the year with the tools they needed to be successful," says Brian Formisano, Wells Fargo's Area President for Bucks County, the premier sponsor of STB.

In some cases, school supplies were a wish come true for low-income families with high-performing students. Jelena DaCosta, a social worker from Bensalem Township School District, explained that "[t]he graphing calculator ... is such a huge help to this family. It is an item that this family could not afford on their own."

"The graphing calculator that the family received thanks to the generosity of the United Way is such a huge help to the family. It is an item that the family could not afford on their own," says Jelena DaCosta, a social worker from



1 Kimberly Durie, Melissa Sizemore, and Kimberly Schoenmeier get ready to sort and organize donations from community members for Stuff the Bus.



2 Tim Philpot and John Ferketich get ready to unload donations collected from around Bucks County.



Brian Formisano from Wells Fargo Bank poses with Elmo and Cookie Monster at Stuff the Bus.



Volunteers from Wells Fargo follow the assembly line to help stuff over 2,000 backpacks.

Bensalem Township School District.

Stuff the Bus couldn't happen without the generosity of our community and our sponsors: Wells Fargo (presenting sponsor), Sesame Place, PECO, Bank of America, and Cummins Power Systems, as well as our partners at the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County, Bucks County Housing Group, Cradles to Crayons, and Quakertown Alive. 🍷

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director of Community and Volunteer Engagement, has been with UW Bucks for seven 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.



Wells Fargo volunteers are excited to pack backpacks for kids in need in Bucks County.



Girl Scouts from Troop 21303 hold freshly stuffed backpacks.

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UW Bucks and Barnes & Noble Oxford Valley: Ten Years of Promoting Literacy and School Readiness

by Candi Guerrero

“

Reading is not just a pastime; it's a tool that is critically important for success in life.

”

Did you know that literacy starts at birth? As soon as a child is born, she begins to use sounds, gestures, and expressions to communicate, setting the stage for speaking words, building vocabulary, and ultimately learning to read.

Parents can promote literacy and school readiness by reading with their children regularly. It has benefits beyond their early years, too. Children who read 15 to 20 minutes a day are more likely to graduate from high school, go to college, and get good jobs. That's why every child should have plenty of books to read at home.

Knowing this, UW Bucks and Barnes & Noble-Oxford Valley joined forces ten year ago to hold an annual book drive. Since 2006, more than 43,000 books with a value of over \$120,000 have been given to children and families who need them most. For these children—many of whom may not have any other books of their own—this book drive truly matters.

UW Bucks is grateful to the dedicated partner it has in promoting early literacy, Barnes &



A child holds up a book she received through the B&N book drive.

Noble-Oxford Valley. This partnership helps young children in Bucks County start school ready to succeed. 🍎

About the contributor: Candi Guerrero, M.Ed. has been working on educational programs for children and families in Bucks County for over fifteen years. Candi enjoys spending time with her family and creating special memories with her husband and three children.

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#girlSTEM: Inspiring the Future

The goal of #girlSTEM (Science Technology Engineering Math) is to encourage and inspire girls Bucks County girls in grades 6-10 to pursue careers in areas that have historically been dominated by men. Despite the fact that girls' achievements in mathematics and science is on an even par with their male peers, they still account for only a quarter of the workforce in these areas.

by Dr. Lindsey Sides

The program, attended by more than 800 middle and high school students each year, allows girls to hear from and interact with women from various educational backgrounds; woman who have achieved success in STEM fields. Some of these outstanding women speak to the group as a whole, while others lead break-out sessions featuring hands-on experiences and experiments. They show it can be done, can be done successfully, and that women can have

“
We know young ladies excel when they are empowered!
”

1 Future scientists from Log College Middle School conduct an experiment at #girlSTEM 2016.

2 Students from Archbishop Wood and Bristol Borough Middle school are excited to meet a female helicopter pilot.






Students wait to take a seat on an emergency helicopter during their session at #girlSTEM.





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3 Women working in STEM careers mentor students throughout the day.

4 Students carefully construct spaghetti towers during a #girlSTEM session.


fulfilling lives that include careers in STEM areas.

A highlight of last year's event was the arrival of a medical evacuation helicopter and as it descended, the girls came outside to see what was happening. Upon landing, they were very pleasantly surprised to see that it had not only been 'manned' by an all female flight crew but that all the medical personnel onboard were also all women! Now that's some amazing girl power.

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

Recruitment for conference volunteers begins in February and runs through April of each year.

