



HEADLINES



Contents

Events

Programs

Media Coverage

Social Media



Events

PROJECT WARMTH



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This past winter, United Way's Project Warmth Emergency Fuel Fund helped 1,123 families on Long Island that did not have to choose between feeding their families and heating their homes.

- 81% required emergency assistance because of a medical emergency, illness or disability.
- 19% needed help because of a loss of job or loss of loved one
- 92% of recipient households had at least one vulnerable person. Elders, young children and individuals with disabilities are most susceptible to extreme temperatures and thus prioritized by Project Warmth.
- 100% of households seek assistance due to a disruption in family income while some are seniors on fixed incomes.
- Project Warmth's partner agencies assist recipients with long-term solutions to financial crisis, including connecting the family to other community resources, such as budget/debt counseling, supplemental food programs or job training services.

unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth



TITLE SPONSOR



UNITED TOGETHER CELEBRATION 2023

Join us as we gather on Flag Day with our friends, neighbors,
business associates and the greater Long Island community.

June 14 • 11:30am-2:00pm • Crest Hollow Country Club

HONORING OUR **FORCES** *for good*

**Anthony J. Stupore Memorial
Volunteer Champion**



Gene M. Bernstein
Chairman of the Board
Northville Industries

**Corporate
Champion**



Managed and operated by
Brookhaven Science Associates

Labor Champions



John J. Murphy
International Representative United Association of
Journeyman and Apprentices and Pipe Fitting Industry
of the United States & Canada



N.Y.S.P.T.A.
New York State
Pipe Trades Association

Join us at United Way's signature event for the almost 700 guests who represent Long Island's most influential labor, industry, and government leaders. To date the event has raised \$595,000 with a goal of \$750,000.

Our distinguished honorees include Gene M. Bernstein, Chairman of the Board, Northville Industries Inc, Brookhaven National Laboratory, and John J. Murphy, International Representative, the United Association of Journeyman and Apprentices and Pipe Fitting Industry of the U.S. and Canada, and the NYSPTA.

To learn more about the event and get tickets, visit: www.unitedwayli.org/2023Celebration

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Richard Kessel, East Coast Progressive Energy Solutions Lewis • Lewis Johs Avallone Aviles, LLP • Make It Count Foundation
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WELCOME VOLUNTEERS



**Bring your company or group to the beach
and help Long Island Veterans.**

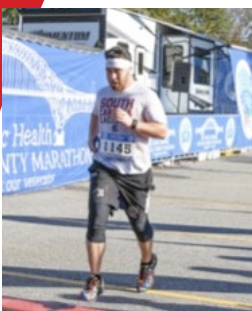
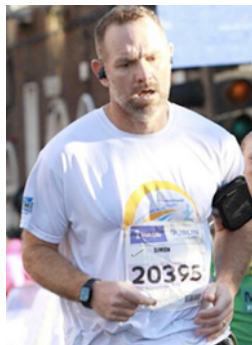
When you volunteer through United Way's Mission United initiative,
you're giving back so veterans can get ahead. Use your time and talent
to create social change where you work or live —
join our community of game changers.

Volunteer Shifts
Saturday or Sunday, 8am – 3pm • May 27 or May 28

**Contact Irene Morlock 631.940.3751 or imorlock@unitedwayli.org
unitedwayli.org/missionunited**



2023 TCS NEW YORK CITY MARATHON



Team Mission United is on a mission to set a new fundraising record this year. With 10 members and 2 on a waiting list, this year's team aims to raise over \$40,000 to support Mission United.

Living in a region with 67,000 U.S. military veterans, the Mission United initiative is a critical resource — food insecurity, housing, mental health services, and financial support for our nation's heroes and their families.

Mission United is a critical funding source for programs of United Way of Long Island supporting U.S. military veterans and their families as they re-acclimate to civilian life. Mission United funding helps provide services and resources in career training, employment assistance and emergency financial aid.

Yocasta & Richard, not pictured

Support the Team today! Offer a Company Match or Sponsor a Runner!

[UnitedWayLi.org/TeamMission United](https://UnitedWayLi.org/TeamMissionUnited)



Programs



We all know people who are ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — earning more than the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford the basics where they live. ALICE workers were celebrated as essential heroes during the COVID-19 pandemic, yet they do not earn enough to support their own families.

ALICE households and households in poverty are forced to make tough choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent — choices that have long-term consequences not only for their families, but for all.

ALICE IN SUFFOLK COUNTY

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed — households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

2021 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 1,526,344 **Number of Households:** Number of Households: 511,951 (2% change from 2019)

Median Household Income: \$113,683 (state average: \$74,314)

Labor Force Participation Rate: 66% (state average: 63%)

ALICE Households: 26% (state average 30%) **Households in Poverty:** 7% (state average 14%)

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Suffolk County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 499,744 households in Suffolk County were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2021 that number had changed to 511,951. Use the buttons below to switch between ALICE data over time by number and percentage.

ALICE IN NASSAU COUNTY

ALICE is an acronym for **A**sset **L**imited, **I**ncome **C**onstrained, **E**mployed — households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county. While conditions have improved for some households, many continue to struggle, especially as wages fail to keep pace with the rising cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials.

2021 Point-in-Time-Data

Population: 1,390,907 **Number of Households:** Number of Households: 459,452 (2% change from 2019)

Median Household Income: \$125,696 (state average: \$74,314)

