



# HEADLINES



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**FEATURED  
STORY**



## **Empowering the Dream of Education**

Jennifer achieved her dreams of pursuing a career in science. She was the first high school graduate in her family and the first to be accepted into university. Jennefer had no one in her family to turn to about the college experience and no plan to pay for it.

With the help of United Way of Long Island, Jennefer earned her bachelor's in mathematics and computer science and master's in applied mathematics and is now a Senior Applications Analyst at the Collider Accelerator Department within Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"I remember receiving the D.R.E.A.M.S. for Youth Scholarship award letter in the mail and jumping up and down in my driveway," said Jennefer. "I will forever be grateful to United Way of Long Island."

Financial stressors should not stand in the way of realizing academic success. More than \$1,000,000 in academic and enrichment scholarships have been awarded to students who demonstrate a commitment to community service and the drive to achieve higher education.

At United Way of Long Island, we're increasing opportunities for students who face unique financial challenges that can make education seem out of reach.



**FEATURED  
STORY**

## Reconstructing a Life through YouthBuild Long Island

Femi never dreamed he would have a meaningful career in a labor union, but quality in-classroom and hands-on training through United Way's YouthBuild Long Island program led to a five-year IBEW Local 25 Apprenticeship where he powered to the top of his class.

Femi, was raised by a hardworking single mother. Despite facing challenges, at age 18, he discovered YouthBuild, a life-changing program that helped him overcome obstacles and chart a new course toward success.

He consistently went above and beyond as a YouthBuild student. A leader among his peers, he influenced, motivated, and encouraged others toward achievement of their goals. United Way wasn't the only organization who took note of Femi's hard work, positive attitude, and potential.

After his YouthBuild graduation, he was chosen for Opportunities Long Island (OLI), a competitive program connecting individuals from underserved communities to union construction careers. When Femi graduated his credentials and talents were greatly in demand.

Femi sat down with his YouthBuild mentor to weigh the pros and cons of each trade offer, ultimately deciding that the IBEW Local 25, The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC) Apprenticeship Program was the right place for him. Upon graduation from JATC he was offered a full-time position with Sunrise Power Solutions, New York State's leading commercial solar carport installer and his career took off.

Today Femi is a Journeyman and mentor to those who are following in his footsteps, and to many, he has become a champion in the green construction and renewable energy industry. He has come full circle as a member of United Way's state-of-the-art NET ZERO team, transforming the organization's 31,000 sq. ft. headquarters into a building that produces as much energy as it consumes, and a training ground for United Way's Workforce Development Training Academy.

"My time with YouthBuild was transformative," said Femi. "Three principles from the YouthBuild program changed my life: know what you want, articulate what you want, and go after what you want with a burning desire. Because of United Way, I will always go the extra mile and be the first one to step up and stand up."



# Events

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[www.unitedwayli.org/UIP2024](http://www.unitedwayli.org/UIP2024) or call Irene Morlock 631.940.3751

# As of April 22nd we have raised \$641,000.00 for the United In Purpose Luncheon.

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# Meet Our Runners

**Support Team Mission United:  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/tmu2024](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/tmu2024)**

Since 2016, Team Mission United has raised over \$200,000 for veterans through runners' participation in the TCS New York City Marathon. To participate in this once-in-a-lifetime race, each Team Mission United member made a minimum fundraising commitment of \$3,000.

"We couldn't be prouder of our dedicated runners championing the mission of United Way. Our veterans across Long Island are collectively grateful for Team Mission United's support to live healthy and productive lives and build brighter futures." – Theresa A. Regnante, President and CEO of United Way of Long Island.

Thank you Team Mission United, Premier Veteran Supporter Sands New York, and all our sponsors for helping United Way of Long Island connect veterans and their families to local services and resources that provide the support they deserve.

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**Bring your company or group to the beach  
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When you volunteer through United Way's Mission United initiative,  
you're giving back so veterans can get ahead.  
Join our community of game changers!

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**Contact Irene 631.940.3751 or [imorlock@unitedwayli.org](mailto:imorlock@unitedwayli.org)  
[unitedwayli.org/missionunited](http://unitedwayli.org/missionunited)**



# Programs



## NATIONAL GRID FOUNDATION MILESTONE \$500,000 GRANT KEEPS LONG ISLANDERS SAFE AND WARM



Long Islanders seeking help to keep the heat on in their homes were bundled in winter coats and hats to apply for assistance during United Way of Long Island’s “A Day of Warm Hearts & Warm Homes” at the offices of their community partner agency, the Wyandanch Village. Eligible applicants included residents who are behind in their utility payments, have a low or empty oil tank, received a disconnection notice, and/or demonstrate financial hardship.

“This contribution helps celebrate the Foundation’s 25 years of service in our communities and highlights our core principle: Giving people the tools they need to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and building stronger communities,” said Eileen Cohen, Chair, National Grid Foundation. Cohen continued, “We have a long history of serving as a community partner, understand the critical need in our communities, and want our neighbors to know we are here for them. We are so grateful to organizations like United Way of Long Island as they help deliver so many much-needed services during these trying economic times.”



Long Islanders like Gladys of Brentwood, pictured left with National Grid’s Aaron Choo, received a one-time grant to help pay for her home heating costs. Gladys, 53, is a mother of four and home health care aide who lost her job. When the house burned and the fire damage restoration costs were too high, the family moved into

a trailer. Two of her children are still in school and one of her sons is enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corp. Gladys fell far behind in her energy bills and couldn’t receive the assistance she needed. Thankfully, Project Warmth was there to help.

“Because of National Grid Foundation, I was able to pay my gas and electric bills and now have peace of mind,” said Gladys Martinez, a Project Warmth grant recipient. “The emergency assistance has gotten me through a very difficult time in my life and allowed me to keep a roof over my family’s heads this winter.”

“The National Grid Foundation has not only reached a significant milestone in its own journey but will also help us keep over 1,000 families safe and warm,” said Theresa A. Regnante, President & CEO, United Way of Long Island. “The foundation’s visionary approach to philanthropy continues to inspire and set a precedent for others to follow.”

Since 1994, Project Warmth has provided more than \$13 million to assist over 31,000 families. It is one of the country’s oldest non-government fuel funds, serving as a model across the United States. Project Warmth is available during the winter months and remains open until the funds are exhausted.

Project Warmth works with 18 local agencies and more than 90 parish outreach centers that provide intake and case management services. The case management process ensures needed services are provided to the client to resolve existing problems and reduce the need for future assistance. The process is so successful that 80% of previous years clients did not request further assistance.

*Top picture Caption: (L-R: Gary Zanazzi, Swezey Fuel; Ed Gomez, PETRO; Cliff Hochhauser, Carbo Industries; Craig Fligstein, United Way of Long Island; National Grid transport driver; Darryl Clark, Wallace Eannace Associates, Inc.); Councilman Anthony Manetta, Town of Babylon; Brian Sapp, National Grid; Gladys Martinez, Project Warmth Recipient; Theresa Regnante, United Way of Long Island, Christine Berardi, National Grid Foundation; Aaron Choo, National Grid; Lynda Nicolino, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; David Lyons, PSEG; Legislator Jason Richberg, Suffolk County; Jerome Bost, IBEW Local 1049; Magdalonie Paris-Campbell, AT&T Services Inc.; Melanie DiPalma, representing NYS Senator Monica Martinez; Wendy Frigeria, National Grid; Tom Magno, Northville industries.)*



According to United Way's latest ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report\*, there are more than 285,179 hardworking Long Islanders struggling to afford life's basic needs. One out of three families don't earn enough to make ends meet or heat their homes during the bitter winter months.

