



Thanking All Workers Across the State

If you've remained friends with someone for 27 years, do they move out of the *friends* category and into the *family* category? I, for one, can count the number of my 27-year friendships on a few hands. That's a kind of loyalty and devotion that should never be taken for granted, and indeed, I don't.

That's why I am so grateful again this year to the AFL-CIO for being a partner to United Way of Delaware on the annual golf tournament, an event that in its 27 years of existence has raised close to \$1 million to support United Way programs. To me, that certainly puts them in the *family* category.



This year's sold-out Golf Tournament is being held today, coincidentally within the same week we celebrated Labor Day, that date to acknowledge the contributions that workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being.

Ever since COVID-19 turned the world on its head and made us see which workers were actually essential (and who could just stay home), many of us see our neighbors differently.

Now we recognize and thank those who do the essential work -- keeping our supermarkets stocked, our roads repaired, our children cared for, our cars running, the electricity flowing...

Working people have built this country from the ground up. Pouring concrete, laying bricks, running power lines, opening small businesses, caring for people in hospitals, scaling skyscrapers to wash their windows. Union, non-union, blue collar, white collar, pink collar or red collar, every day the American workforce sets off to do their part. I extend my gratitude to each of you for the important part you play.

Labor Day is many things to many people -- the unofficial end to summer, a herald of back to school, the farewell to shorts, sandals and backyard cookouts. And a day to tip our hats to the American workers who make our lives easier. Thank you, one and all.

Sincerely,

Michelle

Michelle A. Taylor, Ed.D.
President and CEO
United Way of Delaware

Celebrating 27 Years of Partnership!

AFL-CIO is partnering with United Way of Delaware (UWDE) on the 27th Annual Golf Classic.

Taking place today at Back Creek Golf Club in Middletown, the sold-out event is one of the biggest tournaments in the event's history. Some 140 golfers are participating, and a record amount of funding has been raised -- approximately \$62,000! For the past six years, the average amount raised was around \$38,000 per year.



In the 27 years this event has taken place, AFL-CIO has raised more than \$900,000 to support UWDE services and programs.

We extend our sincere thanks to Jim Maravelias, President of the Delaware State AFL-CIO, the Volunteer Golf Committee and all the golfers who played for making this year's Golf Classic the great success that it has been in past years.



September is National Literacy Month

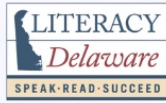
September is National Literacy Month, and it includes Adult Education and Family Literacy Week September 18 – 24, as well. United Way of Delaware, [Literacy Delaware](#), [Delaware Libraries](#), as well as our many partners, celebrate the power of literacy to transform lives, communities, and our state.

This is a month to encourage children and youth to read, read and read. Help them understand the importance of reading proficiency and how it will affect their entire life. Take them to visit the library, find exciting books and explore the world.

In addition, helping adults improve their literacy positively affects their lives, the lives of their children and family members, and society. They're able to get a job more easily, move up in that job, and need less financial aid.

What can you do to help?