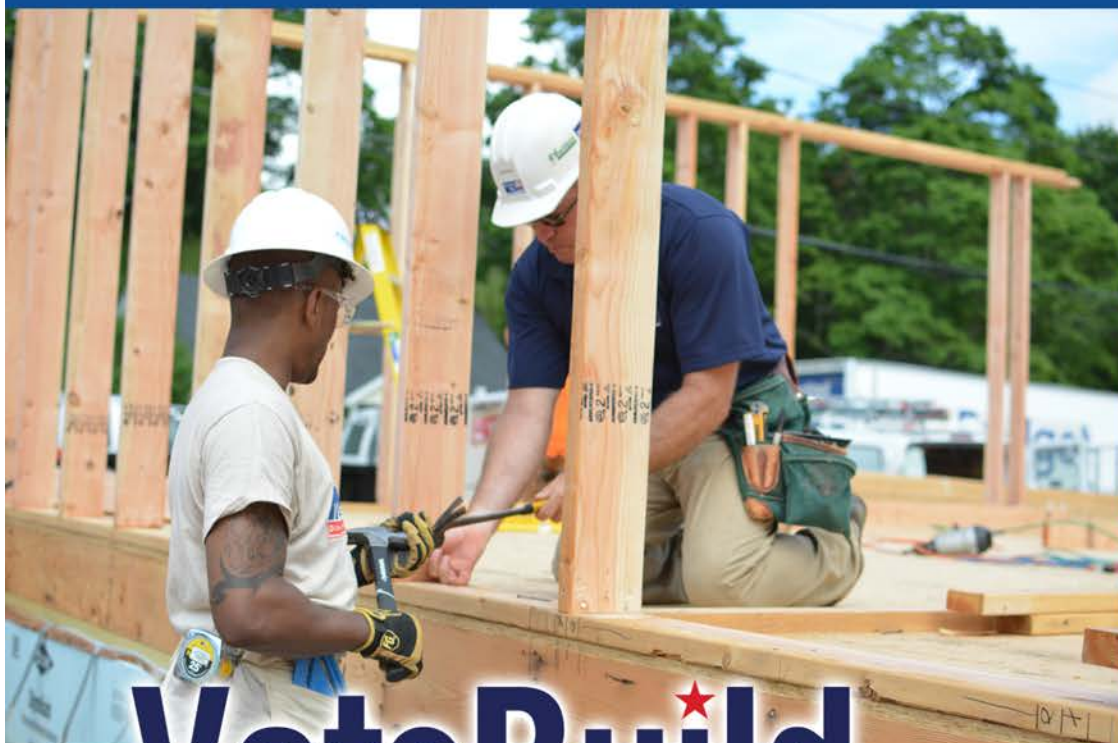
Labor Force Participation Rate: 66% (state average: 63%)

ALICE Households: 19% (state average 30%) **Households in Poverty:** 7% (state average 14%)

Financial Hardship Has Changed Over Time in Nassau County

As circumstances change, households may find themselves below or above the ALICE Threshold at different times. While the COVID-19 pandemic brought employment shifts, health struggles, and school/business closures in 2021, it also spurred unprecedented public assistance through pandemic relief measures. In 2019, 449,798 households in Nassau County were below the ALICE Threshold; by 2021 that number had changed to 459,452. Use the buttons below to switch between ALICE data over time by number and percentage.

This program is **FREE** of charge to all U.S. Veterans



VetsBuild

Changing Lives, Building Futures

Classes
Begin
May 1,
2023

Take Your First Step Towards a Career in Green Construction and Renewable Energy!

Enroll today in **VetsBuild**, a **FREE** United Way of Long Island training program that creates a pathway for veterans to secure careers in the fast growing fields of renewable energy, smart grid and green construction.

Our 4 Week Program Includes:

- Introduction to Renewable Energy
- Hands-on training for Net Zero building
- Building Science Principles certification
- Assistance with Job Placement



BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION
Investing in the Next Chapter for Our Veterans



Scan the QR Code to register or submit your application
at: unitedwayli.org/vetsbuild

Inaugural Funder: Bank of America Charitable Foundation

Program Funders: BAE Systems • Bethpage Federal Credit Union • National Grid • New York Community Bank
NYSERDA • MSC • Flushing Bank • The Lawrence Foundation • Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency



unitedwayli.org/VetsBuild

HOUSE FOR SALE



**3 Bedroom 2 Bath
1300 sq. ft home**



**Home
Completed
June
2023**



**All Electric
Low Carbon Home**

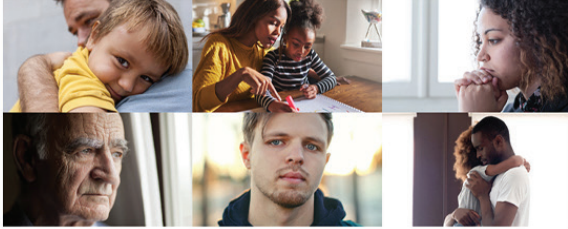


Home to be featured by ABC7 NY in association with Bethpage Federal Credit Union. Air date is during the Bethpage Air Show Memorial Day Weekend.



211 Advocacy

Please help secure \$2.4 million in funding for 211.
This funding ensures 211 is statewide and 365/24/7.
Show your support today. #fund211NYS



Albany Needs to Fund 211 in the State Budget!



211 is a free, confidential phone service and searchable online database that is available 24/7/365, connecting the public to local health and human services agencies.



UNITEDWAYLI.ORG
LONG ISLAND: LET OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS KNOW WE STAND UNITED TO ENSURE 211 FUNDING! | United Way of... [Learn more](#)

Outreach through local elected officials
via social media, letters and phone calls.

211 Long Island es un servicio de información gratuito que conecta a los residentes de Long Island con recursos humanos y de salud, para asistencia con:

- Servicios de salud física y mental
- Alimentos
- Abuso de sustancias
- Asuntos financieros o legales
- Ayuda de emergencia para calefacción
- Hipoteca o alquiler
- Educación y capacitación laboral
- Cuidado de niños o ancianos
- y mucho más...

211 es:

211longisland.org • 24/7/365

Albany Needs to Fund 211 in the State Budget!

211 is a free, confidential phone service and searchable online database that is available 24/7/365, connecting the public to local health and human services agencies.



United Way of Long Island's Scholarship Programs 2023-2024

United Way of Long Island advances the common good, creating opportunities for a better life for all by focusing on three key building blocks: health, education, and financial stability.

We're on a mission to increase opportunities for students who face unique financial challenges which can make education seem out of reach. United Way's Scholarship program is an undergraduate college scholarship program that may be used to pay for tuition, fees and room and board, or commuter allowances, if applicable.



