



If you're reading this before 6 p.m. on Friday, March 3, you're joining us during Delaware's biggest day of giving, *Do More 24*. This event offers nonprofits in our state an innovative way to reach their constituencies and raise much-needed unrestricted funding that will help them do even more good things this year.



The grassroots nature of this day allows everyone to be a philanthropist at a level that suits their budget. In addition to the donations, nonprofits can qualify for numerous prizes based on variables such as number of donations of any amount, matching donations, and more. These special prizes are funded by the many local foundations and businesses that have joined us as sponsors and benefactors.

A staggering number of moving parts make this day so special. It starts many months earlier, when non-profits are encouraged to participate. Those who sign up receive several months of advice— from a toolkit to meetings, examples of successful campaigns, planning tips, webinars, help creating videos, advice on peer-to-peer fundraising techniques, tips on how to use email marketing, best practices for video promotions, and much more. It's practically a course in marketing and it helps the nonprofits develop skills they will use well into the future.

All of this work is achieved by a small but mighty group of United Way and Spur Impact colleagues under the leadership of Tierra Fair, Charlie Vincent and Jen Saienni. Their work on this initiative goes far above and beyond the line of duty. Their dedication and enthusiasm seem like a labor of love, not a work responsibility.

You may wonder why we devote so much time and resources into helping the participating nonprofits. It's simple: we could not do our work without them. United Way is all about helping make Delaware a great place in which to live and work for all people. The nonprofit community is our collaboration partner in that effort. Our state's nonprofits inspire change, support those who need any of a wide range of services, shed light on community needs and advocate for change. They are a categorical imperative in the development of an equitable society.

But the real credit goes to you, the people who open their hearts and wallets to support the causes that matter to them.

Last year, you donated a staggering \$2.6 million in 24 hours to some 500 organizations. I am so excited to see the fruits of everybody's efforts at 6 p.m. today.

If you have not yet donated, you can change that now. Just go to <https://www.domore24delaware.org>. Here's hoping that we match or exceed last year's results.

Sincerely,

Michelle

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

Today is Delaware's Largest Day of Giving, Do More 24!

Today is the day more than 530 Delaware nonprofits have been anticipating. It's the BIGGEST fundraising day of the year, and what they raise today could double, triple, or even quadruple annual fundraising efforts for participating organizations.



If every Delawarean donated \$5 to a local nonprofit, we could help these organizations make an incredible impact in our community. Let's Do More so they can Do More!

Giving is simple. Just go to the Do More 24 Delaware website. Use the "find your cause" button to search for your favorite organizations. When the name is displayed, click on it to go to that organization's donation page. Fully 100 percent of your donation, minus any credit card fees, will go to the organization. Neither United Way nor Spur impact takes any portion of your donation.

Join our 24-hour livestream until 6 p.m. on Friday, March 3 on the Spur Impact and United Way Facebook pages, the UWDE YouTube channel and the [Do More 24 website](#). Many participating nonprofits and supporters will be featured during the livestream. Check back often, as we will be providing donation total updates all day! The indefatigable Chris Bruce of King Creative Studios in Wilmington will be our host and emcee throughout the full 24 hours!

This is the perfect way to thank Delaware's deserving, hardworking nonprofits for their commitment and perseverance. Don't put it off! Jump on over there now!



Read to Achieve Inspires Youth at William Hicks Anderson Community Center

The William Hicks Anderson Community Center has kicked off its Read To Achieve Literacy Initiative. Sponsored by United Way of Delaware, Wilmington City Council Members Bregetta Fields (District 5) and Yolanda McCoy (District 6), and The Ashworth Family Literacy Foundation, this program brings more than 120 new books to the Center to help foster students' love of reading.



The purpose of the Read to Achieve Literacy Initiative is to enhance comprehension and word recognition, and to increase the vocabulary of the approximately 25 to 40 youth attending the William Hicks Anderson Community Center. Participating students attend The Bancroft School, Urban Promise, the Bayard School, Great Oaks Charter School, Skyline Middle School, and The Warner School.

Read to Achieve will also expose youth to books that are culturally relevant to bring societal and cultural awareness, encourage community engagement, decrease violence in-and-around the community, explore historical figures and heroes, and inspire young people to become cultural advocates and ambassadors.