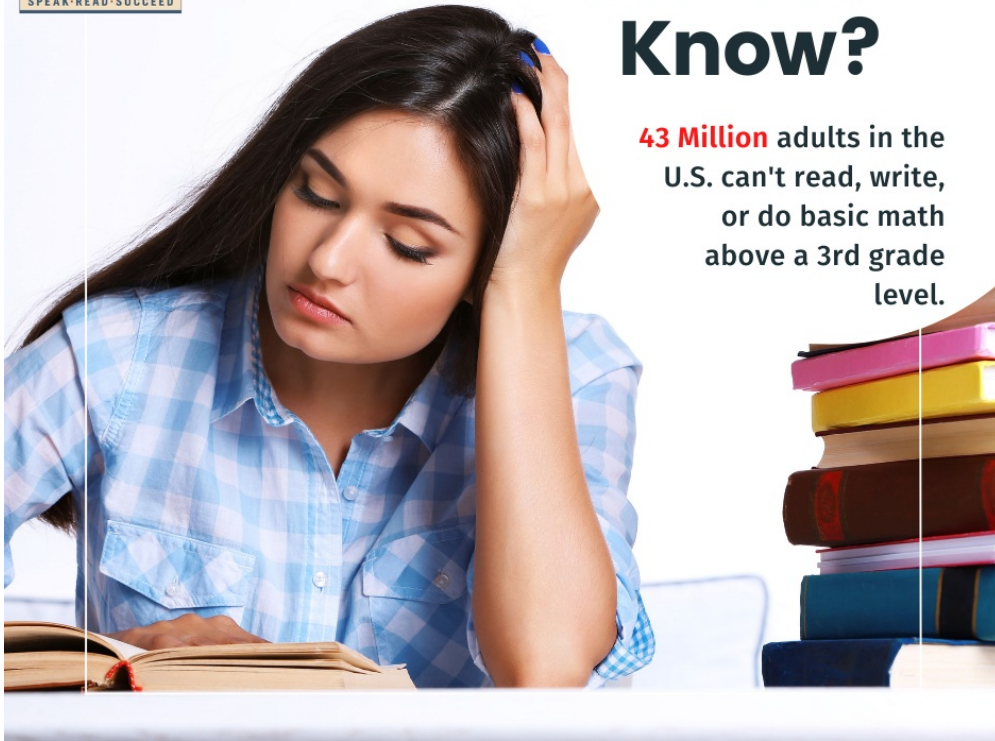
- Parents and caregivers can help children by encouraging and instilling the love of writing and reading as part of their everyday life. Also, they can share stories, talk with kids about their favorite books, and assist them in going to the library or the bookstore to buy new books.
- For kids younger than 10, sit with them and read aloud together. Volunteer at the local library or school if you don't have children. Reading aloud and talking about the pictures in their books strengthens their language skills, literacy development, and your relationship.
- Donate books, and contribute to community book drives, schools and libraries.



Want to know how you can help? Visit:
<https://www.literacydelaware.org/>

Did You Know?

43 Million adults in the U.S. can't read, write, or do basic math above a 3rd grade level.



Give to Support Teachers and Students



Ms. Bell-Knight, featured in the video above, is a third grade teacher at The Bancroft School in Wilmington. Her students face a lot of challenges outside of school. But, when they're in her classroom, they're safe. When they're with her, they can be kids.

Teachers play a critical role in the development of our children. United Way of Delaware's Education team works with schools and other community partners to support students and teachers throughout the year.

Help us provide our educators with resources so they can lead well. We are asking **2,000 Delawareans each to give \$10** to support education. Funds will go towards education initiatives that make a difference in the lives of students and teachers throughout the school year.

When more of us join the fight, we can do more to support our schools. Will you give \$10 today? Please [Give Now](#)

Information and Education Opportunities for Teachers from *My Very Own Library*

By Ken Livingston, Director, Get Delaware Reading

Hello, Valued Community Partners,
I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the *My Very Own Library*/University of Chicago Back-to-School Education Discussion featuring the following speakers:

September 27th Kickoff Event/Lead Agency Panel Discussion:

- * Nicole Angresano, VP United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Waukesha County
- * Dr. Michelle Taylor, CEO United Way of Delaware
- * Catherine Wilson, CEO United Way of Grater Newark, NJ

September 28th Key Note Address and Q&A:

- * Dr. Dana Suskind, Author of Parent Nation
- * Yolie Flores, National Campaign Director for Parent Nations

Please use the registration links below:

* <https://voices.uchicago.edu/myveryownlibrary/2022/08/18/mvol-back-to-school-keynote-address/>

* <https://voices.uchicago.edu/myveryownlibrary/2022/08/18/mvol-back-to-school-lead-agency-panel/>

In other news, here is a Training and Professional Development Opportunity:

The *Graham School Course for My Very Own Library Participating School Teachers and UWDE Community Partners* is now open for registration and is FREE of charge.