**For a Full Listing of all
United Way of Long
Island Scholarships visit:
[www.unitedwayli.org/
scholarships](http://www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships)
or use the QR Code**

DREAMS for Youth Academic Scholarship:

- Awards range from \$1,000 – Up to \$3,000 for the first year of college
- Open to graduating seniors attending a 4-year college/university or vocational program
- Awards paid over 2 semesters and are based on maintaining a 2.0 GPA
- All payments sent directly to the school

The Camilla G. Belser Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Open to graduating seniors attending a 2-year program at Nassau or Suffolk Community College. Other accredited two-year colleges will be considered
- Awards paid over 4 semesters and are based on maintaining a 2.0 GPA

The Anthony J. Stupore Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Open to graduating seniors majoring in Business Administration/Finance

The Robert B. Read Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Open to graduating seniors attending University of Michigan

The Scott Martella Memorial Scholarship Fund:

- Open to graduating seniors majoring in Public Service (Teaching, Nursing, Non-profit management, Political Science, Social Work, Psychology)



Media Coverage

Print



**This FREE
Program
is Now
Open**



unitedwayli.org/SDAP

Contact 211 Long Island for information and referrals related to education and support services.



Dial 2-1-1, or outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties 1-888-774-7633 and visit 211longisland.org

STUDENT DEBT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

United Way is helping Long Islanders who are struggling with student debt to navigate the loan repayment system and gain financial stability.

We can assist student loan borrowers with:

- Determining repayment options
- Developing strategies for tackling student loan debt
- Accessing student loan forgiveness resources
- Understanding your financial future
- Mediating with loan servicers and lenders
- Obtaining referrals for additional resources



Request an Appointment

Use the QR Code or visit www.unitedwayli.org/SDAP to request an appointment with a Student Debt Counselor. A member of our team will follow up with you to schedule a session within 24-48 hours.

United Way of Long Island is a member of the EDCAP Network.



"As a first generation American, United Way of Long Island's DREAMS for Youth Scholarship helped me fulfill my dream of attending college."



Tomorrow's dreams...Today!

unitedwayli.org/education

Contact 211 Long Island for information and referrals related to education and support services.



Dial 2-1-1, or outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties 1-888-774-7633 and visit 211longisland.org

Yamina, a recent graduate of City College of New York graduated with a B.A. in Business Administration and a B.A. in Psychology. She plans on continuing her education in Project Management to achieve her goal of working in the nonprofit sector.

HELP US MAKE MORE DREAMS COME TRUE!

To learn more about United Way's Scholarship programs visit:

www.unitedwayli.org/scholarships

Determination • Realization • Enrichment • Academics • Mission • Service



LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS

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nationalgrid
Foundation



Left to right: Aaron Choo, Vice President Gas Field Operations, National Grid, Viceite, U.S. National Guard Veteran and Project Warmth recipient; Christine Berardi, Communication Lead/Editor for National Grid Foundation and Craig Fligstein, Chief Grants Officer, United Way of Long Island.

Warmed the Hearts and Homes of Long Islanders This Winter



National Grid Foundation's extraordinary grant of \$350,000 to United Way's Project Warmth kept over 1,000 households warm this winter.

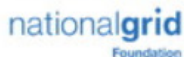


"Because of Project Warmth, I didn't have to choose between keeping my family safe and warm or buying food or medicine. Thank you!"

Vicente, U.S. National Guard veteran and Project Warmth Recipient

Project Warmth is a safety net for financially struggling individuals and families who are unable to pay their heating bill. This program provides a one-time grant for fuel and/or fuel-related electricity bills. To contribute visit: www.unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth

Project Warmth Signature Sponsors of \$10,000 or more



Project Warmth Sustaining Supporters

Brookhaven Science Associates • Capital One • Carbo Industries • Esquire Bank • Flushing Bank • GEICO • The Horace & Army Hagedorn Fund at NY Community Trust • Island Outreach Foundation • J-Power USA • The Randi and Clifford Lane Foundation • Matthew T. Melton Foundation • M&T Bank • NICE Bus Foundation • NYS Energy Coalition • Orsted/ Eversource • Petro Suezey Fuel • UPS • Media & Transit Supporters: Connoisseur Media Long Island • Newsday • Cox Media Group • NICE Bus • Long Island Business News • Long Island Press

United Way of LI scored \$249K workforce development grant

United Way of Long Island has scored a \$249,000 New York State workforce development grant.

The funding is for United Way's Power Up Wind, Solar & Renewables training program.

The free, high-skilled training program is designed to foster a path for culturally diverse young adults who are interested in building careers in renewable energy, clean tech, offshore wind, solar and advanced manufacturing. The grant aims to reward innovative, best practices that reduce the barriers to participation for high-need communities.

The program was developed with input from industry partners to ensure it is responsive to industry needs, as well as providing trainees transferable and industry-recognized skills, according to New York State.

"The most important investment we can make is in the people of New York," Gov. Kathy Hochul said in a statement about the workforce development grants.

"Our new Office of Strategic Workforce Development will support the needs of New York's businesses while providing resources to training programs that are removing long-standing barriers to the training and skills necessary to thrive in the workforce of the future," she added.

The United Way of Long Island's PowerUp Wind, Solar & Renewables energy career training operates out of United Way's E3 SmartBuild Training Center in Deer Park. The center includes a portable prototype wind turbine. The program was launched in 2022, and since then 115 Long Islanders have completed the 50-hour program curriculum and training. Another 150 are slated to complete the program



File photo

in 2023. According to the New York State Department of Labor, more than 10,000 new industry jobs will be available in New York State by 2030.

The program's graduates have been trained to be proficient in installing clean heating and cooling technologies, high-efficiency HVAC, heat pumps, solar panels, EV charging and the benefits of renewable energy. Forty percent have gained employment since, and according to United Way of Long Island are on their way to financial stability and careers in the energy industry through connections made in

the workforce program. Other graduates are now pursuing advanced training in the field.

"We applaud Gov. Hochul for making an investment in Long Island's future and are grateful for Empire State Development Corporation's Pay for Performance Operating Grant of \$249,000 to expand United Way of Long Island's footprint," Theresa Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in a statement.

"Two years ago, Bank of America's initial grant helped advance our mission focus and strategy to create career pathways

in the offshore wind, renewable/sustainable, smart grid, and green construction industries," she added.

Regnante added that the program "is an example of all the good that comes when labor, industry and government work together to benefit all Long Islanders."

The funding for the program is part of more than \$7 million in grants to 14 separate projects across the state.

The grants will support the training of more than 3,700 trainees, for more than 100 employer-partners in New York.

■ AGEN@LIBN.COM

► NONPROFIT



Lynda Nicolino

Lynda Nicolino has joined the board of directors of United Way of Long Island as chair. She is the chief legal counsel of Bethpage Federal Credit Union.