Research shows that proficiency in reading by the end of third grade enables students to shift from learning to read to reading to learn and to master the more complex subject matter they encounter in the fourth-grade curriculum. Most students who fail to reach this critical milestone falter in the later grades and often drop out before earning a high school diploma. Yet two-thirds of U.S. fourth graders are not proficient readers, according to national reading assessment data. This disturbing statistic is made even worse by the fact that more than four out of every five low-income students miss this critical milestone.

To find out more information on how you can support Read to Achieve, please contact **Ken Livingston**, Director of Get Delaware Reading.

Professional Development for Out-of-School Time Staff, Volunteers, and Partners

Calling all youth-serving professionals and volunteers—from afterschool program staff, volunteers, mentors, childcare staff to librarians to athletic coaches and beyond!



Out-of-school professionals are invaluable to the growth and success of our youth. The Delaware Afterschool Network (DEAN) celebrates and supports them and you. It's more challenging than ever to identify valuable, tangible professional development that directly helps this work. DEAN is here to help. DEAN has undertaken much research and vetting to bring you the Youth Work Method Series.

The series is offered in proud partnership with the Kids Department and United Way of Delaware with support from the Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality and Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood.

The **workshops** are powerful strategies for working with young people, bringing

together over fifty years of experience and the latest research in positive youth development. These interactive and hands-on courses provide participants with practical skills that are geared to improve the quality of interactions with youth.

The Series is free online and approved by the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood. Participants who register for the series are eligible for credit hours and certificates.

This series is made for you. DEAN is here to answer any questions and help you continue to excel for our youth and our profession. To register for the series, visit the Delaware Institute for Excellence in Early Childhood website (www.dieecpd.org).



Governor's Summer Fellowship Applications Now Open

Governor John Carney recently announced the opening of applications for the **Governor's Summer Fellowship** program. The program offers paid camp counselor opportunities for high school juniors and seniors at community-based summer camps in each county, with the added benefits of on-site mentoring and the ability to network with state leaders and elected officials.

This program is offered through a partnership with the Delaware Department of Education and the United Way of Delaware. Last year, 47 Summer Fellows held positions at 19 sites across the state, serving 475 campers. This year, the program aims to expand to 100 Summer Fellows.

"For the second year in a row, the Summer Fellowship program will connect Delaware students with hands-on experience in government, education, and community career paths," said Governor Carney. "Thank you to the Delaware Department of Education and the United Way of Delaware for their continued support of our students."

"The Governor's Fellowship Program is a win-win for both high schoolers and young learners," said Dr. Michelle A. Taylor, President and CEO of United Way of Delaware. "The program opens doors and offers real-world experience that can help define a career path. The Fellows add staff capacity at summer learning programs across the state. I strongly urge high school juniors and seniors, especially those who may be interested in teaching or public service, to apply."

"We're excited to be able to expand this program to more fellows this year," Secretary of Education Mark Holodick said. "This is a great opportunity for our high school students, especially those interested in careers in education, to get real-world, paid experience while also supporting our community-based organizations that are trying to staff enriching summer opportunities for our younger students."

For more information, visit de.gov/summerfellow.

SDARJ Announces 2023 Scholarship Opportunities for Sussex County High School Seniors

The Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice (SDARJ) is accepting applications for the 2023 Charlotte King Scholarship Program. Several \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to Sussex County seniors from the Class of 2023 who identify as Black and/or African American. The essential criterion is a demonstrated concern for furthering racial understanding and justice.



The deadline to submit an application is April 2, 2023.

"We designed the scholarship program to lend support to students who understand that racial justice requires a commitment to community involvement and action," said Erica Novak, Chair of the SDARJ Education Committee. "We are seeking applicants who give serious thought to how they might carry through such a commitment as they pursue further education and their personal careers."

For more information, visit SDARJ [here](#).

Continuing Our Month-Long Delaware 211 Celebration!

Ways We Make an Impact in Our Community

Below are two examples of how Delaware 211 and Help Me Grow assist our neighbors in need

Help Me Grow Texts New Parents About Community Initiatives

When the 211 Help Me Grow team learned of a virtual baby shower being held next month. We created a list of previous callers that would qualify for the baby shower and sent them a text giving them the registration information and details of the event.

On a follow up, one mom mentioned that she received the text from us about the baby shower and asked for more details. She expressed that she was very excited to hear about it as it possibly could help her and her child.

This account demonstrates the importance of 211 and Help Me Grow's databases that allow us to reach out by text to inform our callers of events and opportunities pertinent to their own situation without having to interrupt them with a phone call.