Join the University of Chicago Graham School (<https://graham.uchicago.edu>) as our guest for our upcoming course on Recognition, Realization, and Reflection on Race in America.

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. to 8:3 p.m., Online beginning September 27 through November 15, 2022

This course examines the impacts and implications of race in America. We will leverage literary writings from authors and scholars who have examined race in this country to engage in conversations about our own understandings, beliefs, and attitudes about race. Our conversations will leverage historical context and how that impacts the world we live in today. We will discuss how race has impacted our society and shaped and formed the structure of our society for hundreds of years through the current day. We will also discuss how we interpret the impacts of race in our own lives both personally and professionally.

Register by September 16 by filling in your information [here](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions via email at Klivingston@uwde.org

Welcoming Students Back to Stubbs Elementary School!



Members of the community, local government agencies, non-profits and civic organizations attended the *Men of Stubbs First Day of School* event Wednesday, Sept. 7, at the school. The event was held to encourage men to show their support for students by preparing them to learn how to read, write and do basic math proficiency and to support schools, school districts, administrators and teachers.

To learn more about the event, [watch this video from Channel 22](#) news.



Photo by Isaiah Boone

How To Live United

How wonderful it feels to be recognized as an organization that can get things done... even when the request is small. Take a look at this request that came to Ken Livingston's email recently:

Good day, Mr. Livingston,
I received your contact information from 211. I have a client in a homeless shelter with three children. She needs school supplies and does not have transportation. Her children are in grades 8th, 9th, and 11th. Is it possible for me to pick up the book bags, if you have any? If not may your direct me to someone that may still have some?



Of course, the answer was, "Yes, we can help." And we did. That's our way of "Living United."

Reading Angels Literacy Program Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

By Ken Livingston and Wanda Barrett

From September 15 to October 15, United Way of Delaware's *Reading Angels* literacy program will celebrate Hispanic and Latino Cultural Awareness to honor the culture and contributions of both Hispanic and Latino Americans. In doing so, we will celebrate the books and stories that reflect the tradition and rich diversity of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

You can be a Reading Angel, too! To participate, first [register](#) to be a United Way volunteer.

Then, simply visit [September 2022 Reading Angels Opportunity](#), follow the instructions and record your book from the comfort of your own home.

We will share the videos with children across Delaware, encouraging them to read, write, and use their creativity with words. Videos will be highlighted on UWDE's social media platforms on Tuesday and Thursday at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Below are examples of suggested book titles that you can read, but feel free to read any book you choose.

- **[Frida](#)** by Jonah Winter and Ana Juan. In this tribute to Frida Kahlo, Jonah Winter writes, "Frida doesn't cry or complain. Instead of crying, she paints pictures of herself crying." Winter gently explores how Kahlo's suffering shapes her artwork in a way that children will be able to understand.
- **[My Name is Celia: The Life of Celia Cruz](#)** by Monica Brown and Rafael López. Learn about Cruz's childhood in Havana and her entry into the world of salsa music from vibrant illustrations and text presented in English and Spanish.
- **[Tia Isa Wants a Car](#)** By Meg Medina Illustrated by Claudio Munoz. The narrator and her aunt work to save money to buy a shiny green car to take them to the sea. Cheerful illustrations and an upbeat narration with a sprinkling of Spanish words create recognizable characters in a realistic setting.

If you have any questions, email klivingston@uwde.org or wbarrett@uwde.org



Hi, I'm Cassidy Ashworth, a junior at Avon Grove High School, and I've partnered with the United Way to bring new books to Pre-K and Kindergarten students at Stubbs Early Learning Center.
(My mom is also a Board member at United Way.)

Here's what we know: Learning to read in the first years of elementary school is critical for success in future grades. It leads to better health, better employment opportunities, and lifelong learning.



United Way of Delaware

Book Donation Drive

Here's how you can help:
I'm raising money to buy 150 new books for the Pre-K and K students at Stubbs Early Learning Center. Please donate \$5. This will buy 2 books for the children!