If you're interested in becoming a presenter, 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 Andrea Walls at andrewa@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, five-year old daughter, two-year son, and bulldog.

“ Giving them the opportunity to spend the day with women who apply their STEM skills in rewarding prestigious careers raises the bar for all of our students. **”**

Jamie Swanson
Science Curriculum Coordinator K-12
Pennsbury School District

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Information and Referral: Clearer Pathways Ahead

by Matt Uhler

When people ask for help, connecting them quickly to a program or service to assist them would seem like a simple, straightforward response. Unfortunately, the network of services available in Bucks County is incredibly complex, constantly changing, and highly dependent on information that only a few agencies may know. As a result, those in need may find that getting themselves help is a real challenge, as they're bounced from agency to agency in their journey to connect to the services they need.

In 2016, United Way of Bucks County gathered a community solutions team to explore current obstacles to information and referral. The team envisioned the development of a one-stop shop where individuals and families in need are connected to the resources available to them in a quick, customer-friendly, and seamless

“
A one-stop shop where individuals and families in need are connected to the resources available to them in a quick, customer-friendly, and seamless manner.
”

manner. With funding from UW Bucks, Family Service Association of Bucks County is creating a more responsive, detailed, and sophisticated system for gathering and classifying information on what resources are available, which will support quicker and more accurate referrals. This work will require the ongoing input and participation of all sectors of the community. While the undertaking is ambitious, Bucks County residents deserve nothing short of compassionate assistance in their times of need.



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



The Magic Shed: Bigger on the Inside


by Danielle Bush

There is a small, unassuming shed beside the UW Bucks office in Fairless Hills. It doesn't look like much, but in its own way it's magical—offering people hope, happiness, and things that make a house a home.

This little shed is bursting with donations of household items UW Bucks receives through the GOOD 360 Retail Donation Program and from community members. Typically these consist of kitchen items, beautiful linens, and much, much more.

“The value of this donation program is tremendous,” says Martha Miller, Executive Director of No Longer Bound in Bristol Township. “The shed means a lot to our community. My clients are so low income and would not be able to afford the items they receive from it.”

Last year, more than 7,300 clients of non-profit organizations in Bucks County received items to help them with their fresh start. Caseworkers from these agencies in Bucks County can set up appointments to “shop in the shed,” for essentials with their clients.

In 2017, UW Bucks is looking for anyone that can help multiply the magic by establishing a second shed somewhere in Bucks County. 

About the contributor: Danielle Bush, Director of Community and Volunteer Engagement, has been with UW Bucks for seven 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.

Volunteers from Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22, Georgianna Ramella with students RJ Varela-Urizar and Arron Prutzman in the shed.

TO HELP

Contact Danielle Bush at UW Bucks at 215.949.1660 ext 112 or by email at danielleb@uwbucks.org.



Emergency Needs Fund: Help When It's Most Needed

by Matt Uhler

Bucks County has long been known for its beautiful scenery, quaint river towns, and overall quality of life. Generally speaking, our neighborhoods are safe, our schools are good, and people have the opportunity to succeed and pursue their dreams.

Unfortunately, that is not the experience of all Bucks County residents. Some of our neighbors live month to month and paycheck to paycheck. For them, a car repair, a death in the family, or a medical emergency can be the onset of a financial crisis that puts them at risk of losing their housing, their utilities, or their job.



“With this proactive approach, we can ensure our friends and neighbors continue to enjoy the quality of life we all seek here in Bucks County.”

One-time financial assistance to individuals and families in crisis is an important tool in preventing poverty and additional financial hardships. The community solutions team working on the Emergency Needs Fund is implementing this and other strategies to provide help when our neighbors need it most.

The Emergency Prevention and Stabilization program operated by Bucks County Opportunity Council provides one-time financial assistance for rent, utilities, and a host of other basic needs. Additionally, the

Emergency Needs Fund solutions team formed a collaboration between six different partners to address transportation costs (gas vouchers and minor car repairs) and utility assistance. Funded by United Way of Bucks County, this collaboration includes Advocates for Homeless & Those in Need (AHTN), Bucks County Opportunity Council, Family Service Association of Bucks County, Lily's Hope Foundation, Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA), and A Woman's Place.

With this proactive approach, we can ensure our friends and neighbors continue to enjoy the quality of life we all seek here in Bucks County. 🙋

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

Doubling Dollars and Impact: Waste Management Gives Back



Scott Lewis and associates from Waste Management present UW Bucks with a check in support of the Emergency Needs Fund.

