



# CELEBRATING 65 YEARS OF UNITED WAY!

## LIVE UNITED

True to our founding spirit, where there is a need, there is a United Way. From advancing health and education, to strengthening livelihoods and local resilience, we connect people to possibility and create pathways to opportunity for all.

Together, we're working towards a future where every person and community can rise.



United Way  
of Windham County



# United Way Mobilizes Communities To Action So All Can Thrive

Dear Community,

It is with great joy, admiration, and a deep sense of our shared history that I write to welcome you all to our 65th Anniversary! Six and a half decades of dedication, service, and impact is a remarkable achievement, and it is my honor to acknowledge and applaud the incredible work we, as a community, have accomplished over the years.

Since 1958, United Way of Windham County has resolved to address our most pressing problems by harnessing the caring power of the community. We have faced many challenges together – some novel (coronavirus and major flood events) and others pervasive and consistent (hunger, racial inequity, and homelessness). Throughout that time, UWWC has been a steadfast beacon of hope and support – providing countless individuals and families with the resources and opportunities they require to thrive.

In every corner of our county, I witness the impacts of our community investments such as childhood education, food security, health equity, and housing and financial stability. By fostering partnerships with local businesses, non-profit organizations, and volunteers we have created a network of support that embodies the idea of “LIVE UNITED.” Adapting to new challenges and continually making a positive impact in the lives of our neighbors is not only a testament to our historical commitment but also a promise for the future chapters of progress and opportunities together.

On this special occasion, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude to everyone who has made a difference in Windham County: board members, volunteers, staff, donors, community partners, etc. Your work is a source of inspiration and a reminder of the positive change that is possible when people come together to make a difference. I would also like to open an invitation to all community members to get involved and speak to any one of our current or past board members about volunteering, becoming a donor, or hosting a workplace campaign.

Lastly, I believe I speak for our entire staff and Board of Directors when I wish you all the warmest wishes on our 65th Anniversary, and here’s to many more years of success and service!

Sincerely,

Ruben R. Garza

Executive Director

United Way of Windham County

Give **warmth** this holiday season!



Thanks to the continuous support, the Kids in Coats reserve fund currently holds over \$20,000.

Kids in Coats is 100% funded by YOU, the community! 100% of all donations are given back to the community. Use your phone's camera to scan the code to donate!



[unitedwaywindham.org/kidsincoats](http://unitedwaywindham.org/kidsincoats)



Each year since 2016, Kids in Coats has given 100% of its fund back to families in Windham County. Kids in Coats distributes the funds to Windham County public school systems to provide much-needed warm, comfortable clothing to students who need it every winter.

Our goal is to raise an additional \$15,000 to distribute this winter. We estimate that we will be able to support 400+ individuals when we reach our goal. Based on previous years, we're certain that the need for new or gently used winter gear in Windham County exceeds our current fund. Which is why every dollar you're able to give will help serve more families, and ensure that our neighbors are cozy and safe in the cold!

## UNITED, WE'VE LIFTED UP OUR COMMUNITIES FOR 65 YEARS

United Way of Windham County continues to make contributions to local non-profit partners through its Community Impact Committee (CIC). The CIC is comprised of board members Etan Nasreddin-Longo, Amaryah Pendlebury, and Kiera King who express their commitment to our community by donating their time, effort, and expertise. In the previous year, **UWWC partnered with wide ranging organizations and supported initiatives including: Refugee/Asylum Seekers Perinatal Support Group, the Windham Aging Association, the Last Mile Food Project and West River Valley Mutual Aid, the Greater Falls Community Justice Center, and Groundworks Collaborative.**

The Community Impact Committee seeks further board members and volunteers, for the current fiscal year. If you would like to be involved, please contact United Way of Windham County.

### VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE



42

REFUNDS  
ACCEPTED



\$3,037

AVG. REFUND  
AMOUNT

For the upcoming fiscal year, United Way of Windham County partnered with Ethiopian Community Development Council and Community Asylum Seekers Project to deliver no-cost tax preparation services to their clients who are majority refugees and asylum seekers. The refugee population, of mostly Afghan descent, had never filed a tax return nor had been provided with tax education.



50+

VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



\$118,459

TOTAL  
REFUND AMOUNT

With the help of many volunteers and case management, UWWC assisted in filing 42 federal and state returns that yielded \$118k in federal returns and \$41k in state returns. Earned income credits totaled \$67k. The money that came back to families was used to purchase cars, pay rents, and further familial assets. Along with the money allocated locally came tax education. We would very much like to thank our volunteers and look forward to the coming tax season!

In the summer of 2022, United Way of Windham County was granted funds to improve health equity outcomes in our community. Concurrently, the population of refugees and asylum seekers in our area was on the rise, with about 100 Afghan refugees settling in Windham County. With respect to the difficulties of settling in a foreign country, our organization requested that some of these funds be specifically allocated to a health initiative for this community—charitable dental care.