Send donations to my venmo @cassidyashworthh (last 4 digits of my phone number are 9955) Or, if you'd prefer to buy a book yourself to donate, let me know by text and I'll send you the link!

Please donate by Friday, Sept. 30
Questions? Call 610-235-9955
Thank you for your support

Partners in the Fight for Equity, Opportunity and Change

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated (DST) is a sisterhood comprised primarily of Black college-educated women. The Sorority is committed to public service with a focus on developing and improving Black communities. DST provides assistance and support through established programs in local communities throughout the world. The major programs of the Sorority are based upon the organization's Five-Point Programmatic Thrust: Economic Development, Educational Development, International Awareness and Involvement, Physical and Mental Health, Political Awareness and Involvement.



The Wilmington (DE) Alumnae Chapter ("WAC") of DST has been implementing impactful programming in the community for more than 70 years. The chapter also has a commitment to partnering with community organizations with similar objectives, such

as United Way of Delaware. This helps to strengthen our focus on the fight for equity, opportunity and change in the Black communities, which will benefit and improve all communities.

Over the last several years, the chapter has collaborated with a number of local organizations to extend financial literacy-focused programming to the community. Our partners have included AARP, "Girlfriends" -- Women's Ministry of Seeds of Greatness Bible Church, the Delaware Division of Small Business, Chase Bank, TD Bank, the Urban League Young Professionals, and the other three Delaware Alumnae chapters of DST.

Our diversity in presentations included the following:

"Financial Fortitude Explosion," a daylong financial literacy, career development and entrepreneur business Expo held in partnership with "Girlfriends," Delta Outreach and Education Center, Inc, United Way of Delaware, New Castle County, Thomas P. Gordon County Executive and many other community associates.

"Financial Empowerment Forum" was held jointly with AARP. Session speakers included the Delaware Deputy Attorney General and Michelle Singletary, a personal finance columnist for the Washington Post as keynote speaker. There was also a very significant presentation by dfree® Young Money, a movement designed to awaken and educate youth and young adults on the importance of incorporating financial wellness as a daily lifestyle.

Webinars that center around COVID economic recovery and increasing state procurement dollars in black businesses.

We made a donation to **"Stand by Me,"** a nonprofit organization powered by the State of Delaware and United Way of Delaware to support initiatives around financial mastery.

Now more than ever, WAC is focused on expanding its economic development programming footprint. As part of its Financial Fortitude initiative, the Sorority is better equipped to increase financial education throughout the community. With the national economic trends and the widening gap between the wealthy and those living in poverty, financial literacy programs are critical. WAC is excited at the prospect of partnering with United Way of Delaware in 2022 and beyond.



From left: Donna Snyder-White, Vice President, Financial Empowerment, Stand

by Me; Glenda C. Brewington, President, Wilmington (DE) Alumnae Chapter; Michelle Taylor, CEO, United Way of Delaware; La'Shawn Ward, Co-chair, Economic Development Committee, Wilmington (DE) Alumnae Chapter

Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative Happenings



UWDE and 100 Black Men Delaware Chapter Partner to Launch Young Men United

United Way of Delaware and 100 Black Men, Delaware Chapter are partnering to conduct a program called *Young Men United* that recently launched in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties.

Young Men United is a mentorship program for young men of color in Delaware for students grades 9-12 and college Freshmen. It focuses on the leaders, organizations, and strategies to improve academic outcomes and helps develop well-educated young men, leaders who can be models for the youth who follow them.

The Kent and Sussex group held their first meeting in June at the Dover Boys and Girls Club. Students who attended were from Polytech High School, Milford High School, Laurel Middle School, and Woodbridge High School. Led by Dr. Julius Mullen, Kent and Sussex co. Cohort Mentor Chair and President of Man Up Leadership, and three alumni from the MAN UP Leadership program shared life lessons and motivational tips.

Global motivational speaker ET Thomas gave a provocative speech entitled "How bad do you want it?" Afterwards, the young men learned proper mechanics for giving a professional handshake by practicing with each other. Finally, the guys interacted with one another while playing games and eating pizza.