Aaron Choo

Aaron Choo has joined the board of United Way of Long Island. He is vice president of National Grid's Downstate New York Gas Field Operations and Programs.



Erick Hunt

Erick Hunt has joined United Way of Long Island as a board member. He is director of Brookhaven National Laboratory's Research Partnership & Technology Transfer.



Christine Velia

Christine Velia recently rejoined Concern Housing as senior legal counsel. Velia spent 14 years as the development director of this affordable/supportive housing organization.

► ADVERTISING



Mackenzie Smith

EGC Group in Melville welcomed Mackenzie Smith who will be serving as account manager. She is graduate of Ohio University, where she majored in communications with a minor in marketing.

► SUBMISSIONS

We welcome announcements for businesspeople who work in Nassau or Suffolk. Please include your title and the name and town of your company. Also, include the title, company name and town for your most recent position. Submit your Movers & Shakers releases to jdowd@libn.com or online at www.libn.com. You must send a photo to be considered for publication. The photos must be high-resolution, color JPEGs of at least 200 dpi in size.



LI People ON THE MOVE



MAGNACARE

Michelle Zettergren of Manhattan, president of MagnaCare in Manhattan, has been appointed to the board of directors of the **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park.



UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND

Ryan Stanton of Sayville, executive director of the Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO, and the Labor Education & Community Service Agency in Hauppauge, has been appointed to the board of directors of the **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park.



UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND

Erick Hunt of Brookhaven, director of Brookhaven National Laboratory's research partnerships and technology transfer in Upton, has been appointed to the board of directors of the **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park.

— DIANE DANIELS

Send submissions to peopleon.themove@newsday.com

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See who else
has a new position
newsday.com/onthemove

\$249G BOOST FOR GREEN ENERGY TRAINING

NY State grant continues United Way job program

BY MARK HARRINGTON
mark.harrington@newsday.com

New York State is providing a \$249,000 grant to fund United Way of Long Island's Power Up! Wind, Solar & Renewables program to train a new, culturally diverse green-energy workforce.

United Way launched the program in 2022 with an initial \$250,000 grant from Bank of America. The program combines classroom learning with on-the-job training to develop a labor force in the burgeoning solar, wind and related green-energy fields.

United Way of Long Island is one of 14 recipients of \$7 million in new funding announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul last week through the state Office of Strategic Workforce Development. The money will support the training of more than 3,700 workers "through collaboration between training providers and more than 100 employer partners in fields like advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and construction," the state said.

In a statement, Hochul said the workforce office will "support the needs of New York's businesses while providing re-



AP / JOHN MINICHILLO

United Way's program aims to prepare workers in fields including solar energy.

sources to training programs that are removing long-standing barriers to the training and skills necessary to thrive in the workforce of the future." The office made \$6 million in workforce grants last year.

The agency is making "smart and strategic investments in programs that will provide New York State's workforce with the tools they need to succeed in an ever-changing business climate," Hope Knight, president and chief executive of Empire State Development, said in a statement.

The 50-hour Power Up! training curriculum covers technical, functional and "soft skills that will lead to employment in

the renewables and green-construction sectors," United Way said when the program was announced in 2021.

With the program's first-year Class of 2022, 115 Long Islanders have completed the training. Another 150 will complete it in 2023, United Way said, adding that the program seeks to train the unemployed and veterans as well as youth entering the job market.

Power Up! graduates are proficient in the installation of clean heating and cooling technologies, solar panels, electric-vehicle charging and the benefits of renewable energy, United Way said. Some 40% of graduates are already in the

workforce, according to the organization, and "on the way to financial stability and careers in the energy industry through connections made in the workforce program."

"Two years ago, Bank of America's initial grant helped advance our mission focus and strategy to create career pathways in the offshore wind, renewable/sustainable, smart grid and green construction industries," said Theresa Regnante, United Way of Long Island's president and CEO. "Power Up! is an example of all the good that comes when labor, industry and government work together to benefit all Long Islanders."

LI People ON THE MOVE

newsday.com/onthemove



NATIONAL GRID

Aaron Choo of East Williston, vice president of National Grid's Downstate New York gas field operations and programs in Melville, has been appointed chair elect of the board of directors of the **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park.



BETHPAGE FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Lynda Nicolino of Sayville, chief legal counsel of the Bethpage Federal Credit Union in Bethpage, has been appointed chair of the board of directors of the **United Way of Long Island** in Deer Park.

Home > Economy > United Way of LI scores \$350K in grant for winter fuel relief



United Way of LI scores \$350K in grant for winter fuel relief

Adina Genn // February 24, 2023

Twitter Facebook LinkedIn Print Email

More than 500 Long Island at-risk households are getting a financial assist to stay warm this winter. That's thanks to a grant received by **United Way of Long Island** from the National Grid Foundation, a Partner of Project Warmth.

Recent data shows that increasingly, more families are having trouble making ends meet, with some individuals working several jobs to meet costs. Home heating prices have rapidly increased, and the grant will help those who experience economic challenges.

"This year, more than ever, as energy prices and inflation are putting such a strain on our customers and communities, National Grid Foundation is pleased to again be able to help our neighbors by continuing our annual support of United Way's Project Warmth," Ed White, executive director of the National Grid Foundation and vice president of Social Impact for National Grid, said in a statement.

"We are especially thrilled the funding this season will offer even more relief for fuel-neutral energy costs during this unprecedented situation," White added. "We have a long history of serving as a community partner, understand the critical need in our communities, and want our customers to know we are here to help. We are grateful to organizations like United Way as they help deliver so many much-needed services during this trying economic time."

This financial support helps families with economic challenges meet other expenses.

"The National Grid Foundation's grant means that hundreds of households with children and seniors who are especially vulnerable to the cold will not have to lower their thermostats or put on layers of sweaters to stay warm in their own home – they will not have to make the heartbreaking decision whether to put food in their refrigerator or pay for a heating bill, Theresa Regnante, president and CEO of United Way of Long Island, said in a statement. "United Way is grateful for the unwavering support of National Grid Foundation in our effort to keep our neighbors safe and warm."

Since its inception, Project Warmth has helped to fill the need for emergency heating assistance on Long Island, raising more than \$11 million to help more than 30,000 families. For assistance regarding Project Warmth, contact United Way's 211 helpline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by dialing 2-1-1, or outside of Nassau and Suffolk Counties 1-888-774-7633, or visit 211longisland.org, unitedwayli.org/projectwarmth.