"We extend our heartfelt congratulations to United Way and all the partners involved in achieving the ambitious goal of reaching over 1,900 families this year. We take immense pride in being a key supporter of the Project Warmth fuel-neutral relief program. This initiative plays a crucial role in assisting Long Islanders during their most vulnerable moments," said Aaron Choo, Vice-chair of the United Way Board of Directors and Vice President of Gas Field Operations at National Grid. "Having the privilege of serving on the United Way Board, I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact this extra support has on our neighbors. National Grid and the Foundation have a rich history of community engagement and understands the critical needs within our communities. We want our neighbors to be rest assured knowing that we are here to lend a helping hand."

"Many hardworking families make financial trade-offs during the winter months. Assistance with an oil delivery, heat-related utility bill or other heating source, means people have room in their budgets to cover essentials like food or medication. Because of National Grid Foundation's extraordinary generosity, United Way was able to ensure that Long Islanders' homes remained heated in a safe manner," said Theresa A. Regnante, President & CEO of United Way of Long Island.

We are grateful to our many funders, including Northville Industries, for supporting Project Warmth. According to Gene Bernstein, Chairman of Northville Industries and Chair of the Project Warmth Fuel Fund Committee, "For 70 years Northville Industries has been keeping Long Islanders warm through its business, and we are delighted to also be helping through our philanthropy. We salute our co-supporters at Project Warmth and encourage other local businesses to join our effort."

## Thank you to all our Project Warmth Supporters

Signature



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1,846  
Families  
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1,063  
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1,468  
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2,580  
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74  
Veterans  
Helped

# CELEBRATE EARTH DAY THE NET ZERO WAY



United Way of Long Island's Entenmann Family Center for Hope serves as the headquarters and flagship location where industry, labor, and government partners come together to bridge divides, embrace diverse voices, and find innovative solutions to regional challenges.

Using renewable energy is a major part of the technology for achieving net zero. "We are excited that United Way completed our solar installation on Earth Day. These 577 solar panels, along with state-of-the-art technology enables the sun to heat, cool and ventilate our all-electric building, ultimately providing power to run the operations," said Rick Wertheim, SVP Development, Sustainability & Training, United Way of Long Island. He added, "This is a demonstration project for the region and all of NY State for sustainability and insuring the future of our children and grandchildren."

The NET ZERO transformation of the organization's 31,000 sq. ft. headquarters has four goals:

- Saving more than \$65,000 per year in energy cost
- Re-investing the savings to support United Way's mission work to create opportunities for Long Islanders to live healthier, safer, and financially stable lives
- Creating a Workforce Development Training Academy for next generation careers
- In times of natural disasters, the NET ZERO building will stand ready as a command center to serve the public.

A landmark in energy efficiency, the NET ZERO project sets an example for organizations across the country. "For the next generation to have the opportunity to thrive on a healthy planet, organizations and institutions must take bold steps, of which United Way of Long Island is one," said Robert B. Catell, Chairman, Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at Stony Brook University.

The \$2.5 million project is also a training facility for Workforce Development programs offered for free to young adults, veterans, and others interested in renewables and green construction. Students will learn solar panel installation and wind turbine drone inspection methods,

among many required technical, functional, and soft skills that lead to employment.

Femi, a graduate of United Way's YouthBuild program, installed the electrical components of the new solar system. He never dreamed of a meaningful career in a Labor Union, but quality in-classroom and hands-on training through United Way led to a Journeyman position with one of New York State's leading commercial solar carport installers.

"My time with YouthBuild was transformative," said Femi. "Three principles from YouthBuild changed my life; know what you want, articulate what you want, and go after what you want with a burning desire. Now I've come full circle as part of United Way's NET ZERO team and mentoring others who want to follow in my footsteps."

"This Earth Day, we are reaffirming our commitment to a net zero future through the NET ZERO Energy Building project that creates a training ground for next generation careers and also protects our environment," said Theresa A. Regnante, President and CEO, United Way of Long Island. "We are grateful for cross-sector collaborations and support on this project, and our dedicated community partners who help us build a stronger, more resilient Long Island community."

The NET ZERO project is funded with a lead grant from the New York State Energy Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) and a naming gift from the Family of William Entenmann, the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY), the Robert B. Catell Family, Brookhaven Science Associates, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, the Town of Babylon, Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc., Suffolk County, National Grid, PSEG Long Island, Wallace Eannace, Long Island Federation of Labor, Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW, and Flushing Bank. The Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) and Bank of America have contributed through their support of United Way's Workforce Development Training Academy. In-kind support has also been received from the Haugland Group, Cameron Engineering, and EMCOR Services NY/NJ.

To learn more, visit: [www.unitedwayli.org/energychallenge](http://www.unitedwayli.org/energychallenge).

United Way of Long Island



# NETZERO

Energy Challenge



**Phase One** of the NET ZERO Energy Building Campaign saw the successful installation of energy recovering ventilators (ERV's) on the roof. The demolition of old, existing air distribution duct work was replaced with new slim duct work and refrigeration piping was set to all outdoor condensing units and completed energy saving measures on the building.

**Phase Two** has completed powering the building with hi-efficient electric air source heat pumps providing superior comfort and ventilation.

**Currently in Phase Three**, the installation of the 577 panel solar array that generates as much electricity as the building uses and is anticipated to finish in early May. Graduates of our signature Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables training program are among the highly skilled professionals on site completing the work.

**Phase Four** will be completed in June with EV chargers and a renewable energy training mock-up with stair assembly to the roof.





# ENERGIA ACTIVA!

Formación profesional en energía eólica, solar y renovables



United Way of Long Island's workforce development program, 'Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables', first Spanish-speaking cohort graduated in March. This free training generously supported by Bank of America is focused on creating a foundation and pathways to secure careers in the renewable energy industry for Long Islanders.

In partnership with Pronto of Long Island, the course was held over five-weeks, covering: Hands-on Training for Next-Generation in Construction, Building Science Principles, Assistance with Job Placement, and OSHA 10. More than 120 individuals registered for the inaugural cohort, 32 were selected, and 27 graduated.

According to the New York State Department of Labor, over 10,000 new industry jobs will be available in New York State by 2030. The 2020 Census reported that Hispanic residents represented 20.2 percent of Long Island's population, growing by more than a quarter within a decade.

"Your language is your gateway," said Theresa A. Regnante, President & CEO of United Way of Long Island. "Investing in a program that connects Spanish-speakers with training, networking and mentorship opportunities, and employer/job connections is not only the right thing but also the smart thing to address these communities' energy and employment needs while also protecting the environment."

"I've been in the construction trade for 19 years and currently a foreman overseeing 14 front-line workers," said Manuel. "I didn't know what to expect from the program and the knowledge that I gained was invaluable."

Yvette enrolled in the program for "...an opportunity to grow professionally." She added, "I'm confident in the training and skills that I learned and excited about a job that pays me to help save the world."