As part of the post-session spotlight activity, a parent chose one participant for the Mic'd Up Interview where the participant shares lessons learned from the session.



Sussex County Group

The New Castle County group hosted their first parent orientation and young men meeting on Saturday, August 27 at the Western YMCA in Newark. Students attended from Tower Hill School, St. Georges Technical High School, Wilmington Friends School, Delcastle Technical High School, and Brandywine, Christina, and Howard High Schools.

Kevan Turman, New Castle Co. Cohort Mentor Lead and President of The Brother's Brunch, along with several volunteers from The Brother's Brunch led the students in basketball drills. Coach Ron Hoggard discussed strategic partnerships, awareness, teamwork, and integrity. The young men gathered after to discuss the outcomes and lessons learned from the drills, reviewed the program, received personal journals and discussed next steps.



New Castle County group

Each cohort meets monthly with an agenda that includes lunch, opportunities to volunteer, work shadowing, trips, and more.

If you are interested in signing up for one of our Young Men United Cohorts, please click [here](#).



New Castle Cohort Young Men United member *London Bright* is Delaware Football Nation's High School "Baller of the Week".

Seeking Solutions to Enhance Education in our State

By Brandon Brice

Education is a powerful tool. But, without teachers, a good education becomes harder for many young people to actualize. The truth is, right now, we're in the middle of an education crisis. Teachers are leaving the profession in droves. The mass exodus is creating staffing shortages in our schools, which is widening the education gap even more for students in our most vulnerable communities.

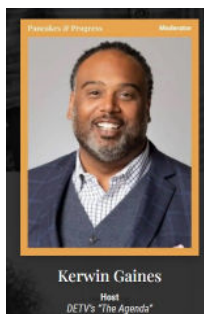
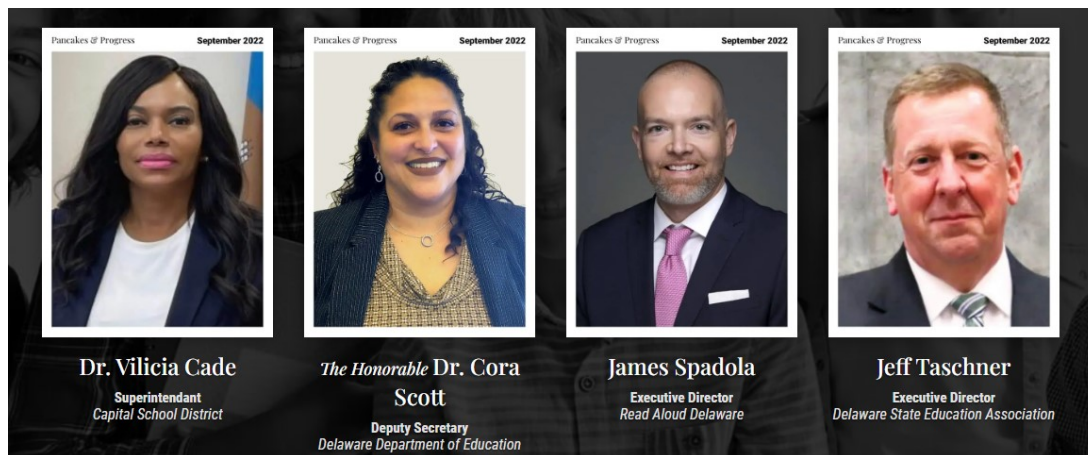
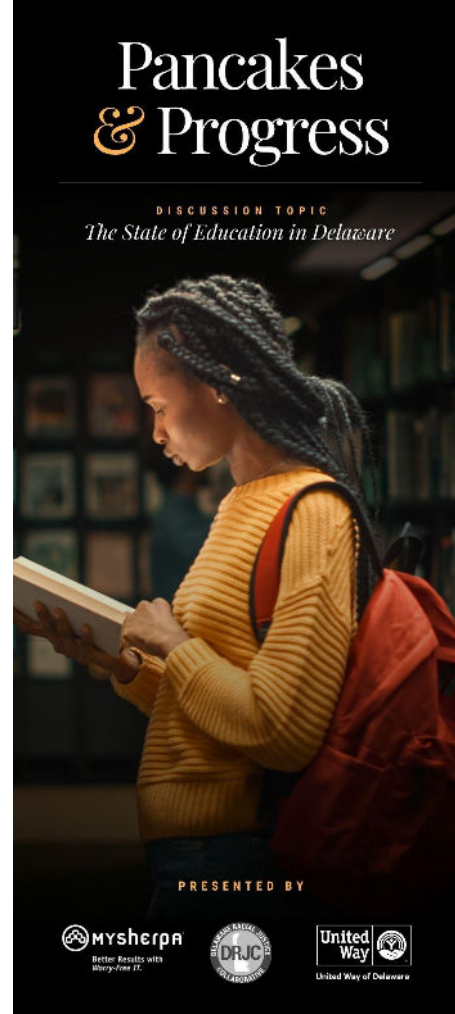
The success of our children weighs heavily on the education WE GIVE THEM, but we MUST do better.