Finding Shelter with the Help of 211

We recently attended a resource fair at the New Castle County Hope Center, the county's emergency shelter. A woman approached the Delaware 211 representative to thank us for our work.

She was very familiar with Delaware 211 and the services we offer. She told me that while being homeless and living on the streets, she felt as though we were supporting her and encouraging her. She remembers speaking with several different team members and said that she felt like she was part of a team-- it wasn't just her being homeless, it was all of us working to find her shelter. She greatly appreciated our follow ups, reaching out to check on her and knows we are there if she needs us again.

Help Us Help More!

If you've been reading about Delaware 211 for the past few weeks and you believe in the importance of what we do, we ask for your help. You can contribute now on *Do More 24* day at our donation page [here](#). The need is great now, and your donation will help us serve even more Delawareans in need. *Thank you for considering our appeal.*

"A CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS"

Parents, please join us for the latest event in our series "A Conversation with Parents." These conversations pertaining to education, health and financial stability for your family, 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.

- **March 21, 2023** – "What Are They Thinking?" – Brain science and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACEs) Skills – Identifying emotions, stress management. SEL competencies– Self-Awareness, Self-Management
- **April 18, 2023** – "Be Accountable" – Preparing for self-sufficiency Skills – Organization, self-discipline, and self-regulation. SEL competencies – Self-Management, Responsible Decision Making
- **May 16, 2023** – "Possibilities and Solutions" – Boundaries and consequences Skills – Problem solving, goal setting. SEL competencies – Responsible Decision Making

Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center,
3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE

Time: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Child care and dinner will be provided! There will be a raffle for a \$40 ShopRite gift card at each session. You must attend to win!

Registration is strongly recommended.

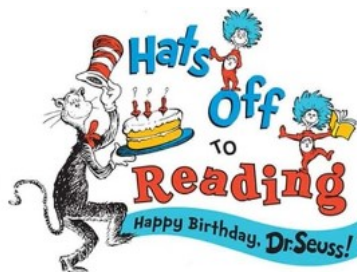
Register at <https://bit.ly/convoparents>



For more information contact: Ken Livingston at klivingston@uwde.org

Read Across America Celebrations

United Way of Delaware celebrated Read Across America this week by providing parties and new books throughout Delaware and Salem County, NJ. The parties included readings by guest readers such as Lieutenant Governor Bethany Hall-Long; community volunteers; James Spadola, Read Aloud Delaware; Dr. Mark Brainard, Delaware Technical College; Dr. Michelle A. Taylor, President and CEO, UWDE; and other special guests.



We also coordinated book readings by authors and volunteers at Latin American Community Center, Kids Kingdom Childcare Center, Stubbs Early Education Center 21 Century Afterschool Program, Delaware Tech Childcare Center Owens Campus,

A special event, *Coast to Coast Read Aloud*, was a virtual opportunity for students from Delaware and Hawaii to be engaged and share cultural fun facts with one another. It was coordinated by Ceeds of Peace, Hawaii, and Stubbs Early Education Center, Delaware. Authors who participated were:

- Dr. Julius Mullen, Delaware. Dr. Mullen is an author and educator, and his books have inspired readers of all ages to explore the wonders of science, technology, engineering, and math. His most recent book, "I Got A Big Brain," encourages young readers to use their brains to solve problems and make a difference in the world.
- Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, Hawaii. Dr. Soetoro-Ng, author, educator, and peace activist. She is the co-founder of Ceeds of Peace, The Peace Studio, and The Institute for Climate and Peace. She is a professor at the University of Hawaii's Matsunaga Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution and consultant to the Obama Foundation. Dr. Soetoro's book, "Ladder to the Moon," tells the story of a young girl's magical journey to meet her grandmother in the sky.

In Salem County, more than 700 pre-kindergarten students in six Salem County programs joined in on the fun. All students received a copy of *Maybe You Should Fly a Jet! Maybe You Should Be a Vet!* through the generosity of Atlantic City Electric. Community Leaders and employees of Atlantic City Electric, Mannington Mills and Carneys Point Police Department and some 30 community volunteers shared their love for reading and committed to read to a classroom.

Launched in 1998 by the National Education Association (NEA), Read Across America is the nation's largest celebration of reading. This year-round program focuses on motivating children and teens to read through events, partnerships, and reading resources that are about everyone, for everyone. Formerly known as Dr. Seuss' Birthday, NEA is broadening the celebration to encourage diversity in reading.