Since 'Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables' inception in 2022, there have been nearly 300 graduates. Approximately 60% have gained employment and are on the way to financial stability and careers in the energy industry through connections made in the workforce program. Many other graduates have gone on to achieve advanced training.

Power Up! graduates are proficient in the installation of clean heating and cooling technologies, high-efficiency HVAC, heat pumps, solar panels, EV Charging and the benefits of renewable energy. The program is made possible by Bank of America, New York Empire State Development, and National Grid Ventures.

The Power Up! program is open to youths, veterans, unemployed workers and those seeking new careers leading to employment in the renewable/sustainable, smart grid, and green construction industries. To learn more and/or to apply, visit [www.unitedwayli.org/powerupcareertraining](http://www.unitedwayli.org/powerupcareertraining).



United Way of Long Island's scholarships help pave the way for success by opening doors to opportunity. Since 2002, more than \$1,000,000 has been awarded to students who demonstrate a commitment to community service and drive to achieve higher education.

With the help of United Way, Jennefer earned a bachelor's in mathematics and computer science and a master's in applied mathematics and is now a Senior Applications Analyst at the Collider Accelerator Department within Brookhaven National Laboratory.

"I remember receiving the D.R.E.A.M.S. for Youth Scholarship award letter in the mail and jumping up and down in my driveway," said Jennefer. "I will forever be grateful to United Way."

[Read Jennefer's story on page 9](#)





# **Media Coverage**

**Broadcast**

**Print**

**PSA's**

# Broadcast



**VIDEO LINK**

<https://longisland.news12.com/its-earth-day-find-out-how-united-way-is-celebrating>

# Broadcast



## VIDEO LINKS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3u2ak-fDByw>

<https://www.unitedwayli.org/NationalGridfoundation500kgift>



## VIDEO LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRxmFvbD3-k>

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

# Falling Through the Cracks

The Calls for Help Coming From Above the Poverty Line

By Rachel Wolfe  
April 6, 2024

The operators taking America's distress calls say they hear from more people who earn too much to qualify for many social services.

ROCKY Hill, Conn.—Some of the country's savviest economic trend predictors spend all day answering call-center phones.

Operators at 211 emergency helplines raised alarm bells about a baby formula shortage ahead of the headlines about empty shelves. And they knew that families were defaulting on their mortgages before the subprime collapse in 2008.

Now, even as the economy looks healthy by many measures, 211 workers say they are hearing something concerning: more people living very close to poverty than the federal poverty line might suggest. The disparity aligns with polls showing high levels of consumer malaise despite recent good news like cooling inflation, low unemployment and strong hiring in March.

In Hartford, 38% of households live above the poverty line but don't make enough to get by, according to United Way.

United Way, the nonprofit that operates about half of the country's 200-plus 211 centers, and other poverty researchers blame that disconnect partly on the federal poverty line, which they say hasn't kept up with the real cost of living.

The share of households below the census-designated federal poverty line has barely budged since 2010. Meanwhile, poverty researchers say a large and fast-growing group of people are earning too much to qualify for social services and not enough to afford the basics where they live.

"We wonder why there's so much anger in public discourse today, and it's in part because of the stress people feel to just keep themselves and their families afloat," says Lisa Tepper Bates, president of United Way of Connecticut. "People feel like the system is not serving them."  
Advertisement

Yocasta Duran, center, and colleagues connect 211 callers in Connecticut to thousands of service providers.

United Way calls this population ALICE, or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. The organization says about 36 million American households, or 29%, met the criteria in 2021, the most recent year for which data is available. That is up 18% from 2010. Preliminary data show the same trend continuing through 2022.

In nearby Hartford, where the cost of living outpaces the national average, 38% of households fit that description. Call centers operate locally, and Connecticut's center hears from residents all over the state.

## Not many answers

During years of underemployment as a single parent, Theo Bonet got help from services—and later applied to work as a United Way contact specialist to help families who also needed assistance. The 42-year-old didn't expect to tell so many callers that they earn too much for assistance.

"It's heart-wrenching to have to say to someone who's struggling, 'I'm sorry, you're not eligible,'" says Bonet, adding that the frequency of these calls has risen sharply.

Callers tell Bonet that they are embarrassed to ask for help and that they are often doing so for the first time after working throughout adulthood. "I always remind them it takes strength to make a call," Bonet says.

Trained to route callers to thousands of outside resources and service providers, United Way operators say those available to ALICE families struggling to pay their bills are often limited to food pantries and a smattering of religious and government programs without income restrictions. Theo Bonet has seen an uptick in 211 calls coming from people above the poverty line.

The federal poverty level for a family of four stands at \$31,200. United Way of Connecticut estimates the bare-minimum survival budget for a family of four with two young children in the state to

be as high as \$126,000. United Way uses the local cost of housing, groceries, child care, healthcare, transportation, technology and taxes to come up with ALICE survival budgets for every U.S. county.

## Defining poverty

Bonet recently spoke with a man who said he earned \$10,000 a month and was looking for low-cost medical facilities because he couldn't afford health insurance.

"I just was kind of in disbelief to hear someone who makes that much struggling," Bonet says. United Way of Connecticut President Tepper Bates doesn't mince words: "The federal poverty line is garbage." The official poverty line for individual adults is \$15,060.

Although the Census Bureau raises the poverty line each year in step with the Labor Department's consumer-price index, some poverty experts say the underlying math doesn't reflect many financial realities. The core assumption that families spend a third of their total income on food, they say, is inconsistent with the fact that on average, housing consumes the largest share of household budgets. And the metric doesn't adjust for differences in the cost of living across the U.S., which hurts residents of high-cost states such as Connecticut.

The Census Bureau released its own supplemental poverty measure in 2011 that provides a more nuanced calculation. The official poverty line of \$15,060 for one adult in 2024, however, remains the baseline for determining most public assistance. Among the benefits: Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the National School Lunch Program.

A group of Democratic congressmen introduced a bill in December that would change the poverty line calculation more drastically than the supplemental measure and likely qualify more families for benefits. It hasn't received a vote.

Pandemic-era benefits cushioned families during the early period of rapid inflation, says Marianne Page, director of the Center for Poverty and Inequality Research and an economics professor at the University of California, Davis. Without those programs, more families are struggling, she says.

"People are worse off now," Page says. "There are a lot of other measures by which we might think the economy is doing OK. But at the end of the day, things like inflation and benefits being clawed back have an impact on a family's ability to purchase the goods and services that it needs."

The Department of Health and Human Services and Commerce Department, which both play roles in federal poverty calculations and benefit allocation, directed the Journal to each other or to publicly available information.

## Little left over

Samantha Daley and Jonathan Harewood have full-time jobs, she as a high school administrative assistant and he as a machinist at an aerospace engineering firm.

Their family of four has health insurance and a combined yearly income of \$95,000. Still, a \$500 emergency-room visit for one of their young sons wiped out most of their savings. After they pay monthly expenses, including rent for their two-bedroom condo in Windsor, Conn., utilities, groceries and gas, there's rarely anything left over, she says.



Jonathan Harewood, Samantha Daley and sons Logan, in shorts, and Peyton. PHOTO: SAMANTHA DALEY

The combined \$14,000 the family received from pandemic stimulus payments and 2021's enhanced child tax credit allowed them to keep the fridge well-stocked and pay for summer camps. Without it, they are not sure where this year's camp money will come from.