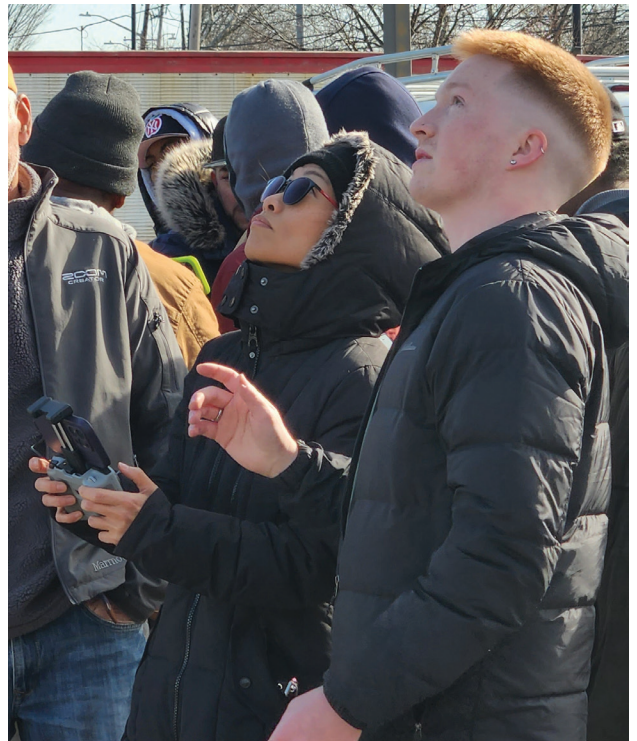
POWERUP!

Wind, Solar & Renewables Career Training



Man Nga Chan wanted to change jobs in a new career field. She enrolled in United Way of Long Island's Power Up! program and was introduced to the Building Performance Institute, Inc. (BPI), the nation's premier certification and standard-setting organization for home performance professionals.

Before she completed the PowerUp! program, BPI offered Man Nga a job. She is now Director of Program and Market Development at BPI, helping states secure a highly qualified workforce to meet their goals and ensure that home performance professionals are positioned for an enduring career in the industry. "Power Up! provided cutting-edge skills and knowledge in the fastest-growing sustainable jobs that pay well. I can support my family and have a dream career."



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BPI Welcomes Man Nga Chan as Director of Program and Market Development

New partnership will help historically underrepresented groups join workforce

Saratoga Springs, NY - BPI is pleased to welcome Man Nga Chan as the new Director of Program and Market Development.

Opportunities for home performance have grown in the last year, prompted by the Inflation Reduction Act, growing concern about energy prices, and rising awareness of indoor air quality issues. As Director of Program and Market Development, Man Nga will help states secure a highly qualified workforce to meet their goals and ensure that home performance professionals are positioned for an enduring career in the industry.

"We are so happy to have Man Nga with us," says CEO Larry Zarker. "Her track record for building alliances is very impressive, and her attitude and values are a great match with BPI."

Man Nga Chan (first name pronounced as "Manga," like the Japanese anime term) has extensive work experience in branding and marketing in the public and private sectors. She is skilled in developing strategic partnerships with national and local government organizations and institutions of higher learning, to promote sustainable technology development.

Previously, Man Nga served as a UN Economic and Social Council member representative on behalf of the International Clean Energy Consortium in Switzerland. Man Nga holds a master's degree in public health from the CUNY Graduate School of Public Health and Health Policy and a Graduate Diploma in Law from the City University in London.

Man Nga is passionate about raising awareness of healthy living through nutrition education, physical activity, and creating healthy home environments. When she isn't working or teaching nutrition, you can find her and her partner sailing on the Hudson River in New York City.





TOP STORIES

Advocates: Elderly



As the population of older adults grows, rising number is in poverty

BY OLIVIA WINSLOW
olivia.winslow@newsday.com

ONLY IN NEWSDAY

Michele Fedinic says she “lost everything” to people she thought were trustworthy friends, but turned out to be swindlers who duped her out of her hard-earned savings. Her financial situation turned so dire, she said, she lost her Valley Stream home to foreclosure.

Frail, with a litany of health issues — including bouts of squamous cell skin cancer and Stage 3 colon cancer — Fedinic, 64, is unmarried with no immediate family. She gets by on federal Supplemental Security Income disability benefits, as well as several prepared meals she has received weekly since 2019 from the Meals on Wheels program.

Fedinic is among the nation’s elderly population that has grown dramatically over a decade, according to a new study by the Center for an Urban Future, a New York City-based think tank. Analyzing census data, the study found that between 2011 and 2021, the 65 and older population in New York State boomed to nearly 3.5 million people, more than the entire population of 21 states. And growing shares are living in poverty, the study said.

Though not yet 65 years old, Fedinic is eligible for many senior services, which start at age 60 for some programs and 62 for others.

For Fedinic, the EAC-Network’s Meals on Wheels program has been a lifeline.

The EAC-Network, a nonprofit, delivered 130,000 meals to Nassau County residents ages 60 and up in 2022, said president and chief executive Neela Mukherjee Lockel. It also served more than 6,000 seniors and handed out 20,000 meals last year at the four senior centers it operates under contract with Nassau County in Point Lookout, Hempstead Village, Port Washington and North Merrick.

“Meals on Wheels is very

important,” Fedinic said in an interview at her one-bedroom apartment in East Rockaway recently. “Number one, if you can’t get out and about and do shopping, or if you’re not strong enough to do cooking, having that meal provided and delivered to you, that’s crucial.” Fedinic rarely goes out, only to doctors’ appointments that her landlord often takes her to, she said.

Then, Fedinic said, there’s the cost of food.

“By the time you pay rent, all the medical insurance, medication costs, doctor costs, there’s nothing left for food,” Fedinic said.

She said Meals on Wheels delivered a total of five meals a week.

“They bring three frozen meals one day, two another [day],” she said “Then with each delivery you also get bread, butter, fresh fruit, juices, apple sauce, usually a pudding and a cookie for dessert. I mean, it’s a miracle.”

To emphasize just how important she views Meals on Wheels, Fedinic followed up in a phone message later saying, “I just wanted to make sure that you stress the fact that without Meals on Wheels and Jennifer and Gary [EAC-Network workers], I would be dead because I would have nothing to eat. It’s a tough thing to say but, unfortunately, it’s very true.”