When the team at Waste Management heard about United Way's focus on emergency needs, they knew they needed to do something.

"[We] knew immediately that the Emergency Needs Fund was an initiative we wanted to support. More than 300 GMA Waste Management employees live in Bucks County, so this Emergency Needs Fund helps our families, friends, and neighbors," says Tara Hemmer, Waste Management's Greater Mid-Atlantic Area Vice President.

Their support came in the form of an incredibly generous gift: a \$50,000 grant that allowed donors to double their impact. Through the program, Waste Management provided a dollar for dollar match of gifts to the Emergency Needs Fund.

The results have been incredible. The Waste Management grant and matching gifts that followed, combined with some additional funds, will provide over \$150,000 in emergency support for low- and moderate-income families and seniors this year. 🙋

Access to Benefits: For Seniors in Need, Securing Assistance Just Got a Little Easier


by Tim Philpot

Anyone who has struggled to complete confusing application forms knows that the process can be time-consuming and frustrating. By consulting FAQ's, checking a website, or asking someone for help, we usually manage to get them done... eventually.

Imagine how difficult completing applications must be for an older adult with a cognitive or memory challenge,

or for someone unfamiliar with computerized forms, or for someone living alone with no one to turn to. For low-income seniors, public benefits like food stamps or a Medicare supplement can be a critical lifeline. Unfortunately, applying for these benefits can be a bewildering tangle and many seniors simply go without.

That's why United Way of Bucks County's Community Solutions Team on Senior Benefits decided that providing


assistance with navigating and securing public benefits would fill a critical need for low-income seniors living on the margins. A new Personal Benefits Navigation program, operated by Family Service Association of Bucks County and funded by UW Bucks, is now making life a little easier for these vulnerable residents. Having these supports reduces worry, improves quality of life, and will allow more seniors to continue to live independently in their own homes. 

Emergency Assistance for Older Residents: Supporting Seniors in Their Time of Need

by Tim Philpot

Living in poverty at any age is painful and difficult, but it is especially hard on our senior adults. While many people may temporarily live in poverty at one point in their life, there is hope that by working hard and accessing some support, they can change their circumstances. However, for seniors living on fixed incomes while facing increased health and living costs, poverty

is often a lifetime sentence. For them, increasing their income and rising out of poverty is seldom an option. For some seniors, the difference between getting by and losing the ability to stay in their home is a matter of a single delinquent bill, and that's just not right. That's why United Way of Bucks County decided to direct funding in 2017 into a Senior Emergency Needs Fund. This fund will assist seniors who need short-term assistance to meet their basic needs and stay afloat longer. It will provide support

in the form of rent, heating, utilities, or prescription assistance. Administered by Bucks County Opportunity Council, this fund can provide the funds necessary to fill small gaps that may have big consequences. 

About the contributor: Tim Philpot is the Impact Director for Health at United Way of Bucks County. Tim cares deeply about hunger and food insecurity and believes that solving these problems is possible when we all work together.



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.

79

Number of different organizations that participated in the Collective Impact process.

\$3,464,142



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

683

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



13,421

Calls made to United Way funded hotlines and warmlines that connect people with assistance and support when they are in need.

\$146,391

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





88 tons

Amount of food donated to local pantries through UW Bucks in the past year.



257

Number of people who successfully achieved job placement through United Way funded programs.



\$74,830

Value of school supplies distributed to kids in need through Stuff the Bus.

7,340

Number of people in need of a fresh start—often due to a housing crisis—who received help with household items through United Way's in-kind gifts.

\$876,010

Value of goods donated through gifts in-kind.



812

Number of girls who attended the #girlSTEM conference. 97% of girls feel motivated to do well in school. 95% of them say #girlSTEM helped them plan ahead, make career choices, and feel optimistic about their future.

1,894

Number of books distributed to young children through UW Bucks and Barnes & Noble holiday book drive.