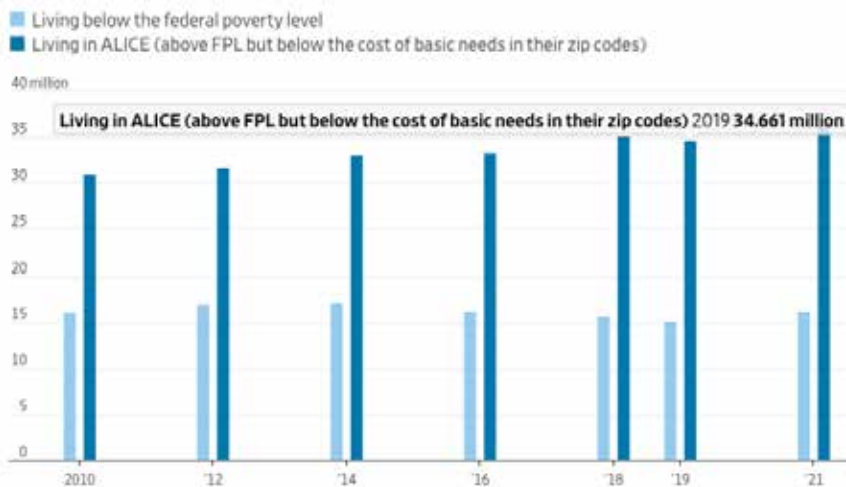
The family previously applied for child care assistance under Connecticut's Care 4 Kids program so that Daley could return to work before the children were old enough for school. They were repeatedly denied. She's called 211 in the past to find mental-health resources. Daley experienced a miscarriage this past November. On day six of recovering at home, she received a \$2,500 bill for her hospital stay.

"Literally as I'm reading this bill, I'm like, 'Well, I'm going back to work tomorrow. There's just no other option,'" Daley says. "I'm getting the extra-heavy sanitary pads ready so I can walk into work as half a human." Yocasta Duran says she feels for ALICE families ineligible for programs that could help them.

Back at the 211 call center, contact specialist Yocasta Duran says she hears stories like Daley's all the time. "If a program doesn't exist, you can't just make one up," Duran says. "It feels horrible. Just knowing that someone is in a crisis and they won't be able to get assistance."

### Just Over the Line

U.S. households on both sides of the poverty line, by income levels



Note: ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed  
Source: United for ALICE

# Zero Energy Ready on Long Island

*United Way of Long Island's journey towards sustainable housing shows that ZERH homes can be available to more than just the housing elite*

By Jamie Van Mourik

**U**nited Way of Long Island is on a mission to reduce energy poverty, one high-performance home at a time.

In 2019, retired Army Sergeant Brian Pullis moved his family into a certified Zero Energy Ready Home built by the nonprofit. The three-bedroom home uses an ultra-efficient electric heat pump for heating and cooling; a 9.9 kW rooftop solar array offsets the family's electric use most of the year. It was built partly by veterans through VetsBuild, a construction training program hosted by United Way of Long Island (UWLI) that launched Pullis' own career as an HVAC service technician.

"We are committed to making net zero available to people who need sustainable energy savings the most," says UWLI Senior Vice President for Housing & Green Initiatives Rick Wertheim.

Largely suburban, Long Island, New York is home to the Hamptons, but there are also pockets of poverty. Many older residents live in homes in desperate need of energy upgrades; many renters live in substandard and unpermitted units in garages and basements.

"We live in a market that has one of the highest costs of living in the country," says Wertheim. "On top of that, we have one of the highest utility rates in the country."

For Pullis, the promise of consistently low utility bills gave him the confidence to move forward with the sale of his new home. Most months, he only pays the utility tax charge, and his bills rarely exceed \$100. The family saves approximately \$3,200 a year in utility costs.

A Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) is certified to meet the federal government's most rigorous requirements for home performance, including the standards of two other federal programs: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Indoor airPLUS and ENERGY STAR. ZERH Version 2, launched in late 2022, supports the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) goal of achieving low-to-no carbon emissions in all new home construction by 2035; new requirements include enhanced building envelope performance and several provisions for electric-ready homes, such as dedicated circuits for electric vehicle charging stations and electric heat pumps.

United Way of Long Island built its first certified ZERH home in 2013. Since then, the non-profit has built over 30 ZERH homes and has been recognized with eight Housing Innovation Awards. Sev-



**Jaime Van Mourik**  
is the director of the U.S. Department of Energy's Zero Energy Ready Home program.

eral have been featured as part of the DOE's "Tour of Zero," an annual showcase of exemplary certified ZERH projects.

UWLI has experimented with several approaches, including structural insulated panels, insulated concrete forms and advanced framing. Their ZERH homes are so efficient that they can achieve net-zero even with electric vehicle charging, essentially removing the cost of transportation from family budgets. The homes not only address an urgent need for accessible housing, they help demonstrate that net-zero need not be exclusive to the elite custom home market.


"ZERH homes can come in all shapes, sizes, and price points," says Sam Bowles, with DOE's ZERH program. "The value of a ZERH home is not in the use of expensive technologies and systems, but in the construction details outlined in the program requirements." Taken together, these details ensure an efficient, durable and healthy home.

Scaling up such homes requires a deep pool of skilled labor at a time when construction trades in the U.S. are losing ranks. Nearly a quarter of all construction workers are over 55, and skilled career professionals are retiring.

"Young people are not as interested in going into the trades," says Wertheim. "It's a systemic problem across the country, in everything from HVAC to iron workers."

To address this urgent need, UWLI runs three signature programs out of their E3 SmartBuild Training Center in Deer Park, Long Island. VetsBuild, the program that launched Pullis' career, serves returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, while YouthBuild serves low-income young adults who are out of school but unemployed. A newer program called Power Up Academy emphasizes high-performance construction, energy retrofits and renewable energy. Last year, about 350 people took part in the programs.

The more stringent standards of ZERH V2 underscore the need for skilled high-performance home contractors and tradespeople, while pushing builders to achieve ever higher standards.

"The ZERH program has always served as a proving ground to what home performance should be," says Bowles. "Our partners are truly the boots on the ground fighting against climate change while also delivering more efficient, resilient and healthier homes to American homebuyers." 

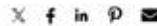




Courtesy of United Way of Long Island

## National Grid Foundation awards \$500K to United Way of Long Island

Adina Genn // February 23, 2024 // 2 Minute Read



National Grid Foundation has awarded a \$500,000 grant to Deer Park-based **United Way of Long Island** for its Project Warmth program.

The program provides emergency heating assistance for Long Islanders who do not qualify for federal assistance because of income guidelines. Without it, some families would lack the resources to keep the heat on when the weather turns cold, United Way said.

More than 285,179 hardworking Long Islanders struggle to afford life's basic needs, according to United Way's most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report. One out of three families don't earn enough to make ends meet or heat their homes during the bitter winter months.

"The National Grid Foundation has not only reached a significant milestone in its own journey but will also help us keep over 1,000 families safe and warm," Theresa Regnante, president & CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in a written statement. "The foundation's visionary approach to philanthropy continues to inspire and set a precedent for others to follow."

Through Project Warmth, residents in need receive a one-time grant for oil, gas, and fuel-related electric. Payments are made directly to oil and utility companies on behalf of eligible residents who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options. For the thousands of families United Way helps each year, assistance with an oil delivery or utility arrears means they have room in their budgets to cover essentials like food or medication.