‘Increase in poverty’

The Center for an Urban Future study, “Keeping Pace With An Aging New York State,” said those age 65 and older in New York were experiencing “an increase in poverty.”

The study also found an “expanding share of the state’s older adults are immigrants and people of color,” and overall the growth of those aged 65 and older was increasing at a level that was “outpacing overall population

Michele Fedinic, 64, of East Rockaway says she depends on food deliveries from Meals on Wheels.



TOP STORIES

need more help

Aging in New York State and Long Island

Between 2011 and 2021, the state's population of people 65 and older grew 31%, from 2.6 million in 2011 to nearly 3.5 million in 2021. The state's total population in 2021 was estimated at 19.84 million.

Nassau County

- Those 65 and over increased by 51,593 between 2011 and 2021 from 205,110 to 256,703 in 2021.
- The number of older adults in poverty increased 66%, from 12,366 in 2011 to 20,473 in 2021.
- The number of foreign-born older adults increased by 52%, compared to U.S.-born older adults, who increased 17%.
- The county is now home to more than 75,000 foreign-born older adults, with immigrants now comprising 29% of the county's older adult population, up from 24% a decade ago.

Source: Center for an Urban Future analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2011 and 2021 estimates.

Suffolk County

- Those 65 and over rose by 62,077 — from 207,128 in 2011 to 269,205 in 2021.
- The county has more older adults than all but three counties in the state, Queens, Brooklyn and Manhattan.
- The number of older adults in poverty increased 64% — from 10,767 in 2011 to 17,610 in 2021.
- The population of Latino older adults nearly doubled in the county, increasing by 11,505, the largest increase outside of New York City. The county is now home to 41,512 foreign-born older adults.

growth in every one of the state's 19 largest counties and most of its largest cities, including Rochester, Syracuse, Yonkers, Albany and New York City."

The report found that the elderly population in Nassau increased by 51,593 and by 62,077 in Suffolk County between 2011 and 2021. That contrasted with a decline in the number of people under 65 in both counties: 3,493 in Nassau and by a much larger 35,964 in Suffolk.

A need to increase funding

Several Long Island advocates who assist the elderly said the data pointed to the need to increase funding for programs, with one saying that should be done in new ways, from assistance for meals and caregivers to the creation of affordable housing and tax relief.

"It's hard when you've got \$3,000 of income coming in and \$1,500 in taxes, and keeping your house free and clear of any liens," said Theresa Regnante, president and chief executive of the United Way of Long Island. "It's just a lot of pressure being on a fixed income."

It points to a major challenge for service providers and governmental leaders who hold the purse strings.

"I think we've seen that there's not enough senior services compared to other parts of the country," said Karen Boorshtein, president and chief executive of the Huntington-based Family Service League, which has more than 60 programs at 20 locations aiding children, adults, families and seniors. "I feel like New York State is behind. We need to provide care for our seniors to age in place at home, if possible." And to do it, she said, by providing "quality health care aides" who needed to be paid more "because they're caring for our elderly. You want to make sure we get top notch care."

Regnante advocated for the creation of a "dedicated funding stream" solely for seniors to pay utility bills, medication, meals and the like.

United Way's "Safe At Home" program for seniors in Huntington, Brookhaven, Islip and Babylon towns, Regnante said, uses "community navigators" to assist seniors 62 and up. "They need someone to help them go shop" or pay utility bills. The program also includes safety inspections in the homes.

"When we walk through homes, we see the deterioration. They need far more work than the [\$2,000] grant allows.

... We ought to be able to do more in these communities," Regnante said

Reduce health care costs

A local economist, John Rizzo, who is a professor at Stony Brook University, said the growth of Long Island's elderly population posed challenges for the region "because you have a smaller working force supporting a larger retired community. What do we do about that?" One thing policymakers should focus on, he said, was lowering the cost of "health care, to the extent possible," particularly prescription drug costs for the elderly.

A case in point is Fedinic. Living off a disability check that now is about \$2,300 a month, Fedinic said she paid \$1,300 a month in rent. She takes around a dozen medications for her various illnesses, which also include tremors affecting her limbs and voice, acid reflux, balance issues, intestinal issues, and arthritis, she said.

One medication alone costs \$559 for a three-month supply, she said. Some of the cost is deducted from her disability as part of her Medicare insurance premium: Medicare Part B, she said, costs her about \$160 a month, plus another \$13 a month is deducted for a separate drug plan. Then there's Medicare Part C, which helps cover what Part B doesn't, and costs \$217 a month, she said, and "I have to make the payment myself" because it's not automatically deducted from her disability check.

"Trying to navigate your way through all the agencies and the bureaucracy, it'll drive you nuts," Fedinic said. "I would love to go out and eat. It's not an option. You just don't have the funds for it."

Meanwhile, Nassau and Suffolk governmental leaders pointed to an array of programs available for the elderly, such as numerous senior centers, case management services, assistance with transportation, home-delivered meals, wellness programs, recreational outlets, counseling and more. But they also acknowledged the need to improve or expand services for a growing senior population. Economic development,

they suggested, was a remedy that could create revenue.

"As Suffolk County's population demographics shift and the local economy changes, it is essential we make key investments to protect our most vulnerable," Nicole Russo, a county spokesperson, wrote in an email listing investing in and "reimagining" downtown and commercial districts, making transit improvements and growing more jobs as crucial goals. The county is working with municipalities, nonprofit groups and developers to "construct and rehabilitate housing that is affordable for individuals," Russo added.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman said in an interview, "We're always looking for ways to improve and expand programs so our seniors get as many services as possible, bearing in mind their population is increasing."

Blakeman: Increase tax base

Overall, Blakeman said what was necessary to meet increased funding for programs for seniors or tax relief, as many advocates urged, was growing the tax base, largely by bringing in more businesses.

"I think we need to look at tax relief on a macro basis for everybody," Blakeman said. "One way that you can increase revenues without raising property taxes is through economic development and increasing the tax base of our county. It means building up the economic base by developing jobs and creating economic prosperity."

Beth Finkel, the New York State director of AARP, which advocates for the 50 and older population and financed the Center for an Urban Future's study, cast the obligation for state leaders in moral as well as financial terms to help the elderly, whom she called the "backbones of their communities."