With a little investigation, we found that dental needs in Windham County were extreme. In fact, the vast majority of potential clients that we surveyed were currently experiencing dental pain and reported their dental health needs as urgent. Many of the clients also reported that they had never seen a dentist before.

To date, we have had 99 individuals sign up for services through our program, and we have been able to provide 70 of these individuals with logistical and financial support! We continue to receive more intake forms for this program and aim to serve the most urgent needs as efficiently as possible. Recently, we received additional funding from the state which will allow us to get closer to our goal of serving 100% of these clients! Our work is done with many thanks to our community partners, including many area dental and specialist offices, and ECDC.



THANK YOU TO:

AspenDental



Center Valley Oral Surgeons



Noble Dental



North Adams Family Dental



Dr. Suzanne West

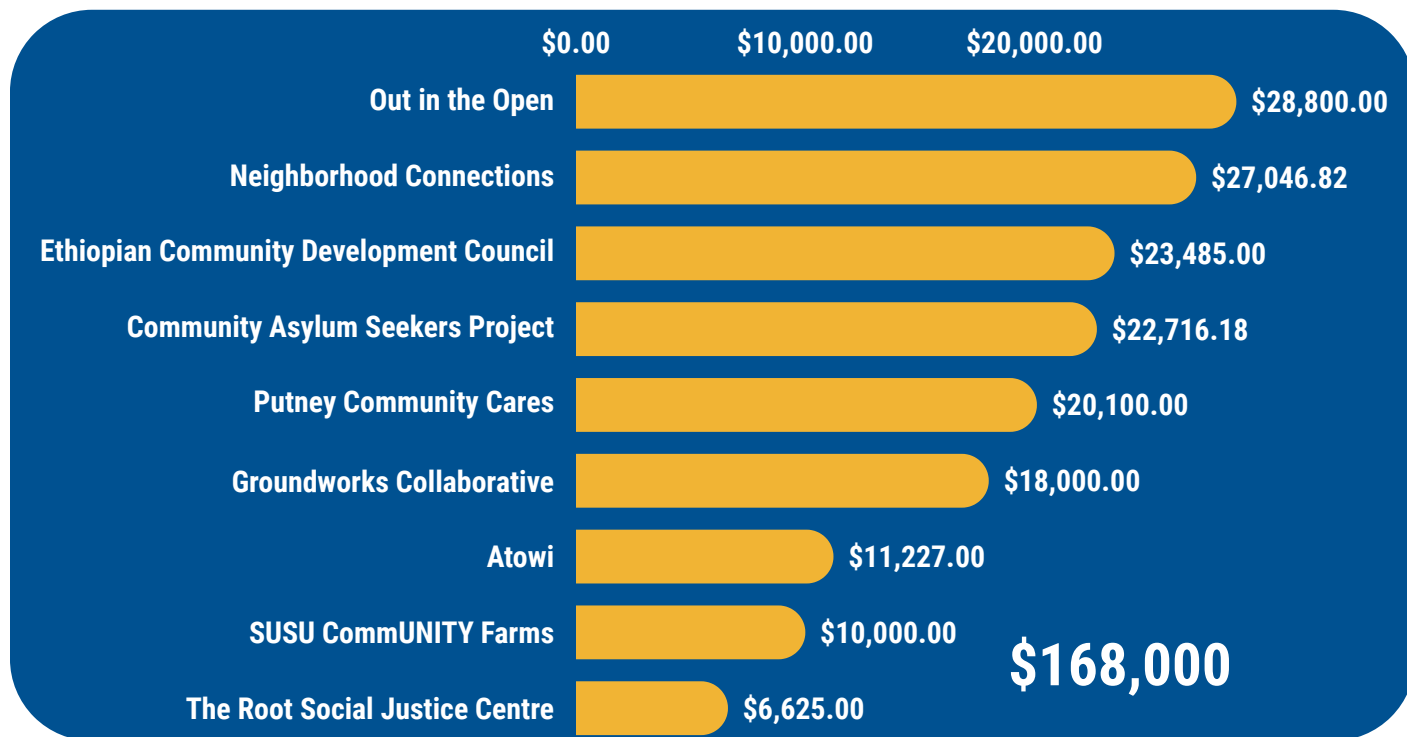
# COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANT

In partnership with Vermont Public Health Institute, United Way of Windham County had the opportunity to distribute CDC derived funding to our local communities in the Spring of 2023. We collaborated with Vital Partnerships, LLC. and conducted a needs assessment of our community. What resonated was the opportunity gaps to support the health of our community, namely - funding limitations, intersectional needs, lack of linguistic & cultural humility.