"This contribution helps celebrate the foundation's 25 years of service in our communities and highlights our core principle: Giving people the tools they need to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and building stronger communities," Eileen Cohen, chair of National Grid Foundation, said in a written statement.

"We have a long history of serving as a community partner, understand the critical need in our communities, and want our neighbors to know we are here for them, Cohen said. "We are so grateful to organizations like United Way of Long Island as they help deliver so many much-needed services during these trying economic times."

Launched in 1994, the program has raised more than \$11 million to provide emergency heating assistance, helping more than 30,000 families. That assistance is often critical at the end of the year when other programs to address year-long needs might be depleted, leaving families with nowhere else to turn for help, according to United Way.

And the support is critical for many households, experts said.

More than 285,179 hardworking Long Islanders struggle to afford life's basic needs, according to United Way's most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report. One out of three families don't earn enough to make ends meet or heat their homes during the bitter winter months.

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LONG ISLAND  
**BUSINESS NEWS**

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Home » Good News » National Grid's \$500K grant fuels Project Warmth



Gary Zanazzi, Swezey Fuel; Ed Gomez, Petro; Cliff Hochhauser, Carbo Industries; Craig Fligstein, United Way of Long Island; National Grid transport driver; Darryl Clark, Wallace Eannace Associates, Inc.; Babylon Councilman Anthony Manetta; Brian Sapp, National Grid; Gladys Martinez, Project Warmth Recipient; Theresa Regnante, United Way of Long Island; Christine Berardi, National Grid Foundation; Aaron Choo, National Grid; Lynda Nicolino, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; David Lyons, PSEG; Suffolk Legis. Jason Richberg; Jerome Bost, IBEW Local 1049; Magdalonie Paris-Campbell, AT&T Services Inc.; Melanie DiPalma, representing State Sen. Monica Martinez; Wendy Frigeria, National Grid; Tom Magno, Northville Industries. (Photo: United Way of Long Island)

## National Grid's \$500K grant fuels Project Warmth

February 19, 2024 • The Long Island Times

United Way of Long Island received a \$500,000 grant from the National Grid Foundation to support its Project Warmth program.

The grant, which also marked the 25th anniversary of the National Grid Foundation, was celebrated by the United Way, which continues its efforts to keep struggling Long Islanders warm through the winter.

As Long Island's only non-governmental, island-wide emergency fuel fund, National Grid's Project Warmth provides a one-time grant for oil, gas, and fuel-related electric service. Payments are made directly to oil and utility companies on behalf of eligible residents who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options. For the thousands of families United Way helps each year, assistance with an oil delivery or utility arrears means they have room in their budgets to cover essentials like food or medication, according to an organization statement.

There are more than 285,179 hardworking Long Islanders struggling to afford life's basic needs, according to United Way's latest Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Report. One out of three families don't earn enough to make ends meet or heat their homes during the bitter winter months.

"Because of National Grid Foundation, I was able to pay my gas and electric bills and now have peace of mind," Gladys Martinez, a Project Warmth grant recipient, said in the statement. Martinez, a mother of four who lost her job as a home healthcare aide, had to move her family into a trailer after a fire damaged her home and fell far behind in her energy bills. "The emergency assistance has gotten me through a very difficult time in my life and allowed me to keep a roof over my family's heads this winter."

Since 1994, Project Warmth has provided more than \$13 million to assist over 31,000 families. Project Warmth is available during the winter months and remains open until the funds are exhausted.

"The National Grid Foundation has not only reached a significant milestone in its own journey but will also help us keep over 1,000 families safe and warm," Theresa Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in the statement. "The foundation's visionary approach to philanthropy continues to inspire and set a precedent for others to follow."

Project Warmth works with 18 local agencies and more than 90 parish outreach centers that provide intake and case management services. The case management process ensures needed services are provided to the client to resolve existing problems and reduce the need for future assistance. Eighty percent of previous years clients did not request further assistance, according to the statement.

"We have a long history of serving as a community partner, understand the critical need in our communities, and want our neighbors to know we are here for them," Eileen Cohen, chair of National Grid Foundation, said in the statement. "We are so grateful to organizations like United Way of Long Island as they help deliver so many much-needed services during these trying economic times."

For more information visit: [unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth](https://unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth)



# La subvención de \$500,000 de National Grid Foundation mantiene seguros y cálidos a los habitantes de Long Island

Noticia Long Island

16 febrero 2024



De izquierda a derecha, vemos a: Gary Zanazzi, Swezey Fuel; Ed Gomez, PETRO; Cliff Hochhauser, Carbo Industries; Craig Flugstein, United Way of Long Island; conductor de transporte de National Grid; Darryl Clark, Wallace Eannaco Associates, Inc.; Anthony Manetta, concejal del Town of Babylon; Brian Sapp, National Grid; Gladys Martínez, receptora del Proyecto Warmth; Theresa Regnante, United Way of Long Island; Christine Berardi, National Grid Foundation; Aaron Choo, National Grid; Lynda Nicolino, Bethpage Federal Credit Union; David Lyons, PSEG; Jason Richberg, legislador del condado de Suffolk; Jerome Bost, IBEW Local 1049; Magdalonie Paris-Campbell, AT&T Services Inc.; Melanie DiPalma, en representación de la Senadora del Estado de Nueva York Mónica Martínez; Wendy Frigería, National Grid; Tom Magno, Industrias de Northville. Foto: unitedwayli.org

En un momento histórico que marca el 25º aniversario de la National Grid Foundation, la agencia comunitaria United Way de Long Island anunció y celebró el extraordinario compromiso de la fundación de establecer un nuevo estándar para las contribuciones filantrópicas. La subvención de \$500,000 de National Grid Foundation mantiene seguros y cálidos a los habitantes locales.

Según el último informe ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) de United Way, hay más de 285,179 trabajadores de Long Island que luchan por cubrir las necesidades básicas de la vida. Una de cada tres familias no gana lo suficiente para llegar a fin de mes o calentar sus hogares durante los fríos meses de invierno.

Como el único fondo de combustible de emergencia no gubernamental para toda la isla de Long Island, Project Warmth proporciona una subvención única para petróleo, gas y electricidad relacionada con combustibles. Los pagos se realizan directamente a las compañías petroleras y de servicios públicos en nombre de los residentes elegibles que tienen dificultades financieras y han agotado otras opciones.

Para las miles de familias que United Way ayuda cada año, la asistencia con la entrega de petróleo o las atrasos en los servicios públicos significa que tienen espacio en sus presupuestos para cubrir artículos esenciales como alimentos o medicamentos.

Los habitantes de Long Island que buscaban ayuda para mantener la calefacción en sus hogares se vistieron con abrigos y gorros de invierno para solicitar asistencia durante el programa «En día de corazones cálidos y hogares cálidos» («A Day of Warm Hearts & Warm Homes») de United Way of Long Island, realizada en las oficinas de su agencia comunitaria asociada, en la Villa de Wyandanch.

Los solicitantes elegibles incluyeron residentes que estén atrasados en sus pagos de servicios públicos, tienen un tanque de aceite vacío o bajo, recibieron un aviso de desconexión y/o demuestran dificultades financieras.

