



## Live Today. Tomorrow Isn't Promised

I'd like to wish all of you a happy, healthy 2023. As always, the new year gives us time and inspiration to pause, to reflect where we've been and be intentional about where we're going.

We take stock – have we been present enough with our entire family? Have we contributed to the wellbeing of others in some concrete way? Have we taken a stand for things we believe in?

Pausing and reflecting for my husband, my family and me this year is unlike any other. You may know that our son Vernon L. Taylor, Jr., passed away suddenly and unexpectedly in December at the age of 36.



So many of you have reached out to us and we have gained strength from your love and prayers. We are deeply grateful for your expressions of caring. One of the greatest honors and joys of our lives has been the privilege of being parents to Vern Jr. We will forever love him and will always carry him in our hearts.

Your prayers and thoughtfulness helps keep us focused on moving forward to find a new normal, and I thank you for your support. I don't expect this will be an easy or brief journey and it is comforting to know I can count on you to be with me.

People often give lip service to sayings about life being fragile, short and unpredictable. Sadly, the Taylor family learned that truth the hard way. And we are far from alone. Countless people in Ukraine and Russia are processing deaths of their loved ones; sports fans are watching to find the fate of Damar Hamilton; actor Jeremy Renner was critically injured while plowing snow at his home. We are praying for their complete recoveries. No one knows what tomorrow brings.

As you enter 2023, do so with gusto! Plan a trip, indulge in a hobby, host dinner parties. Always have a joke or an interesting story to tell.

If you're thinking about new behaviors to incorporate into your life in 2023, here are three I suggest:

- 1) Tell and show people that you love them, and repeat it often
- 2) Be kind, forgive people and don't hold grudges; you may never get the chance to take back harsh words or actions
- 3) Pray for others in need. I believe that prayer works
- 4) Live intentionally each day; it could be your last
- 5) Go out and do good things.

With love and gratitude,

## Nearly 1500 Children and Families Served at Winter Wonderlands Across the State

In partnership with the Schellville Holiday Event, Laurel Library, Dover Library, and Wilmington Public Library, along with generous donors from all around the state, United Way of Delaware conducted our second annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Resource Fair and Coat and Toy distribution in December.

This state-wide event aimed to connect families and children with community resources that support early education success, enhance students' love of reading, teach financial literacy, and promote health & wellness.

This was our second Winter Wonderland event with local libraries. This partnership demonstrates the effectiveness of community collaboration and its ability to magnify reach into the community. We are proud to highlight the versatility of libraries to not only serve as a champion of literacy but also as a community hub that provides access to technology, art & culture, workshops, and easily access to community resources.

We want to thank all of our partners, sponsors and families who came out to experience a winter wonderland community experience. Through this collective effort, 1,415 students/families were served throughout our state. Additional thanks go to Mariah Carr for driving the process from counting coats and toys to arranging drops off's. Thanks also to our interns Nandi Richey, Nysier Juekins, Tyrone Kearse and Mya Joy Reeves who helped sort coats and toys and attended the events. And a special thanks to the Delaware 211 team who took all of the many calls and requests for the Winter Wonderland coat and toy drive.

### **New Castle County Winter Wonderland Impact:**

United Way of Delaware & Wilmington Public Library brought together community resources with more than 400 participants and children from 37 schools receiving resources, a new coat and a toy. We would like to thank our amazing community partners for helping to make our event a success.

The Ashworth Family  
City of Dover, City Council  
Solenis, LLC  
Westside Health  
Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor  
Richards, Layton & Finger  
OneMain Financial  
James N. Spadola, City of  
Wilmington City Council  
Gamma Theta Lambda Education  
Foundation, Inc  
Senator Chris Coons  
First State Community Action  
Agency/Delaware Father and  
Family Coalition

Delaware 211  
UWDE Stand By Me  
Books, Balls, and Blocks  
Delaware Readiness Team  
AmeriHealth Caritas De  
Children's and Families First  
Love Is The Key Foundation  
Quality Insights  
Easter Seals  
Alliance for Adolescent Pregnancy  
Prevention  
Girls Inc.  
Delaware Blue Coats  
Delaware First  
Wilmington Public Library  
Raymour and Flanigan



### Kent & Sussex County Winter Wonderland

Held at the Dover and Laurel Public Library, Winter Wonderland in Kent and Sussex Counties provided an experience for families to connect with resources and receive new coats in Kent County, providing over 445 participants and children from some 30 schools, early learning centers, and homeless shelters receiving resources, new coats, and a toy. Kent County (Dover Library location) also provided a COVID-19/Flu vaccination clinic. Parents received information on preparedness and protection against viruses that arise from the cold weather. We extend our sincere thanks to our excellent partners.