LIVE UNITED: Connect with UW Bucks Staff

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Shannon Hibbs

Pennsbury LYFT Coalition Mobilizer (Through 12/31/16)



Statement of Operations

United Way of Bucks County Statement of Operations (Pre-audit) For the Year Ended 12/31/16

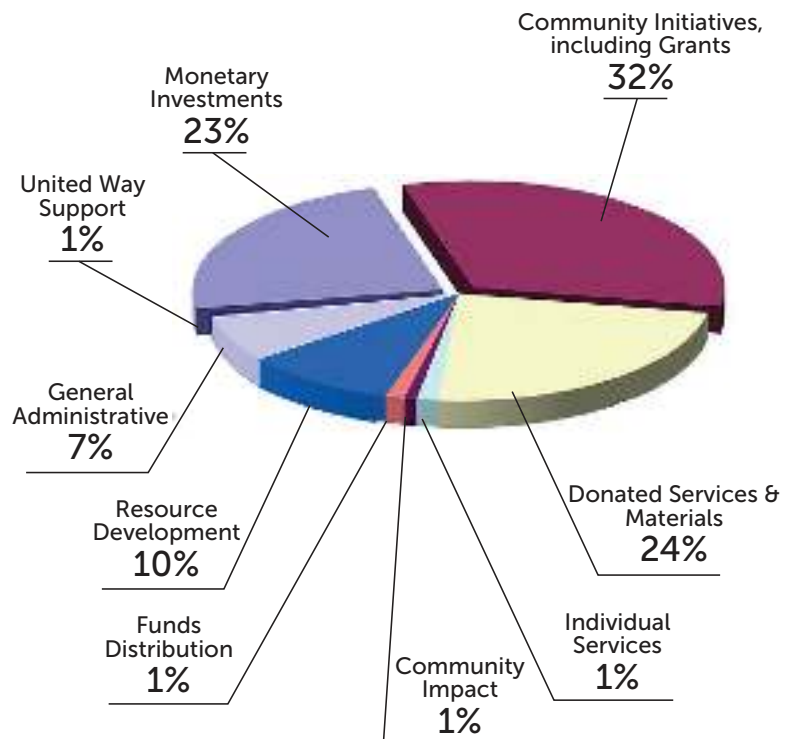
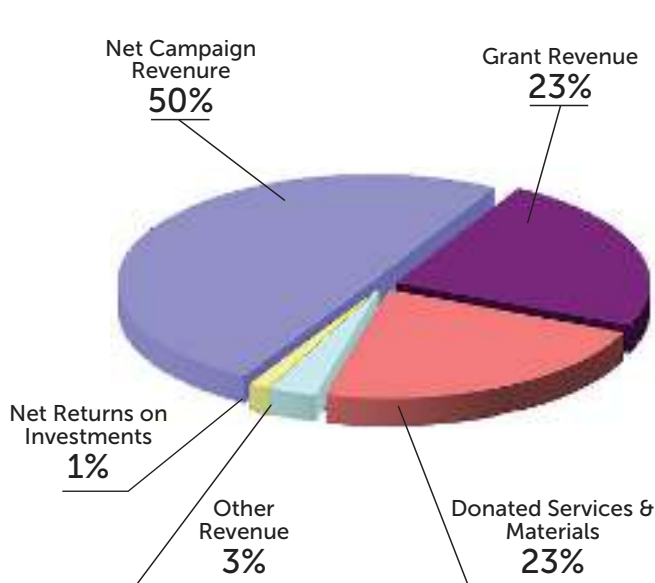
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Net Campaign Revenue	
Gross Campaign	2,196,299
Less: Donor Directed Gifts	(109,201)
Less: Provision for Uncollectibles	(155,839)
Net Campaign Revenue	1,931,259
Grant Revenue	911,449
Donated Services & Materials	876,010
Other Revenue	118,789
Net Returns on Investments	49,814
Public Support and Revenue	3,887,321

EXPENDITURES

Community Impact Expenses	
Distributions to Bucks County	978,459
Less: Donor Directed Gifts	(109,201)
Monetary Investments	869,258
Community Initiatives incl. Grants	1,206,954
Donated Services & Materials	876,010
Individual Services	52,178
Community Impact	29,441
Funds Distribution	46,637
Full Investment in Bucks County	3,080,478
Resource Development	365,062
General & Administrative	265,023
United Way Support	22,254
Expenditures	3,732,817

Net Surplus 154,504



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 **\$344,532** to help children and youth achieve their potential through 16 programs provided by 11 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 **\$536,462** grant provided quality Pre-Kindergarten education for 79 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 seven Pre-K partners that participate in this program.

21st Century Community Learning Center Grants. Funded by the PA Department of Education, 21st Century grants focus on providing quality out-of-school time opportunities for school-aged children. The Cohort 6A (2012 – 2016) funding totaled **\$1,399,500** and provided academic support, credit recovery, and workforce development services to students in grades 9 – 12 residing in Bristol Borough. In 2016, United Way of Bucks County successfully implemented the 4th and final year of this program.