«Esta contribución ayuda a celebrar los 25 años de servicio de la Fundación en nuestras comunidades y destaca nuestro principio fundamental: brindar a las personas las herramientas que necesitan para generar esperanza es un ingrediente esencial en el desarrollo de individuos, familias y en la construcción de comunidades más fuertes», dijo Eileen Cohen, presidente de la Fundación Nacional Grid.

## Noticia

«Tenemos una larga trayectoria de servicio como socio comunitario, entendemos la necesidad crítica de nuestras comunidades y queremos que nuestros vecinos sepan que estamos aquí para ayudarlos. Estamos muy agradecidos con organizaciones como United Way de Long Island, ya que ayudar a brindar tantos servicios tan necesarios durante estos tiempos económicos difíciles, agregó».

### Project Warmth ayuda

Los habitantes de Long Island como Gladys Martínez, de Brentwood, recibieron una subvención única para ayudar a pagar los costos de calefacción de su hogar. Gladys, de 53 años, es madre de cuatro hijos y asistente de atención médica domiciliar que perdió su trabajo.

Cuando la casa se quemó y los costos de restauración de los daños causados por el incendio fueron demasiado altos, la familia se mudó a un remolque. Dos de sus hijos todavía están en la escuela y uno de sus hijos está alistado en el Cuerpo de Marines de los Estados Unidos. Gladys se atrasó mucho en sus facturas de energía y no pudo recibir la asistencia que necesitaba. Afortunadamente, Project Warmth estuvo allí para ayudar.

«Gracias a National Grid Foundation, pude pagar mis facturas de gas y electricidad y ahora tengo tranquilidad», dijo Gladys Martínez, beneficiaria de una subvención de Project Warmth. «La asistencia de emergencia me ha ayudado a superar un momento muy difícil de mi vida y me ha permitido mantener un techo sobre la cabeza de mi familia este invierno».

«La National Grid Foundation no solo ha alcanzado un hito importante en su propio viaje, sino que también nos ayudará a mantener seguros y cálidos a más de 1,000 familias», dijo Theresa A. Regnante, presidenta y directora ejecutiva de United Way of Long Island. «El enfoque visionario de la fundación hacia la filantropía continúa inspirando y sentando un precedente a seguir por otros».

Desde 1994, Project Warmth ha proporcionado más de \$13 millones para ayudar a más de 31,000 familias. Es uno de los fondos de combustible no gubernamentales más antiguos del país y sirve como modelo en todo Estados Unidos. Project Warmth está disponible durante los meses de invierno y permanece abierto hasta que se agoten los fondos.

Project Warmth trabaja con 18 agencias locales y más de 90 centros de extensión parroquiales que brindan servicios de admisión y administración de casos. El proceso de gestión de casos garantiza que se proporcionen al cliente los servicios necesarios para resolver los problemas existentes y reducir la necesidad de asistencia futura. El proceso es tan exitoso que el 80% de los clientes de años anteriores no solicitaron más ayuda.

La asistencia está disponible a través del centro de llamadas 211 de United Way las 24 horas del día, los 7 días de la semana llamando al 2-1-1, o fuera de los condados de Nassau y Suffolk llamando al 1-888-774-7633; por texto 898-211; o visitando [211li.org](http://211li.org); [unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth](http://unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth).

**Warm fuzzies:** **United Way of Long Island** is commending a chunky **National Grid Foundation** grant that helped more than 1,900 energy-insecure Island homes stay warm this winter.

The \$500,000 gift to United Way’s **Project Warmth Emergency Fuel Fund**, billed as “the only Island-wide non-governmental emergency heating fund,” was distributed in partnership with 20 local agencies and 300-plus parish outreach centers, according to UWLI. And with the agency’s latest **Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Report** citing more than 285,000 Long Islanders fighting to cover basic needs – including one out of three LI families struggling to heat their homes during the winter – the grant was a godsend, according to United Way of Long Island President and CEO Theresa Regnante, who applauded the National Grid Foundation’s “extraordinary generosity.”

The foundation has now provided more than \$13 million to assist 32,000-plus Project Warmth families since 1994. “We take immense pride in being a key supporter of the Project Warmth fuel-neutral relief program,” noted Aaron Choo, National Grid’s vice president of Gas Field Operations and vice-chairman of the UWLI Board of Directors. “This initiative plays a crucial role in assisting Long Islanders during their most vulnerable moments.”

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## Town of OB & United Way launch Youth Build program for aiding vocational skills



Massapequa  
**POST**

The Town of Oyster Bay is partnering with United Way of Long Island to launch YouthBuild, a program designed to help young adults between the ages 16 and 24 learn vocational skills that will lead to meaningful employment and success.

YouthBuild participants split their time between the vocational training work site and the classroom, where they can earn their high school diploma or equivalency degree, and prepare for postsecondary training opportunities including college, apprenticeships, and employment.

“I’m very proud to announce that the Town of Oyster Bay will be partnering with United Way of Long Island to provide this extraordinary opportunity for young individuals, who may have faced previous barriers to success, to attain an education that will lead to gainful employment within our

communities,” said Supervisor Joseph Saladino. “YouthBuild not only offers vocational programs for in demand industries such as construction, health care, information technology, and hospitality, but it also includes community service and civic engagement so students may share their valuable perspectives with elected officials and community leaders.”

YouthBuild is now accepting applications for the Class of 2024. Classes begin on March 3. The program is open to individuals between the ages of 16 and 24 who reside in the Town of Oyster Bay, the Town of North Hempstead, or the City of Glen Cove.

Visit [www.unitedwayli.org/youthbuild-long-island](http://www.unitedwayli.org/youthbuild-long-island) for more information, and to learn more about this training program, or call (516) 485-5000 ext. 1352.

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**On Our Island 4/12/2024**

**United Way Project Warmth supported via National Grid grant**



*Courtesy of United Way of Long Island*

This past winter, National Grid provided a \$500,000 grant to **United Way of Long Island's** Project Warmth Emergency Fuel Fund. As a result, more than 1,900 households were assisted with heating emergencies. As this is the only nongovernmental emergency heating fund on the Island, Project Warmth helps both individuals and families who are challenged by energy insecurity. The fuel-neutral program also aids some of the region's most vulnerable residents who might not otherwise qualify for government assistance such as seniors, veterans and families with young children.



**LI People  
ON THE MOVE**



RIVKIN RADLER

**Bernadette Kasnicki**, of Garden City, a partner at Rivkin Radler in Uniondale, has been elected as general counsel for **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park and elected a member of the **United way of Long Island executive committee and board of directors.**

## Manhasset Press

### North Hempstead To Partner With United Way Of Long Island For Project Warmth

North Hempstead Town Supervisor Jennifer DeSena and the Town Board are proud to announce that the Town of North Hempstead will partner with United Way of Long Island to host the Project Warmth Emergency Fuel Fund for town residents. Project Warmth provides one-time grants to individuals and families who are unable to pay their heating bill. The event will take place on Friday, March 15 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the "Yes We Can" Community Center, 141 Garden St., Westbury.

"As the Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead, it is incumbent upon me and my colleagues in government to do all that we can to help our most vulnerable residents," said Supervisor DeSena. "Many families and individuals are unfortunately dealing with substantial challenges, and this program is designed to provide valuable, practical relief to those who need it most."