On September 30th, we are going to start a conversation regarding the issues holding back our education system in Delaware. This discussion will be held during our next **Pancakes & Progress** event. Pancakes & Progress is a quarterly series hosted by United Way of Delaware that creates a place to discuss important topics affecting our communities. The goal of this event is to come together and start to find ways to improve education in our state through conversation and dialogue.

We're reaching out because we need people in the room who are willing to be part of the solution.

We invite you to join moderator **DETV's Kerwin Gaines**, and panelists **Dr. Vilicia Cade**, the **Hon. Deputy Secretary Dr. Cora Scott**, **Councilman James Spadola**, and **Executive Director Jeff Taschner** for an in-depth conversation about the state of Delaware's education system.

Reserve your spot now.



Pancakes & Progress is sponsored by **MySherpa**.

Wilmington Country Club
Sept. 30th
8:30 am (Doors open at 7:45am).

We look forward to seeing you and to making an impact for the children of our state.

Election Day in Delaware: Get Out and VOTE!

Election Day is next Tuesday, September 13 and early voting is open! Has it been a

while since you last voted? Are you voting for the first time? Not sure who you're voting for?

We've rounded up some reminders and resources to make exercising your right to vote easy:

- Early voting is about to end! Early voting is available at [designated polling places](#) through Sunday, September 11. You can vote at any early voting site in your county.
- Bring a form of ID when voting! Voters must show one of the following forms of identification. If you do not have one of these forms of identification, you can sign an affidavit of affirmation that you are the person listed on the election district record.
 - State-issued photo ID
 - Utility bill
 - Paycheck
 - Any government document with the voter's name and address

Not registered to vote yet? Same-day voter registration (SDR) makes it easy! If you vote in person on Election Day you can register to vote *and* cast your ballot all at the polling place thanks to the passage of HB 25. Just be sure to bring one of the above forms of identification with you.

Keep in mind that you must be registered with a political party to vote in the primary election which can easily be done with SDR. **If you are a previously registered voter, you cannot change your party affiliation at the polls**

To find what's on your ballot, where your polling place is, or to register to vote, **Vote411** is a fantastic comprehensive resource with answers to all of your questions!

UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE | PRIDE COUNCIL | UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE

10th Annual
**ANTI-BULLYING/ GSA
SUMMIT**

The 10th Anti-Bullying Summit is a half-day gathering to connect and uplift members of Gender Sexuality Alliances, their parents, advisors, and allies that support them as they fight for equity and justice.