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 the “Who to Call in Bucks County” resource directory. This guide provides information and phone numbers (including hotlines) that are important to families and children.

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. UW Bucks was once again the beneficiary of the annual Barnes & Noble holiday book drive. More than **1,800 books (valued at**

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

more than \$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 2016 Stuff the Bus school supply drive provided over **\$74,000** 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 **\$213,333** 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 **\$46,667** 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 2016, these stores provided an average value of more than **\$737,000** worth of goods for distribution to our partner agencies throughout the county. These items include bedding, clothing, furniture, toys, housewares, etc., for use by the agencies or their clients.

In-Kind Donations. In 2016, the business community and generous residents of Bucks County donated more than

\$139,000 worth of goods and services. Donated items included food, media, coats, office furniture, sofas, TVs, 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 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 2016, 683 underserved older kids and teens received holiday gifts through the annual Holiday Gift Card Drive. Gift cards, with a total value of **\$26,850** 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 **\$197,540** 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 administered by United Way in partnership with Bucks County Opportunity Council and Inspire Federal Credit Union and in collaboration with local businesses, government offices, senior centers, and multiple schools (both public and private) collects food on one day each year in March. In 2016, this collection distributed **66,701 pounds of food** to 22 food pantries throughout the county.

Bucks Knocks Out Hunger. In 2016, BKO Hunger made available **100,000 packaged meals, 69,398 pounds of fresh produce, and 10,000 pounds of lean proteins**, as well as 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. Additional funds from Bucks Knocks Out Hunger assisted Bucks County Opportunity Council to outfit new refrigerator and freezer space being made available by the County of Bucks.

FamilyWise Prescription Assistance Program. UW Bucks distributes prescription discount cards throughout the county for use by people who do not have prescription insurance. In 2016, Bucks County residents made 11,862 claims and saved a total of **\$437,485** on their medications. 🙌

United Way of Bucks County Funded Programs 2016

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 that 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

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)

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

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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 Bristol Borough School District
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 Bristol-Myers Squibb
 Brooks Instrument
 Bucks County Bank
 Bucks County Community
 College
 Bucks County Housing
 Authority
 Bucks County Housing
 Group
 Bucks County Drug & Alcohol
 Commission
 Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
 Bucks County Opportunity
 Council
 Bucks County Technical High
 School
 Bucks County Workforce
 Development Board
 Bucks Women's Initiative
 C & S Wholesale Grocers
 Calkins Media - Bucks County
Courier Times & The Intelligencer

Carroll Engineering Corporation
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 Central Bucks Family YMCA
 Central Bucks School District
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 County
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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.

Alexis de Tocqueville Society (\$10,000 and above)

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Alexander B. Thorne
Erica M. Triminio
Audrey Tucker
Edward Urankar
Vimala Veeramachaneni
Derek P. B. Warden
Jean Whaley
Robin L. Wiessmann
Mr. and Mrs. Richard K. Wizeman
Chris A. Wright
Ahmed Zahir
6 Anonymous Givers

Emerging Leadership Donors
Michael D. Aquaro
Jean M. Armstrong
Connie L. Barna
Jason Boor
Joseph Brogan

Peter C. Brown
Charles Buben
Danielle Bush
Nelson Colonjr
Heide Cunning
Dwight F. Fairchild
Michael Farabaugh
Elise Felicione
Qiuwei Feng
Kevin Gallagher
Barbara J. Gerhard
Glenn Girardi
Angela Glanton
Janine Grosso
Michael R. Guldin
Andrew Heiges
Bruce Henderson
Louis Hoey III
Peter Kelley
James Kelly
Bridget Kimmel
Jacqueline Kruty
John Lamelza
Brian Maloney
Adnan Mansour
Steven Maragakes
Michael Marquis
Doreen Masalta
Kevin McCreary
Michael A. Meenaghan
Patricia Miiller
Paul W. Minnichbach
Steven Northrup
Thomas R. O'Kane
John Oneil
Pamela Palmer
Kathleen G. Peppelman
Kim Richter
Jose Roman
Robert Rousseau
Patrick Scott
Timothy M. Senavitis
William Shade
Brian Shlemon
Jennifer Smit
Joe Spadafore
Steven R. Sterling
Jessica X. Su
Craig A. Sutton
Phyllis Thomas
Patricia Tietbohl
Robert Trikur
C Anthony Verbeck
Jose A. Villanueva
Douglas A. Wharton
Edward Zarzatian
Gaspar Zuniga
1 Anonymous Giver

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 & Distributed Power
Johnson & Johnson, Inc.