- Westside Family Healthcare
- Delaware Readiness Teams
- UWDE Stand By Me
- Love Is The Key Foundation
- AmeriHealth Caritas
- Kent County Black and Brown Community Coalition
- Quality Insights
- Children and Families First
- Courageous Hearts in Lincoln Delaware

- Delaware First
- Boys and Girls Club of Laurel
- Department of Health and Social Services
- Easter Seals
- Delaware Fire School
- Raymour and Flanigan
- La Red Health Center
- Dover Public Library
- Laurel Public Library



## Could You Survive a Month in Poverty?

How different is life for people living in poverty? Can you even begin to imagine? Taking part in a poverty simulation event is life-altering for many participants. You'll learn about the sacrifices people make to stay afloat; you'll learn what it is like to live without the conveniences so many of us have. It can open your mind to how others work, raise children and live every day in poverty conditions. We think it will open your heart. Please join us.

**YOU ARE  
CORDIALLY  
INVITED**



# POVERTY SIMULATION

*Experience*

CAN YOU SURVIVE A MONTH IN POVERTY?

**13** January  
2023

At Goodwill Industries of  
Delaware & Delaware County

300 EAST LEA BOULEVARD WILMINGTON, DE 19802

REGISTER AT [WWW.UWDE.ORG/POVERTYSIMULATION](http://WWW.UWDE.ORG/POVERTYSIMULATION)  
CONTACT DEBORAH REEVES AT [DREEVES@UWDE.ORG](mailto:DREEVES@UWDE.ORG)



## DuPont Annual United Way Campaign Exceeds Goal

There is no denying that DuPont is a pillar of our community and its employees are among the most community-focused and generous teams around. This year marks the 77 DuPont annual United Way workplace campaign.

This year's campaign results:

- Projected to raise \$1,050,000, exceeding the annual goal of \$1 million
- Conducted 21 fundraising events throughout the company
- Engaged 142 volunteers
- Tallied 423 hours of service

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Alexa Dembek, Vince Stutts, Jan Waldauer and Pat McCrummen who maintained the excitement and made it happen.

“The work that all of our employees and teams did was incredible! We are very proud

of our Team and the importance of DuPont to Delaware and the United Way as we go above and beyond to help those in need,” said campaign co-chair Jan Waldauer.

“Proud to be a campaign co-chair as we have a long culture at DuPont of keeping our employees safe and promoting volunteerism and financial giving to make a difference in our community”, said co-chair Vince Stutts.



Pictured at the Dupont annual United Way of Delaware (UWDE) event on Wednesday, December 14th are: Left to Right: Vince Stutts, DuPont and UWDE Board Member; Patrick McCrummen, DuPont; Bill Cotter, UWDE; Debbie Armstrong, UWDE; Jane Schindewolf, DuPont; Ken Livingston, UWDE; Dan Cruce, UWDE

“LIFE’S MOST PERSISTENT  
AND URGENT QUESTION IS,  
‘WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR  
OTHERS?’ ”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



# Martin Luther King Day of Service Approaches!

In just 10 days, we'll celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's life and legacy with a national day of service. Martin Luther King Jr. Day is designated to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

During the last quarter-century, the MLK Day of Service has grown, and its impact increased as more Americans embraced the idea that citizenship involves taking an active role in improving communities.

We encourage you to:

- engage with your community through volunteerism. [Find a volunteer opportunity here.](#)
- act on Dr. King's legacy of social justice and equity by joining the [Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative](#)
- encourage your community or organization to organize and produce an event to honor Dr. King and improve your community.

Dr. King asked us what are we doing for others. Do you have an answer for that question?

## Coming Soon! Second Annual *Pitch or Ditch* Minority Small Business Competition

Pitch or Ditch is a business competition for minority businesses and entrepreneurs, modeled after the hit tv-show [Shark Tank](#). Nine entrepreneurs will have the chance at a cash prize if they win the competition. Contestants will have seven minutes to pitch their business and another seven minutes to answer questions from an esteemed panel of judges.

