CHESTER COUNTY STRONGER
REBUILDING OUR COMMUNITY BETTER THAN IT WAS

United Way of Chester County

2020-2021 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY
What a year it has been. In early 2020, our world and community were knocked down with a health and economic crisis the likes of which we have never seen in our lifetimes. We knew right away that we needed to react quickly, and United Way of Chester County launched the first United Way COVID-19 Response Fund in Pennsylvania just 4 days after the governor closed all PA schools. This allowed us to rapidly deploy resources to community-based organizations that were offering crucial support to families and individuals in need immediately and throughout the pandemic. It was through corporations, foundations, and donors like you, that we were able to raise $814,553.30 in just 88 days.

As the year came to a close, United Way of Chester County shifted the strategic focus from COVID-19 Rapid Response Funding to a new Community Impact and Innovation phase, beginning with the launch of our Chester County STRONGER Campaign – Rebuilding Our Community Better Than It Was. This new effort transitioned our work to a new impact agenda centered around RECOVERY, REBUILDING, and REIMAGINING a STRONGER Chester County.

We know the fight isn’t over yet. This fight is different and will require new solutions to old problems. Our fall was great, but our rise will be even greater if we LIVE UNITED.

Thank you for helping us make #ChesterCountySTRONGER!

Friends and Supporters of United Way of Chester County,

Christopher Saello
President & CEO

Peter J. Silvester, Jr.
Chair of the Board
Due to space limitations and health and safety guidelines, Kennett Area Community Service (KACS) was challenged to meet the increasing demand for food donations and distribution. The YMCA of Greater Brandywine Kennett Branch stepped in and opened their doors to allow for drive thru food pickup and donations. This collaboration led to hundreds of meals made available to those in need in Southern Chester County that would have otherwise not been possible.

When it appeared that food insecurity was going to remain a big issue in the Oxford area, SILO began installing raised garden beds at local resident’s homes. SILO also taught them how to garden so that the plants would produce food throughout the summer of 2020. Participants chose between three varieties of gardens - salsa, pasta and salad. SILO installed a total of 134 raised vegetable beds with roughly 4,150 plants at 48 households, benefitting 232 people through this program.

With the wave of evictions and foreclosures facing the community, Friends Association created an Eviction Prevention Court Program in partnership with District Judge Jeff Valocchi, which has been proving successful in assisting families that are facing eviction and preventing homelessness. The program started from one district court and now has expanded to many more in Chester County. The program has support of landlords and tenants alike and has generated significant community interest and support.

With only two months left in the 2020 Leadership Chester County program, Mary Anne Feeley, Director, Leadership Chester County, and United Way of Chester County moved the program to fully remote for the remaining months to get the participants across the finish line. When it was realized that the 2021 program would need to be remote or the program would have to be put on hiatus, Mary Ann rewrote the curriculum and reinvented the program into a fully remote program with two cohorts that trained 19 more people for board service. This happened with great collaboration from West Chester University as well as the Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry.

LCH Health and Community Services collaborated with the County, United Way of Chester County, United Way of Southern Chester County and the American Mushroom Institute to do onsite COVID-19 testing at Southern Chester County’s mushroom farms. This allowed cases to be identified and people to quarantine to stop the spread of the virus.

Within just two weeks of the start of the crisis, Honey Brook Food Pantry’s demand more than doubled. By the third week, people were waiting in the parking lot overnight the night before their typical distribution. The pantry has served nearly 3,500 individuals since the onset of the pandemic.

At the conclusion of the school year, it appeared Coatesville Area School District (CASD) sponsored food services, of which Youth Mentoring Partnership (YMP) was a partner, would cease. YMP was prepared to launch an initiative with local restaurants to help partially fill the void left, so the area’s most vulnerable youth would continue to have food access. As a result of critical discussions with CASD and Coatesville Community Area Parents (CCAP) it was decided to continue district food distribution. The commitment by YMP to provide significant staffing and all door-to-door deliveries was essential in this decision. As a result, YMP helped package and delivery over 70,000+ meals to youth and families in need during the months of June, July and August while also mentoring the kids.

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When the COVID-19 pandemic began, United Way of Chester County and our partners worked full force to ensure that our community continued to receive the services they needed. We are proud to call Chester County home!
2020-2021 CORPORATE PARTNERS

United Way of Chester County gratefully acknowledges the corporate partners, nonprofit agencies, foundations and other organizations whose financial and in-kind support help us fight to improve lives in Chester County.

When COVID-19 struck and the stay at home order was put into place, Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania and United Way had only completed 127 mobile home reassessments. Determined to not stop this vital program, Legal Aid turned on a dime and went entirely remote so that no momentum was lost in the tax reassessment process. Even in the heart of the pandemic, when things were the most tightly restricted, Legal Aid, United Way and Honey Brook Food Pantry were able to complete 333 successful reassessments, pushing the total reassessments through 2020 to 510.

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Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list. Please report any errors or omissions to United Way of Chester County at 610.429.9400.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

- Total Contributions: $3,270,270
- In-Kind Contributions: $12,850
- Investment & Other Income: $322,112
- Unencumbered Pledges: ($167,198)
- Total Revenue & Support: $3,438,034
- Community Investments: $2,636,405
- (Program grants to agencies, special initiative funding, and donor designations)
- Fundraising: $284,165
- Management & General: $307,349
- Total Investments & Expenses: $3,272,939
- Change in Net Assets: $20,115

Source: Audited Financials 2020-2021

LEADERSHIP CHESTER COUNTY SPONSORS & IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

PARTICIPANT SPONSORS

Bentley Systems, Inc. Chester County Community Foundation
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VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

"Being able to give a little bit of my time to help others is such a great reward. Just one hour would result in saving each client a large amount on their annual taxes - money that they so desperately need."

- Lora Yelcick, Volunteer

Lora Yelcick conducted 46 remote workshops, interviewing the clients, and rencontrined the first 100 clients at the Reassessment Reassessment hearing.
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ChesterCountyStronger.org