*(Contributed graphic)*

I am immensely grateful to United Way of Long Island for bringing this program to North Hempstead, and I encourage neighbors who are struggling to pay their heating bill to please stop by on March 15."

Applications are open to residents of the Town of North Hempstead only. Residents must bring their electricity and gas bill on the day of the event.

For questions or more information, please reach out to Fidelia Tobar at [ftobar@unitedwayli.org](mailto:ftobar@unitedwayli.org) or at 631-940-3740.

*—Submitted by the  
Town of North Hempstead*

# National Grid Foundation Kicks Off 25th Anniversary with 1.5 Million Dollar Gift in support of three fuel-neutral emergency heating funds in Massachusetts and New York.



By Deborah Drew

The recipient organizations are United Way of Massachusetts Bay, United Way of Long Island and Catholic Charities Diocese of Albany. This special donation supplements the Foundation's "traditional" annual heating fund grants and combines support of these emergency programs at a record-breaking \$1.5 million level; each organization has received a total of \$500,000 in support of its heat fund program.

"This gift helps celebrate the Foundation's 25 years of service in our communities and highlights our core principle: Giving people the tools they need to build hope is an essential ingredient in the development of individuals, families and building stronger communities," said Eileen

Cohen, Chair, National Grid Foundation. "As so many are experiencing the rising cost of living, and our neighbors and communities are strained by tough economic times, we are pleased to once again be able to help and support these fuel-neutral emergency heating and utility funds." Cohen continued, "We have a long history of serving as a community partner, understand the critical need in our communities, and want our neighbors to know we are here for them. We are so grateful to organizations like United Way and Catholic Charities Albany as they help deliver so many much-needed services during these trying economic times." 🏠



Photos: United Way of Long Island

## LI partners provide clean-energy training, en español



Speaking the language: The United Way of Long Island and friends have trained a Spanish-speaking cohort of learners on the finer points of renewable energy installation and maintenance.

FEBRUARY 27, 2024  
By GREGORY ZELLER

Ellos hablan español ... and now, they're fluent in renewable energy technologies, too.

"Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables" – a workforce-development program created by United Way of Long Island and supported by National Grid Ventures, the Empire State Development Corp. and North Carolina-based Bank of America – has graduated its first-ever Spanish-speaking cohort.

In partnership with Bay Shore-based Pronto of Long Island – a nonprofit organization providing food, furniture and gently used clothing and household goods to Long Islanders in need – the five-week program included hands-on construction instruction, Occupational Safety and Health Administration training and specialized classes in building-science principles exclusively for Spanish-speaking learners, with job-placement services at the ready.

Installation tools and techniques for high-efficiency HVAC systems, the latest solar-panel technologies and electric-vehicle charging stations were all in the syllabus, along with refreshers explaining the overall benefits of renewable energy.

More than 120 people applied for the first "Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables" Spanish-speaking cohort, with 32 selected to participate and 27 ultimately completing the month-plus course. Since launching in 2022, the workforce-development program has now graduated nearly 300 learners, with 60 percent landing jobs in the energy industries – many via connections made through the "Power Up!" effort, according to United Way of Long Island.

Cohort graduate and construction-industry veteran Manuel Muniz, already a front-line construction foreman, said his new renewable-energy comprehension both lengthens and deepens his professional expertise.

"I've been in the construction trade for 19 years," Muniz noted. "I didn't know what to expect from the program, [but] the knowledge that I gained was invaluable."

Theresa Regnante: Removing language barriers. Further cohorts for both Spanish- and English-speaking learners are on the way, and not a moment too soon. The national energy workforce added more than 300,000 jobs in 2022, the latest year measured by the U.S. Department of Energy, while New York State is expecting to add 10,000 new jobs – in the offshore-wind industry alone – over the next five years.

Noting an inexorable link between this rapid evolution of the clean-energy industries and community service, United Way of Long Island President and CEO Theresa Regnante applauded the first Spanish-speaking cohort and the program partners who supported the new graduates.

"Your language is your gateway," Regnante said Tuesday. "Investing in a program that connects Spanish-speakers with training, networking and mentorship opportunities – and employer/job connections – is not only the right thing but also the smart thing.

"[It] addresses these communities' energy and employment needs while also protecting the environment," the CEO added.



Stephanie, Power Up! Graduate

## Become a Net Zero Hero

*Building a better future for Long Islanders*

United Way of Long Island's NET ZERO Energy Building is well underway. This state-of-the-art project provides essential hands-on skills training while setting a new standard in renewable energy for non-profit organizations throughout the region.

The building design creates an innovative solution to eliminate energy consumption and protect the environment. The NET ZERO transformation of United Way's 31,000 sq. ft. headquarters has four goals:

- Saving more than \$65,000 per year in energy cost
- Re-investing the savings to support United Way's mission work to create opportunities for Long Islanders to live healthier, safer and financially stable lives
- Creating a Workforce Development Training Academy for next generation careers
- In times of natural disasters, the NET ZERO building will stand ready as a command center to serve the public

Join our Workforce Training program and become a NET ZERO Hero, visit: [www.unitedwayli.org/WDTA](http://www.unitedwayli.org/WDTA)

**Lead Supporters:** The Family of William Entenmann • LIPA • NYS Empire State Development  
NYS DASNY • NYSERDA • Suffolk County

**Project Supporters:** Bank of America • Bethpage Federal Credit Union • Brookhaven Science Associates • Robert B. Catell Family  
Cameron Engineering • Flushing Bank • Haugland Group • Local 338 RWDSU/UFCW • Long Island Federation of Labor  
National Grid • PSEG Long Island • Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc. • Town of Babylon • Wallace Eannace

*"Retrofitting United Way to be 100% Net Zero and disaster resilient makes you wonder why buildings are built any other way."*

— Robert B. Catell, Chairman, Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC) at Stony Brook University

United Way of Long Island's "211 Long Island" service connects Long Islanders in need of assistance with career, educational programs and services they need.



Just dial 2-1-1 or visit [211longisland.org](http://211longisland.org).

Outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, dial 888-774-7633.

Become a NET ZERO Funding Hero, visit: [www.unitedwayli.org/energychallenge](http://www.unitedwayli.org/energychallenge)



## DREAMS FOR YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

[UnitedWayLI.org/Scholarships](http://UnitedWayLI.org/Scholarships)

United Way of Long Island's "211 Long Island" service connects Long Islanders in need of assistance with educational programs and services they need.



Just dial 2-1-1 or visit [211longisland.org](http://211longisland.org). Outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, dial 888-774-7633.

## Achieving a Lifetime of Success!

Jennefer achieved her dreams of pursuing a career in science. She was the first high school graduate in her family and the first to be accepted into university. Jennefer had no one to turn to about the college experience and no means to pay for her education.

With the help of United Way of Long Island, Jennefer earned a bachelor's in mathematics and computer science and a master's in applied mathematics and is now a Senior Applications Analyst at the Collider Accelerator Department within **Brookhaven National Laboratory**.

"I remember receiving the D.R.E.A.M.S. for Youth Scholarship award letter in the mail and jumping up and down in my driveway," said Jennefer. "I will forever be grateful to United Way."

More than \$1,000,000 in academic and enrichment scholarships have been awarded to students. If you or someone you know is in need of educational financial assistance visit: [unitedwayli.org/scholarships](http://unitedwayli.org/scholarships).



I opened my heart to you and now I feel like a weight has been lifted.