"There's the quality of life" issue, Finkel said, noting that AARP's surveys of its membership shows "they want to age in their own homes and communities. And we also know it's the fiduciary responsible thing for New York State to do. It's cheaper to keep somebody at home than it costs to put them in a nursing home."

LI Charity Gifted \$350K Grant To Warm 500+ Homes This Winter

This is the largest donation the non-profit has received since 1964.



Maureen Mullaney, Patch Staff

Posted Wed, Feb 22, 2023 at 10:10 am ET

Reply (1)



The National Grid Foundation presented United Way of Long Island with a \$350,000 grant on Tuesday. (United Way of Long Island)

DEER PARK, NY — United Way of Long Island, a non-profit organization that supports families in need, recently received its largest donation since 1964.

The National Grid Foundation presented a \$350,000 grant to United Way of Long Island's Project Warmth on Tuesday, to keep more than 500 Long Island households warm this winter.

Recent ALICE Reports saw more Long Island families having difficulties making ends meet, even when working two, or three jobs, a release said. With home heating costs rapidly increasing, United Way's Project Warmth is a "lifeline to neighbors" who are experiencing economic challenges.

"This year, more than ever, as energy prices and inflation are putting such a strain on our customers and communities, National Grid Foundation is pleased to again be able to help our neighbors by continuing our annual support of United Way's Project Warmth," said Ed White, Executive Director of the National Grid Foundation and Vice President, Social Impact for National Grid.

Project Warmth aims to fill the need for emergency heating assistance on Long Island and has raised more than \$11 million to help more than 30,000 families, a release said. It is one of the country's oldest non-government fuel funds and is the primary source of emergency assistance for many households who are struggling financially and have exhausted other options.

Power Up Program Participates In Supply Chain Forum

Students from the United Way of Long Island's Power Up Wind, Solar, and Renewables program participated in the Sunrise Wind Supply Chain Forum in Uniondale recently.

Sunrise Wind, a joint venture offshore wind project between Ørsted and Eversource, held their second full-day New York Supplier Forum to provide local Long Island businesses the opportunity to meet awarded suppliers, and to learn about getting involved in the growing offshore wind industry.

The forum provided students in the program the opportunity to meet directly with Sunrise Wind representatives, businesses helping to build the project, and state officials from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).

John Diaz, United Way of Long Island's Director of Community Impact said, "This was an amazing event for our students to participate in. They got a chance to meet directly with executives from onshore and offshore wind vendors and learned of the many career pathways this fast-growing energy sector offers. It was a perfect complement to the training they received in our program."

United Way of Long Island's Power Up

Wind, Solar & Renewables program is an affiliate of the New York State Department of Labor and provides students with an introduction to renewable energy, including offshore wind. Once completed, the students will have an OSHA 30 certification.

"It was great to see these students' interest in renewable energy and offshore wind," said Jennifer Garvey, Head of Market Strategy for New York for Ørsted Americas.

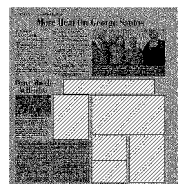
"The offshore wind industry will benefit from the talents and enthusiasm of young people like the Power Up program participants, and hopefully opportunities like this can lead to successful careers in the clean energy sector for more New Yorkers."

"The U.S. offshore wind industry is growing rapidly and creating well-paying clean energy jobs for New Yorkers," said Dennis Galvam, Manager of Offshore Wind Strategic Outreach at Eversource Energy. "Our clean energy future depends on the next generation, and by partnering with great organizations like the United Way of Long Island, we are able to introduce careers in the offshore wind industry to young adults early on - creating a pathway to enter a newly emerging industry that can provide long-term success and opportunity."

—Submitted by United Way of Long Island



United Way of Long Island's Power Up Wind, Solar, and Renewables program, pictured above, at the Sunrise Wind Supply Chain Forum.
 (Photo submitted by United Way of Long Island)



UNITED WAY OF LONG ISLAND TOGETHER WITH ITS COMMUNITY PARTNERS, ADVANCES THE COMMON GOOD BY INVESTING IN AND DEVELOPING PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS LONG ISLANDERS' CRITICAL NEEDS IN EDUCATION, INCOMEFINANCIAL STABILITY AND HEALTH.

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Compiled by the United Way of LA

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Social Media



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With the 2022-2023 cold weather behind us, the United Way's [#ProjectWarmth](#) Fuel Fund Committee would like to express deep gratitude to National Grid Foundation, [National Grid](#), [PSEG Long Island LLC](#), an ...see more



United Way of Long Island Project Warmth 2023
youtube.com

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865 followers
3w • Edited • 

United Way of Long Island is grateful to [Bethpage Federal Credit Union](#) for being the [#TitleSponsor](#) of our UNITED TOGETHER Celebration on June 14th. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor our Forces for Go! ...see more





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Living in a region with 67,000 U.S. military veterans, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet, means United Way of Long Island's Mission United is a critical resource for programs like VetsBuild that support ...see more

**United Way of Long Island**

"United Way of Long Island is proud to partner with the Bob Woodruff Foundation to help ease the burden for thousands of veterans. VetsBuild is not just about teaching home building skills and construction skills. It's also about building lives."



BOB WOODRUFF FOUNDATION
Investing in the Next Chapter for Our Veterans

*Theresa A. Regnante
President and CEO, United Way of Long Island*

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United Way of Long Island is with **NLRB General Counsel** and 5 others. 17h · 🌐

Connected communities are caring communities. At United Way of Long Island, we're getting more Long Islanders involved in our volunteer work. Thank you to our 2023 Team Mission United marathon runners for your tenacity and commitment to raise funds benefiting Long Island's veterans. Learn more about opportunities to be a force for good: <https://loom.ly/NOT0SAI>

#liveunited #unitedtogether #teammissionunited #veterans #missionunited #emergencyfund #tcsnycmarathon2023 #runfora... **See more**

Support Lisa as she runs once again in the TCS New York City Marathon to Benefit Long Island Veterans
unitedwayli.org/Lisa2023

Support Andrew as he runs in the TCS New York City Marathon to Benefit Long Island Veterans
unitedwayli.org/Andrew2023

Support Christine as she runs in the TCS New York City Marathon to Benefit Long Island Veterans
unitedwayli.org/Christine2023

Support Alex as he runs in the TCS New York City Marathon to Benefit Long Island Veterans
unitedwayli.org/Alex2023

United Way of Long Island Published by Loomly · 4d · 🌐

Do you know any students worthy of a scholarship? Our scholarship application is now open! Visit: <https://conta.cc/410HPx>

#liveunited #unitedtogether #communitypartners #listrong #community #collge #scholarships #applynow #graduation2023

do you know a student worthy of a scholarship?