With the funding we established a community-led Steering Committee, who developed an RFP (Request for Proposals) based on the problem statement, and then selected organizations whose proposals aligned. Nine local organizations were selected out of a total of 15 applicants and a total of \$168,000 was awarded through our "Community Resilience Grant". The awardees go as follows:



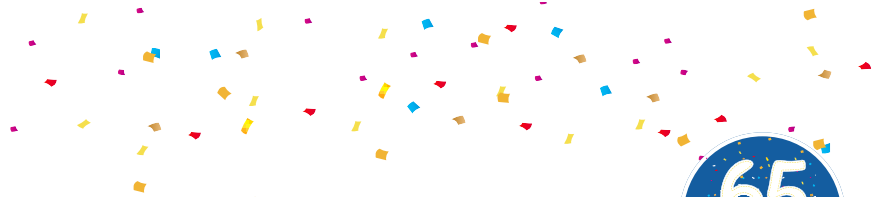
The award to Putney Community Cares helped them purchase a new fridge.



A portion of the awarded projects were centered around **food shelf programs, case management for asylum seekers with antiracism workshops, social integration activities for refugees, increasing rural access to mental health care, transport, and social work programming.**

Whilst other projects focused on building capacity for **LGBTQ+ health programs, fostering good health, well-being, and independence of ALL community members, multicultural workshops, racial healing with CSA boxes, BIPOC hair clinics, and general staff support.** We congratulate these awardees for their commitment to the community and their continuous hard work!

# THANK YOU



For 65 years of creating opportunities and providing a better hope for tomorrow.

## BOARD MEMBERS

- Melissa Swim (*Chair*)
- Rohan Providence (*Vice Chair*)
- James Gay (*Treasurer*)
- Nancy Overman (*Secretary*)
- Amaryah Pendlebury (*Director*)
- Andrea Wright (*Director*)
- Etan Nasreddin-Longo (*Director*)
- Kiera King (*Director*)
- Samantha Eagle (*Director*)

## STEERING COMMITTEE

- Kai Morrisson
- Kasko Crane
- Moussoumakan Peharrie
- Tara O'Brien

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GRANT

- Atowi
- Brattleboro Museum and Arts Center
- Community Asylum Seekers Project
- Ethiopian Community Development Council
- Groundworks Collaborative
- Neighborhood Connections
- Out In The Open
- Putney Community Cares
- SUSU Community Farm
- The In-Sight Photography
- The Root Social Justice Center
- Vermont Public Health Institute
- Vital Partnerships

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

- Early Education Services
- Greater Falls Community Justice Center
- West River Valley Mutual Aid
- Winston Prouty Center

### EMERGENCY FLOOD RESPONSE

- Ben & Jerry's
- The Holt Fund
- Vermont Community Foundation

### FISCAL AGENT AGREEMENTS

- NAACP of Windham County
- Voices of Hope

## WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

- |                                     |                              |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 802 Credit Union                    | The Richards Group           |
| Austin Design Cooperative, Inc.     | Town of Brattleboro          |
| Brattleboro Memorial Hospital       | Trust Company of Vermont     |
| Brattleboro Savings & Loan          | M&T Bank                     |
| Chroma Technology                   | Green Mountain Power         |
| Grace Cottage Hospital              | Hannaford's Supermarket      |
| GS Precision, Inc.                  | State of Vermont             |
| Holstein Association USA, Inc       | Windham County Dental Center |
| C&S Wholesale Grocers, Inc.         | World Learning, Inc.         |
| Windham Southeast Supervisory Union |                              |

## 365 BUSINESS CIRCLE

- C.E. Bradley Laboratories, Inc.
- Cersosimo Lumber Company
- Clear Solutions Inc
- David G. Reid Attorney At Law, PLLC
- Holland's Bloom
- West Hill Energy and Computing, Inc.

## VITA VOLUNTEERS

- |                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Marie Tattersall | David Grady |
| Linda Tummino    | Kate John   |
| Linda Gobbo      | Mary White  |



# Make an Impact in your Community

We take a comprehensive approach to every challenge, bringing people together to find a better way forward. With deep local roots, we actively listen and readily respond to communities' needs. United Way's reach across 37 countries and territories means we can share innovations and scale impact to improve lives around the world.

**Online donation form:**

**[unitedwaywindham.org/cf](https://unitedwaywindham.org/cf) or scan the QR code!**

**Mail a check to us at:**

**1222 Putney Rd Suite 202 Brattleboro, VT 05301**



## Start a Workplace Campaign

The central component of United Way fundraising is the workplace campaign. It gathers employees' gifts of all sizes through payroll deduction. Our United Way then supports Windham County through programs that have a community impact.

**Please contact [info@unitedwaywindham.org](mailto:info@unitedwaywindham.org) or 802-257-4011 for more information.**

**Scan this code to sign-up for our monthly newsletter!**



## Join Business 365

Every day of the year United Way of Windham County unites people, organizations and businesses to create positive sustainable change. Our local businesses are also present, 365 days a year, providing services and products. To honor that daily presence, members of the business circle make a contribution of \$1 a day.