– United Way of Long Island 211 Client



United Way of Long Island's "211 Long Island" service connects Long Islanders in need of assistance with the programs and services they need.



Just dial 2-1-1 or visit [211longisland.org](http://211longisland.org). Outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties, dial 888-774-7633.

## Connecting You... When You Need Us Most

When you find yourself struggling, the last thing you want to do is dig through a mountain of resources to get the help you need.

United Way of Long Island's 2-1-1 is the 24/7 go-to resource for information, assistance, and referrals to local services as quickly as possible.

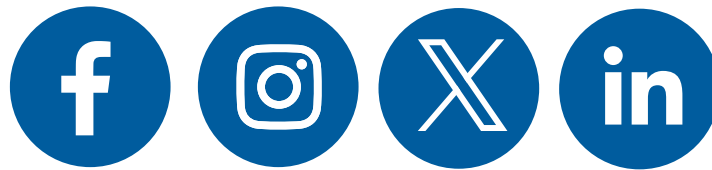
Every day, we connect people to resources in the communities where they live. **Call, text, click, connect!**

United Way's 211 Call Center is a 24/7/365 non-emergency information resource, helping Long Islanders with free, comprehensive connections to over 10,000 essential services. For more information visit [211LongIsland.org](http://211LongIsland.org) or call 2-1-1 or text 898-211.





# Social Media



Congratulations to our very own, Jenette Adams, YouthBuild USA Leadership Fellow 2024-2026 cohort. Twenty leaders from programs around the globe will gather to focus on Leadership and Professional Development; Self-Care; and Peer Support and Community Building. Learn more about YouthBuild Long Island: [www.unitedwayli.org/youthbuild-long-island](http://www.unitedwayli.org/youthbuild-long-island).

#UnitedWayLI #YouthBuild



Thank you, Retro Fitness, for connecting and giving back to communities across Long Island. We are proud to work in partnership with you!

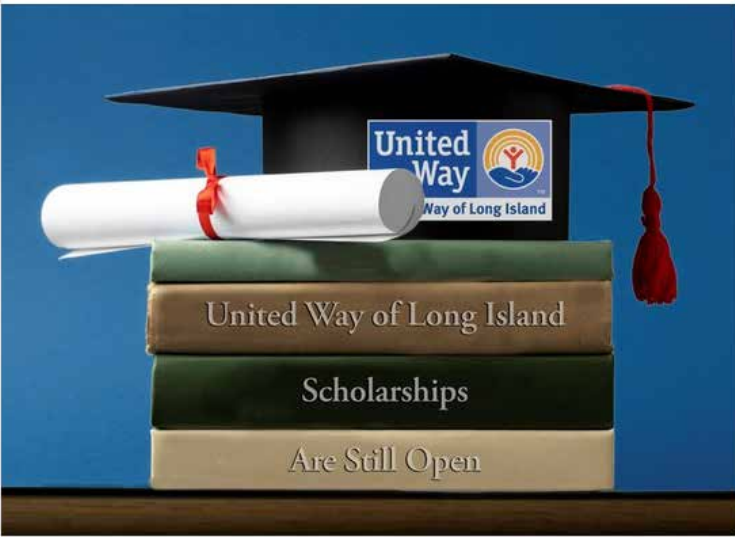
#UnitedWayLI #FitnessPartner #RetroFitness



United Way of Long Island Board Members are changing our communities for the better. Congratulations, Katherine Heaviside, John Durso, Jennifer Cona, and Marc Herbst, for your recognition among the 2024 Long Island Press 'Power List.'

#UnitedWayLI #LiveUnited

If you know a graduating high school senior, don't let them miss out. Scholarship applications are still open! Visit [www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships-memorials-funds](http://www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships-memorials-funds) for more information.



# Congratulations

United Way of Long Island Board Members

United Way of Long Island  
**LONG ISLAND PRESS**  
**POWER LIST**  
LONG ISLAND



**United Way of Long Island**  
Published by Loomly · March 28 at 9:50 AM

YouthBuild Long Island was in Albany for YouthBuild Advocacy Day. YouthBuild participants met with elected officials to speak about their experiences in YouthBuild and why YouthBuild funding should be continued throughout the state. Thank you NYS Assemblywoman Taylor Darling and NYS Senator Kevin Thomas for being strong advocates of YouthBuild Long Island.  
#UnitedWayLI #YouthBuild



**United Way of Long Island**  
Published by Loomly · March 22 at 3:15 PM

The 2024 UNITED IN PURPOSE Celebration Host committee is busy planning our signature event on June 11 from 11:30 am-2 pm at the Crest Hollow Country Club. We are so grateful for their time, talent, and treasure. Please join us! [www.unitedwayli.org/UIP2024](http://www.unitedwayli.org/UIP2024)  
#UnitedInPurpose #LiveUnited



**United Way of Long Island**  
Published by Loomly · February 27

United Way of Long Island is proud to be a grant recipient from the National Grid US Foundation! We are grateful for their continued support in keeping over 1,000 Long Islanders safe and warm through our Project Warmth Program. Thank you, National Grid Foundation!  
#UnitedWayLI #NGFLovesGiving\_25Years

**United Way of Long Island**  
Published by Loomly · March 29 at 9:45 AM

As Women's History Month comes to a close, we take a moment to appreciate the female community leaders on our Board whose passion for United Way of Long Island's work is instrumental in driving results. Thank you for making a difference.  
#UnitedWayLI #LiveUnited



***"Because of National Grid Foundation, I was able to pay my gas and electric bills and now have peace of mind," said Gladys Martinez, a Project Warmth grant recipient.***  
***"The emergency assistance has gotten me through a very difficult time in my life and allowed me to keep a roof over my family's head this winter."***

**THANK YOU**  
National Grid Foundation





United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly April 2 at 10:09 AM

Congratulations to our board member, Jennifer Cona, for being named among the Long Island Business News 2024 Women Who Lead and Influencers in Law. Thank you for all you do to make our communities a better place to live and work.

#UnitedWayLI #Congratulations

# CONGRATULATIONS Jennifer B. Cona, Esq.

Founder and Managing Partner, Cona Elder Law and  
United Way of Long Island Board Member



A Woman Who Leads and an Influencer In Law  
– Long Island Business News, 2024



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly February 15

Thank you National Grid US Foundation for helping us keep over 1,000 Long Islanders safe and warm through our Project Warmth Program.

#UnitedWayLI #NGFLovesGiving\_25Years



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly February 28

Renewable Energy Training PowersUp! In Spanish! Check out [www.unitedwayli.org/SpanishPowerUp1](http://www.unitedwayli.org/SpanishPowerUp1) to learn more about our first cohort.

#UnitedWayLI #PowerUp!



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly March 18 at 9:15 AM

United Way of Long Island is part of the EDCAP Network. We need EDCAP funding in FY24 to help provide direct services in our local community. #StudentLoanDebtNY

**EDCAP Needs \$3.5M in FY24 to Help  
More New Yorkers like Connie**

**"I am so  
grateful for  
EDCAP."**



EDCAP helped Connie navigate the repayment system, consolidate her loans and she now has a payment plan she can manage and a long-term strategy to eliminate her debt.

EDCAP is a program of the  
Community Service Society of  
New York.





United Way of Long Island

**Thank You**