This year marks United Way of Delaware's 8th year acknowledging the day and celebrating reading with early learning centers in Delaware and Salem County, NJ.

Learn more and see readings by our special guests at our video [here](#).



Calling All Youth Workers!

The Delaware Afterschool Network invites youth workers and volunteers to be part of the *Power of Us* campaign.

We need 100 youth workers and volunteers to complete the survey, and in sharing your story with the campaign, you can help others SEE themselves as part of the workforce and understand why they, too, should take the survey.



Mentors and tutors, coaches, librarians, camp counselors, afterschool leaders, and more who support youth completed the Power of Us Workforce Survey in 2022 to ensure their experiences are reflected in the survey data.

A special thanks to Delaware's youth workers and volunteers who have already completed the survey!

We hope the rest of you will participate. The deadline has been extended to March 31, 2023. Please take the survey using our state-specific survey link: **[Delaware Power Of Us Survey](#)**



Pancakes & Progress: Positioning Students to be Our Future Workforce

Join us for the third event in our Pancakes & Progress education-focused initiative. This session will focus on actions we can individually and collectively take to position the Class of 2023 to be our workforce. The event will be a blend of information, inspiration, and intentional action as we explore the topic of creating Success for Our Seniors in our schools (SOS).

Thursday | March 9, 2023
8:30 am - 10:00 am
DuPont Country Club
1001 Rockland Rd, Wilmington, DE 19803



Free Tax Help Now Available

UWDE partners with Nehemiah Gateway Development Corporation and First State Community Action Agency to promote FREE tax filing services. FREE in-person drop-off, available by appointment only, and virtual tax services are available. For the most current information, call 2-1-1 or visit [Nehemiah Gateway CDC](#). Learn more about making a tax appointment [here](#) and about volunteering [here](#)

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January 23 - April 22, 2023

All sites by appointment only. Hours listed are subject to change. Please see website for up to date information.

NEW CASTLE COUNTY

Hudson State Service Center
501 Ogletown Road, Newark, DE 19711

Appointments Available:
Monday and Thursday 11am - 8pm
Wednesday 11am - 5pm

Route 9 Library & Innovation Center
3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720

Appointments Available:
Monday 11am - 8pm, Tuesday 5pm - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm

Wilmington Public Library
10 East 10th Street, Wilmington, DE 19801

Appointments Available:
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10am - 4pm

Woodlawn Library
2020 W 9th Street, Wilmington, DE 19805

Appointments Available:
Tuesday 5pm - 8pm, Wednesday 11am - 8pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm

University of Delaware
(near Star Campus)

Division of Professional & Continuing Services
501 S. College Avenue, Newark, DE 19716
Appointments Available starting 2/4/23:
Saturday 10am - 4pm

KENT COUNTY

Dover Public Library
35 Lookerman Plaza, Dover, DE 19901

Appointments Available:
Monday and Saturday 10am - 4pm

SUSSEX COUNTY

First State CAA
308 N Railroad Avenue, Georgetown, DE 19947
Call 302-856-7761 (Se habla Español)

Appointments Available:
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am - 5pm

Georgetown on Laurel
1 East Laurel Street, Georgetown, DE 19947

Appointments Available:
Monday and Friday 8am - 1pm

Goodwill Milford
694 N. DuPont Highway, Milford, DE 19963

Appointments Available:
Tuesday 10am - 4pm
Wednesday and Thursday 10am - 1pm
Saturday 10am - 4pm

FOR A SUCCESSFUL TAX APPOINTMENT, KNOW WHAT TO BRING!

- ❑ Current Government issued photo ID for taxpayer and spouse
- ❑ W-2s, 1099s, 1099-MISC, 1099-NEC, 1099-R, 1099-SSA for all employers, retirement, and social security benefits (no pay stubs accepted)
- ❑ Social Security cards and/or ITIN letter for everyone listed on tax return
- ❑ 6419 Advance Child Tax Credit and 6475 Economic Impact Payment (EIP) stimulus letters
- ❑ Childcare statement from all providers with address and tax ID# and/or SS# for childcare provider (or provide receipts with amounts paid)
- ❑ 1098s for education expenses paid, mortgage interest paid, property taxes paid and list of any other itemized deductions
- ❑ 1095-A for Marketplace Health Insurance Coverage
- ❑ Bank account and routing number for direct deposit
- ❑ Copy of prior-year tax return (may be required for new credits)

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OR

\$8,000
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