Saturday | October 15, 2022
 11 am - 3:30 pm
 Georgetown, DE

To register, text **GSA22** to **91999** or, visit **uwde.org/GSA**



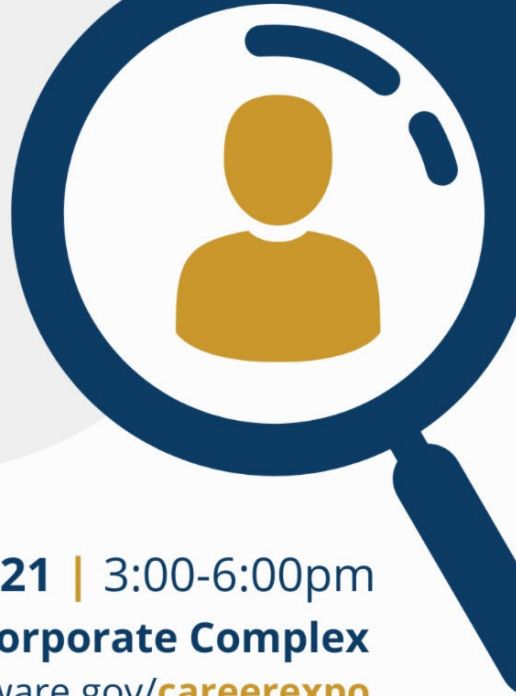
PRIDE COUNCIL | UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE

Governor's Central Delaware **CAREER EXPO**

Learn about careers in a
variety of fields, including:

-  **Construction**
-  **Education**
-  **Health care**
-  **Logistics**
-  **Manufacturing**
-  **Public Service**
-  **Transportation**

And many other professions!



September 21 | 3:00-6:00pm

 **Blue Hen Corporate Complex**

governor.delaware.gov/careerexpo

Thank you to our sponsors!



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Delaware State Housing Authority is partnering with state legislators to bring awareness and answer questions about the [Delaware Mortgage Relief Program](#). Visit demortgagehelp.com for more information and links to each partnership event.

Delaware Mortgage Relief Presentation



Hosted in partnership with
Representative Ruth Briggs King



Monday, August 29
6:00 p.m.



Virtual Via Webex



Register Here:

<https://bit.ly/DEMRF-AugustSession>

Delaware Mortgage Relief Presentation



Hosted in partnership with
Representative Kevin S. Hensley



Tuesday, Sept. 13
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.



Odessa Fire Hall
304 Main St., Odessa, DE



Apply Today:

www.demortgagehelp.com

Delaware Mortgage Relief Presentation



Hosted in partnership with
Senator Marie Pinkney



Wednesday, Sept. 21
6:00 p.m.



Virtual Via Zoom



Learn More Here:

www.demortgagehelp.com

Delaware Mortgage Relief Presentation



Hosted in partnership with
Representative Madinah Wilson-Anton



Wednesday, Sept. 28
7:00 p.m.



Virtual Via Zoom



Learn More Here:

www.demortgagehelp.com



Saturday, September 17

Wilmington: Brandywine Park:

North Park Drive, near Brandywine Zoo and Josephine Fountain.

Rehoboth Beach: Grove Park:

Columbia Avenue and Grove Street, near the Visitor's Center and Rehoboth Beach Museum.

**AIDS Walk Delaware is the state's largest and oldest
HIV/AIDS fundraising and awareness event.**

We hope to raise \$100,000 in support of free HIV testing, education and prevention programs, case management services, HIV-specific mental health counseling, and housing services.

Find out more: <https://aidsdelaware.salsalabs.org/2022AIDSWalkDelaware/index.html>



Coming Soon! Festival Hispano!

**In Wilmington on Sept 11
In Georgetown on Sep 18**

In Delaware, the Hispanic Festival has been a tradition since 1976, brought to you by dedicated volunteers serving Nuestras Raices DE Inc. This event is an opening celebration to Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept 15 through Oct 15.



UWDE's Latinos Unidos will be there! Come join the celebration with us!



It's Easy to Support United Way of Delaware

Your donation to United Way helps us work to make Delaware a great state to live, work and play for all our neighbors.



[Make an online donation here](#)

Start With a Smile

Shopping at Amazon? Start at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and feel better about spending money! Just set United Way of Delaware as your charity of choice. Then spend away and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to us — no fees, no extra cost!



United Way of Delaware | 625 North Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

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