United Way of Long Island develops programs, as well as provides funding to over 100 community partners. We invest in education to ensure children succeed in school and achieve their potential. We help families become financially stable and independent by ensuring our communities have access to healthcare, food, and positive lifestyle choices.

There are 267,894 households on Long Island living above the poverty level, but still lacking the income and resources needed to afford life’s basic necessities. This population, known as ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), falls into a dangerous gap that leaves them without government assistance, but unable to afford housing, food or child care without help. United Way supports ALICE families, as well as those served by our community partners.

Together through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund our partners can provide critical programs and services to meet our neighbors needs.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living.

To support the Long Island Impact Fund
www.unitedwayli.org/give
We advance early educational opportunities by providing quality instruction and care to young children who might otherwise begin their schooling at a severe disadvantage.

We address development by nurturing and encouraging those suffering from mild to severe developmental disabilities to be independent and pursue fulfilling lives.

We work collaboratively in support of local veterans, including post 9/11 combat veterans and their families, as they transition back to civilian life.

We elevate opportunities for education and careers that help young people and adults earn their degrees, preparing them for self-sufficiency and success.

We help struggling seniors afford basic needs, bond with those facing similar circumstances and access mental and physical health and wellness programs.

We address development by nurturing and encouraging those suffering from mild to severe developmental disabilities to be independent and pursue fulfilling lives.

United Way’s network improves communities across Long Island. Together through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund we are able to improve education, assist working families to achieve greater financial stability and promote healthy lives for young people and adults.

www.unitedwayli.org/communitypartners
the investment of a lifetime...a child’s future

United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund invests in programs that offer support to the youngest among us — children who deserve access to quality education and care no matter their parents’ income level.

The most expensive household to maintain is a household with young children, due not only to these households’ larger size but also the cost of child care, preschool and after-school care. According to the New York State ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report, Nassau and Suffolk Counties are among the most expensive in the state when it comes to the cost of home-based child care, averaging $2,188 per month. This cost makes child care prohibitive for many ALICE families and the children are the ones who ultimately fall at a disadvantage.

Through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund, our partners can provide critical programs and services to children who are in need. Together, we fight for those who represent the future of our region.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living.
Mary is a 9 year-old girl with a bubbly personality enrolled in Choice for All’s Student Success Center, a program supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Mary’s mother is a single mother of two, and expressed concerns about Mary’s struggle with reading comprehension. She works two jobs to put her older child through college and doesn’t have the extra time to help Mary.

Through a strategic academic plan that included one-on-one tutoring small group support, Mary’s skills quickly improved. By the end of the school year, she showed significant growth in her reading and writing – strengthening her ELA (English Language Arts) State Examination score from a “1” up to a “3”. To her Student Success Coach, Mary excitedly declared “I got a 3 on my ELA practice test! My teacher almost cried – she was so happy. I’m happy too!”

Choice for All is just one of the more than 100 agencies supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Not only are we helping young children like Mary, but we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, seniors, those with disabilities, and families. For every additional child that succeeds in school, every family that becomes financially stable, every person who is healthy – we are creating a stronger Long Island.
compassionate care for those in need

United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund invests in programs that battle mental health issues by nurturing and encouraging those suffering with mild to severe developmental disabilities to be independent and pursue fulfilling lives.

Households with a member who is living with a disability are more likely to fall under the ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold, as they often battle increased health care expenses coupled with reduced earning power. The economic hardship faced by the disabled is often more than twice as great as that of the average household, as they are less likely to be employed and when they are working, they earn less. As a result, access to services that help them lead a successful life can be hindered due to lack of financial resources.

Through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund, our partners provide critical programs and services to those with special needs. Because of you, we can fight for their opportunity to thrive.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living.

To support the Long Island Impact Fund
www.unitedwayli.org/give
Michael was diagnosed to be on the Autism Spectrum as a young child. At an early age, Michael was enrolled by his family into Developmental Disabilities Institute’s Starting Early Program, which is an initiative supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund.

Upon completion of the program, he successfully graduated into the mainstream educational program of his local school district. As a high school senior, Michael competed in the Para-Olympic Games in Brazil and won the Gold Medal for the 1,500 meter event. He has also been recognized as the first American with Autism to run under a four minute mile. Michael and his mother, Edie, credit this program with giving him what he needed when he was young to be able to succeed in his later life endeavors.

Developmental Disabilities Institute is just one of the more than 100 agencies supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Not only are we helping those with disabilities like Michael, but we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, seniors, young children, and families. For every additional child that succeeds in school, every family that becomes financially stable, every person who is healthy – we are creating a stronger Long Island.
serving seniors with essential care

United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund invests in programs that help struggling seniors afford basic needs, bond with those facing similar circumstances and access mental and physical health and wellness programs.