The competition will highlight the creativity, innovations, and business strategies in Delaware's small business community. The event looks to bring light to the economic needs of minority entrepreneurs and serve as a bridge to form essential relationships with high-level corporations and potential investors.

Pitch or Ditch will be moderated by Dr. Randall Pinkett of NBC's show *The Apprentice*. The panel of judges includes Norman Oliver, Owner and President of Rock Solid Works; Brian DiSabatino, President of EDIS, LLC; Tanisha George, President of Trilogy One Consulting; Chris Kenny, President & CEO of Kenny Family ShopRites of Delaware; and Italo Carrier-Russo, Co-Owner & GM of V&M Italian American Bistro.

Many thanks to our corporate sponsors Chase Bank, Discover, New Castle County and the City of Wilmington.

Businesses can [Register here.](#)

# PITCH OR DITCH

FEATURING AMERICAN BUSINESS CONSULTANT RANDAL PINKETT,  
STAR OF "THE APPRENTICE"



An opportunity for Delaware's Minority  
Entrepreneurs to pitch their business  
ideas for a shot at a cash prize!

Jan. 26th, 2023 - 6PM-9PM

Wilmington Public Library

10 E 10th Street Wilmington, DE 19801

Register: [uwde.org/pitch](http://uwde.org/pitch)



## Nearly 100 Students and Advisors Attend GSA Meeting

UWDE's PRIDE Council recently brought together nearly 100 students and advisors from various Gay Student Associations (GSA) around the state and convened to discuss important topics surrounding the 10th Annual Anti-Bullying/GSA Summit.

Attendees came from 10 organizations supporting LGBTQ+ youth, including Delaware Technical Community College, PFLAG, The Village, Beautiful Gate Outreach Center, YWCA, Sussex Pride, and our major sponsors, the Delaware Department of Education, Dupont and Camp Rehoboth.

A student from William Penn said this regarding the Summit:

*"PRIDE Council's GSA Summit was a great success. Getting to hear all the guest speakers from Dover and attending the group workshops were well planned out and very informative. We got to network with all the other schools and Pride organizations in attendance and built lasting relationships with others from around the state. The United Way GSA Summit is something I look forward to every year!"*



**United Way's PRIDE Council awarded the William Penn High School GSA with the Summit Prize of \$500 for having the most GSA students in attendance at the Summit.**

**Coming Soon! Register Now!**



# "A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS"

**Date:** January 17th, 2023 **Time:** 6pm-7pm **Location:** Route 9 Library (3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720)

Parents, join us for the latest event in our series "A Conversation with Parents". These conversations pertain to education, health and financial stability for your family, and provide a safe space for you to discuss issues with others and share your experiences and life lessons.

This session celebrates a continuation of Mental Health Awareness Month. Information on the programs below will be shared:

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Asaiah Beaman Fisher, Home Visiting Outreach Coordinator, Children's and Families First

## **SESSION TOPIC:**

Your parenting journey begins before your baby is born. It's an important one that you should never have to travel alone. Children & Families First offers multiple healthy baby programs proven to help you and your family overcome challenges, gain opportunities, and thrive. Join this session to learn how you can get FREE trusted assistance and support for yourself, your baby, and your entire family!

For more information please contact:  
Mr. Ken Livingston at [klivingston@uwde.org](mailto:klivingston@uwde.org)

Child Care and Dinner will be provided!

TO REGISTER  
PLEASE SCAN  
WITH PHONE



## Community Announcements

# Save the Date!




## The Health Literacy Council of Delaware

Invites you to the:

### Statewide Strategic Planning Session

WHEN: Tuesday, January 24, 2022 from 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM

WHERE: Modern Maturity Center, Dover DE

-  Availability for first 100 registrants!
-  Lunch will be provided!
-  Be a part of goal setting for our statewide health literacy plan!

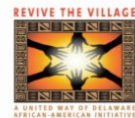
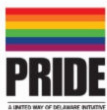
Registration  
information  
coming soon!

## Remember Us When You Shop on Amazon!

AmazonSmile is a way customers can support United Way of Delaware at no additional cost every time they shop with Amazon. Be sure to shop for a good cause this Cyber Monday.

[Here's how you sign up.](#)

Support us with  
**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.



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