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Do You Know A Student Worthy of a Scholarship?

View as Webpage United Way of Long Island 2023-2024 Scholarship Opportunities Hell...

United Way of Long Island Published by Loomly · 21h · 🌐

April is National Volunteer Month and we are grateful for all the dedicated volunteers who better the lives of others. Please join us by investing in your community with your workplace, a group or individually. With longer days and warmer weather ahead, let's channel that energy to meaningful service! Find out how you can volunteer with United Way and our partners here: https://loom.ly/S_Dga84

#liveunited #unitedtogether #nationalvolunteermonth

United Way of Long Island Published by Loomly · April 6 at 1:42 PM · 🌐

United Way of Long Island is proud to honor Gene M. Bernstein of Northville Industries, Inc, at our signature UNITED TOGETHER Celebration event! Join us on June 14th for an afternoon of networking, community building, and giving back: <https://lnkd.in/d/djhfgeP>

In addition to his service on several boards, including Alfred University, the Nassau County Police Department Foundation, and The The Energeia Partnership at Molloy University, Gene chairs United Way's #ProjectWarmth ... **See more**

HONOR

VOLUNTEER CHAMPION

Gene M. Bernstein
Chairman of the Board
Northville Industries

2023 UNITED TOGETHER CELEBRATION

United Way
United Way of Long Island



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly · March 28 at 2:22 PM ·

Children and youth represent the future of Long Island, so it is critical that we give them the support and tools they need to thrive in their education. United Way of Long Island was proud to provide supplies to the [Brentwood Union Free School District's #ResearchProgram](#). Students are using the monitors in their research lab and audio and recording equipment in a newly renovated library.

#LIVEUNITED #unitedtogether #unitedwayli #communities #youngli #education



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly · April 8 at 3:00 PM ·

United Way of Long Island's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have once again earned it [Charity Navigator's](#) highest "4-star" rating and [Candid #GuideStar's](#) highest "Platinum" rating. For every dollar contributed to United Way of Long Island, 86 cents supports our program impact.

These ratings and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge at [CharityNavigator.com](#) and [Candid/GuideStar.com](#). Learn more: [www.unit... See more](#)



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly · April 1 at 10:59 AM ·

We were thrilled to join our community partner [Pronto of Long Island](#) at their [#DonorAppreciation](#) event. Pronto's mission is to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, welcome the stranger and provide healing and hope to everyone who walks through their doors. Thank you Pronto for representing what it means to be [#UNITEDTOGETHER](#).

Learn more: [www.prontolongisland.org/](#)

#liveunited #unitedtogether #unitedwayli #communities #communitypartner #healing #pronto #joinourcommunity



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly · April 3 at 3:08 PM ·

United Way of Long Island is proud to have [Suffolk Transportation Service, Inc.](#) as an [#EducationSponsor](#) for our 2023 UNITED TOGETHER Celebration on June 14th. We look forward to seeing you there as we honor our Forces for Good champions and community partners!

Get your tickets today: [www.unitedwayli.org/2023Celebration](#)

#unitedtogether #liveunited #unitedtogethercelebration #cresthollow #unitedwayli #veterans #likids #scholarships #powerup #youthbuild #thankyou #laborforce #forcesforgood

THANK YOU



SUFFOLK TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.

for Supporting Our
**2023 UNITED TOGETHER
CELEBRATION**



EDUCATION
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United Way of Long Island is with New York State Energy Coalition.

Published by Isabelle Desilier · March 2 ·

United Way of Long Island's [#projectwarmth](#) is grateful to [New York State Energy Coalition](#) for their continued support to keep Long Island households safe and warm during the winter. This emergency fuel fund allows United Way to help residents from having to make the choice between being cold and fed or warm and hungry.

To learn more about Project Warmth, visit: <http://bit.ly/3ZrMU0q>

[#fuelfund](#) [#UnitedTogether](#) [#LiveUnited](#) [#unitedway](#) [#unitedwayli](#) [#projectwarmth](#) [#longisland](#) [#veterans](#)

"Thank you everybody with Project Warmth for helping me keep my family safe and warm."

Vicente, U.S. National Guard Veteran



United Way of Long Island is with Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO.

March 10 ·

United Way of Long Island proudly welcomes Ryan Stanton, Executive Director of the [Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO](#), (the Federation) and the Labor Education & Community Service Agency (LECSA), as a new member of our Board of Directors. Welcome aboard, Ryan!

To learn more about Ryan and our Board of Directors, visit: <http://bit.ly/3kRuZBO>

[#boardmember](#) [#liveunited](#) [#unitedtogether](#) [#unitedwayli](#) [#TheFederation](#) [#LeCSA](#) [#lifamilies](#) [#60years](#)



Ryan Stanton

Executive Director, Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO

Has been elected to United Way of Long Island's Board of Directors



United Way of Long Island is with NYS YouthBuild Coalition.

Published by Isabelle Desilier · March 9 ·

YouthBuild Advocacy Day has it all...leadership, passion, and energy! We are with the [NYS YouthBuild Coalition](#) in Albany to speak with legislators about how YouthBuild unleashes the positive energy of young people to rebuild their communities and their lives. Through United Way of Long Island, YouthBuild has served over 300 youths, providing access to mental health resources, education, workforce training, job placement, and more.

Get to know YouthBuild: www.unitedwayli.org... See more



United Way of Long Island

Published by Loomly · March 21 at 2:24 PM ·

United Way of Long Island is proud to be an [Imagine Awards Long Island](#) finalist for the [#Innovation](#) category. We wish the finalists good luck and thank them for helping us keep our neighbors and communities healthy, safe and whole. Thank you, [Cerini and Associates, LLP](#), for highlighting all the good work that's being done to unite Long Island and lend a helping hand.

Text "UNITED" to (631) 518-3788 To [#Donate](#) and [#Vote!](#) Stay tuned for the results. Learn more at: <http://bit.ly/3kRuZBO> See more





THANK YOU