The population of Long Island is growing older, and with that age comes economic challenges. With the rise in the elder population comes an increased demand for geriatric health services and home health care. Living on a fixed income and often without sufficient savings, many seniors fall into the ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) category and are not able to afford these necessary services despite being above the federal poverty level. For nearly 135,000 senior households on Long Island, access to crucial programs and services is limited due to lack of affordability.

Through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund, our partners can provide vital programs and services to the elderly living in our communities. Because of you, we can fight for the generation that gave so much to us.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living.

To support the Long Island Impact Fund
www.unitedwayli.org/give
Regina is a 91-year-old Holocaust survivor who has lost two husbands and two sons. Her third son Arnold, a grown man with several minor disabilities, lives with her and they take care of each other.

Regina and Arnold frequently attend holiday celebrations and movie nights at the Barry and Florence Friedberg Jewish Community Center. The Services to Adults and Senior Adults program, supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund, allows Regina the opportunity to meet regularly with a social worker, and when Arnold is unable to drive her to the Center, a bus is sent to pick her up so that she doesn’t have to miss a week of meetings. It is clear that simply sitting in a room with her friends and getting a brief break from the difficulties she faces on a day-to-day basis means the world to Regina. This program brings joy into her life after the immense challenges she has faced.

The Barry and Florence Friedberg Jewish Community Center is just one of the more than 100 agencies supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Not only are we helping seniors like Regina, but we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, young children, those with disabilities, and families. For every additional child that succeeds in school, every family that becomes financially stable, every person who is healthy – we are creating a stronger Long Island.
changing the outlook for young adults

United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund invests in programs that create opportunities for education and career development for young people who wish to cultivate a self-sufficient and successful life for themselves.

Young adults on Long Island face tremendous challenges when looking to start a new life on their own. If they come from a family whose income falls below the ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold of survival, this process can seem almost unattainable. Lack of affordable housing, the high cost of public or private transportation, and the prevalence of underemployment create an uphill battle for independence. Without the resources needed to learn how to build a future, this generation is at risk of falling behind.

Through the Long Island Impact Fund, our partners can provide vital programs and services to young adults looking to better their lives. Because of you, we can fight for those who are looking forward to the future.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living
Marie started college with dreams of becoming a nurse, but at 19 she became pregnant and her partner did not allow her to continue her education. He became abusive, controlling all aspects of her life, including what she wore, who she spent time with and how she spent her money. Over time, the abuse became violent and Marie knew she had to leave if she wanted any future for herself and her young son. She sought safety at The Retreat, and entered its “Take Charge!” program, supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Her transformation was dramatic, blossoming from a quiet victim to a confident survivor with the knowledge that she can have the financial independence she always wanted. She has set goals to save money for her son’s education and plans to return to school to earn her nursing degree. Before the program these goals did not seem possible, but now Marie has the tools she needs to succeed.

The Retreat is just one of the more than 100 agencies supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Not only are we helping young adults like Marie, but we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, seniors, those with disabilities, and families. For every additional child that succeeds in school, every family that becomes financially stable, every person who is healthy – we are creating a stronger Long Island.
impacting veterans’ lives across long island

United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund invests in programs that offer support to the 100,000 veterans and their families currently living in our communities, many of whom seek assistance in areas including housing, employment readiness, case management, and health services.

Unemployed veterans are most at risk of being in poverty or living in ALICE* (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households, especially when they have exhausted their temporary health benefits and unemployment benefits. Veterans who were deployed often receive combat-specific training that is often not transferable to the civilian workforce, leading to difficulties in finding a job that affords them the ability to earn an income above the threshold needed for basic necessities on Long Island.

Through United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund, our partners can provide critical programs and services to those returning home from military service. Because of you, we can fight for those who fought for our country.

*Households that earn more than the U.S. poverty level, but less than the basic cost of living

To support the Long Island Impact Fund
www.unitedwayli.org/give
Rudy served for 21 years in the US Army, retiring from the 101st Air Assault ‘Screaming Eagles’. In 2013, Rudy was struggling to support his family when he came to Long Island Cares for food assistance.

In early 2015 Rudy joined the Long Island Cares’ VetsWork Program supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Over the next 7 months he worked hard revising his resume, networking, interviewing and regularly meeting with Long Island Cares’ Veterans Life Skills Specialists. In August 2015 Rudy, pictured above with Mike from Long Island Cares, was offered a position at a law firm in Jericho as a clerk in their General Services Department where he still is working today. “The program works,” he says. “Keep pushing forward at the end and you will get the job!”

Long Island Cares is just one of the more than 100 agencies supported by United Way’s Long Island Impact Fund. Not only are we helping veterans, but we are making a difference in the lives of veterans, seniors, those with disabilities, and families. For every additional child that succeeds in school, every family that becomes financially stable, every person who is healthy – we are creating a stronger Long Island.