\$50,000 to \$99,000

Dow
Giant Food Stores
PECO
Penn Community Bank
Waste Management of PA

\$25,000 to \$49,999

BB&T
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Comcast
DuPont
ITW (M&C Specialties and Brooks Instrument)
Merck & Company, Inc.
Nationwide Insurance
Enterprise

QNB

TD Bank
United Parcel Service
Wegmans

\$15,000 to \$24,999

Advertising Specialty Institute
Aon Affinity Insurance
Avery Dennison Corp (Fasson)
Bank of America
Council Rock School District
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
Harold Beck & Sons, Inc.
Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company
Neshaminy School District
United Way of Bucks County
Wells Fargo

\$10,000 to \$14,999

Bucks County Community College
Calkins Media - *Bucks County Courier Times & The Intelligencer*
Covenant Bank
Cummins Power Systems, Inc.
Customers Bank
IBM Corporation
Insaco Incorporated
Lincoln Financial Group
Macy's
Pennsbury School District
PPL Corporation
Target
Williams

Thank You to Our 65th Anniversary Breakfast & Bucks United Magazine Sponsors

DIAMOND

GE Water & Distributed Power

PLATINUM

BB&T

GOLD

Calkins Media - Bucks County Courier Times & The Intelligencer
Comcast
Customers Bank
Delaware Valley University
Family Service Association
Hill Wallack, LLP
Morison Cogen
Parx
Penn Community Bank
Wegmans

SILVER

Carisma
Covenant Bank
Enterprise Rent-A-Car
First National Bank and Trust of Newtown
Livengrin Foundation
PDQ Printing
PPL Corporation
The Gormley Furlong Group at Stifel
Wealth Advisory Services

BRONZE

Advertising Specialty Institute
Begley Carlin & Mandio
Bucks County Opportunity Council
Furia Rubel Communications
Geiger
Good Friends, Inc.
Habitat for Humanity of Bucks County
JMB Consultants, Inc.
The Outreach Program
Pre-K Counts - Bucks County Grantees

Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY)
Quality Care Coalition of Bucks County
QNB
Rolling Harvest Food Rescue
Sesame Place
Univest

BOOSTER

Associated Productions Services
Bee, Bergvall & Co.
Bucks County Bank
Bucks County Housing Group
Classic Trophies, Inc.
Council of SEPA
Representative Tina Davis
Inspire Federal Credit Union
Ponderosa Pines Family Campground
The Closeout Group
Tom Gallagher Systems Consulting
VITA Education Services

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 winner is:

Cherie LaTorre, who works with Bucks County Early Intervention birth to three, exemplifies collaboration. Cherie participates actively with a variety of group efforts to improve access to quality programs and services, especially for children with special needs.

UNITED FOR FINANCIAL STABILITY

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

This year's winner is:

Waste Management for its support of emergency needs, a fund established to prevent financial hardship by supporting families with one-time financial assistance. Their \$50,000 matching grant allowed United Way donors giving to this fund to double their impact.

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 winner is:

Families Living Well program at St. Mary Medical Center for its innovative approach to promoting healthy lifestyles and for its commitment to collective impact and the hunger and food insecurity community solutions team.

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 winner is:

Wegmans for its support of UW Bucks and the residents of Bucks County. Not only is Wegmans deeply involved in signature events including #girlSTEM and Bucks Knocks Out Hunger, they are also committed to the collective impact process. Through their direct and indirect support, Wegmans makes a huge difference in Bucks County.



CAMPAIGN AWARDS

100% AGENCY PARTICIPATION

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

- Bucks County Opportunity Council
- Child, Home & Community
- Credit Counseling Center
- Good Friends, Inc.
- United Way of Bucks County

MOST OUTSTANDING CAMPAIGN

(*multi-location*)

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

Enterprise Rent-A-Car 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 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

The Campaign Volunteers 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.

This year's Campaign Volunteers of the Year are from the team at **Dow**.

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
- BB&T
- Bucks County Bank
- Covenant Bank
- Customers Bank
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Pennsylvania State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA)
- QNB

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 & Distributed Power 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.

Penn Community Bank 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

BB&T

Corporate Giving: Business with Less Than 100 Employees

ITW (M&C Specialties)

Employee Giving: Business with More Than 100 Employees

GE Water & Distributed Power

Employee Giving: Business with Less Than 100 Employees

Customers Bank



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