



A Day Filled With Inspiration

For many of us at United Way of Delaware, and for many of our allies and our partners alike, addressing issues that need to be fought on so many fronts can be draining over time. So much of what we do takes years, even decades, to come to fruition. Keeping up the energy and initiative can be a struggle some days.

We at UWDE take our role of community leadership very seriously and we do all we can to continually inspire ourselves and others. We recognize that consistency and perseverance are imperative to maintain focus on change.



Often, we participate in events and programs that do the opposite of draining: experiences that lift us up. We appreciate the injection of fuel every time. But we honestly weren't ready for the massive boost that the Black Student Summit (BSS) gave us last Saturday when some 400 people including some 300 youth met in Middletown to speak, listen and learn.

As adults, we often think a large part of our responsibility to youth is to inspire them. But at this event, organized, planned and produced by the students themselves, we were the recipients of a large infusion of inspiration and joy. The event was flawless and touched all the bases of education, information, sharing and even a little cheerleading.

Keynote speaker Ashley Christopher left the room speechless with her uplifting personal account of how she wouldn't take no for an answer when facing barriers. Ashley's presentation, while very short, very clearly demonstrated that where a person starts is not necessarily where they finish, that advocating for yourself can turn "No" into "Yes," and that people can overcome roadblocks within the system in an orderly way.

Frankly, nearly a week later, I'm still buoyed by the BSS experience. The participating students stood up and showed us all that they are leaders today and will do even more in the future. I have renewed confidence that we will be in good hands.

I applaud all who took part. Bear with me, because this list is long: the students and the student planning committee; the many adults who volunteered to help at the event; the education community including Delaware Secretary of Education Dr. Mark Holodik, school superintendents, advisors and teachers; the many people who donated funds during Do More 24, participating students, entertainers, the leaders from the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative, and our agency partners who were vendors at the event. A special shoutout to Dr. Chad Harrison, principal of St. Georges Technical

High School, for hosting us and being such an amazing partner.

Please look at the **photos of the event here**. You'll see everything from concentration to conversation, dancing and fun. This Summit won't be the end of the students' advocacy this year. We can't wait to see what they achieve. And, if you'd like an infusion of hope and inspiration, please join us next year.

Sincerely,
Michelle

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



"Inspired, Impacted and Empowered"

"There aren't many spaces that can leave you feeling inspired, impacted and empowered, yet that's exactly what the Black Student Summit accomplished. The dedicated, talented and ambitious individuals that filled up the summit this year are an inspiration to Black individuals everywhere,"
-- Nussy Cherazard, senior and BSU President at Sussex Technical High School.

The 2nd annual Black Student Summit was just what Nussy said it was - inspiring, impactful and empowering. The Summit is a safe space for students of color to learn and grow together and for adults learn how to best support them. The planning committee led by student volunteers from across the state, with adult supervision, worked diligently to convene this full-day gathering at St. Georges Technical High School in Middletown.

Last year, just over 100 students attended. Last Saturday, just under 300 students

were in the building! The Educators Workshop for senior administrators and school and district staff had every seat filled with over 70 adults engaged in discussions with Dr. Ron Whitaker, Asst Dean of School of Education at Cabrini University.

The Summit opened and closed with dynamic performances from Baby Groove and YMCA's Essence Legacy Performing Arts Team. Calvin Christopher, founding member of DRJC, introduced his daughter Ashley as the keynote speaker. It was a special and proud moment for our organization and community. Ashley Christopher, founder of HBCU Week, gave a resounding keynote speech encouraging the students to use their voice, advocate and stand up. "Your voice is far more powerful than you can imagine," shared Christopher.

The students were very intentional in planning every aspect of the day, down to the soul food lunch menu. A "Brain Break" room was added this year for students to recharge.

Student workshops topics and presenters included:

- Know Your Rights in Schools with Cliffvon Howell
- Know Your Rights in the Community with Coby Owens
- How to Have Cross Cultural Conversations with Becca Cotto & Zjohdell Hudson
- Black History 365 with Khayree Bey
- Financial Literacy for Students with Laura Gendreau and team
- Advocacy 101 with Rep Sherry Dorsey Walke
- Mental Health Matters with Crysta Harris (girls only) and Dr. Juwan Mullen (boys only and for all).

A student-led panel discussion centered around HB 198 and how students can hold their schools accountable for implementing Black History into the curriculum.

Aa'khai Hollis, BSU Summit Planning Committee member, said: "The summit is the beginning of a new age where we put students' needs at the forefront of society. A new age where their voices aren't silenced but amplified. The summit exemplified that at full capacity. The students that attended the summit are the next generation. The summit created an opportunity for us to hear their voices and wants for change."

Each year we reward the top 3 schools with the most students in attendance at the summit. This year's winners are: First Place - St Georges Technical High School, Second Place - Hodgson Vocational Technical High School, and Third Place - Appoquinimink High School.

We would not be able to accomplish this without the students, volunteers, advisors, United Way of Delaware and DRJC Team, and all of our sponsors. We especially thank these individuals for going above and beyond: Susan Childs, Dr James Connor, Christa Davis, Dr. Deangelo Eley, Heather Hingston, Diahann Johnson, Dr Joe Jones, Monique Martin, Amber Perry, Taria Pritchett, Toni Snow.

The students have put us to the challenge, this year was great but it only gets better. We will see you next year!

To see more photos, [click here](#).

To watch a video recap of the day, [click here](#)



ReadBowl Update: Delaware Students Read More than 2 MILLION MINUTES in 4 Weeks

Fairview Elementary of Capital School District has won the National Championship in the Primary Conference of READBowl with nearly 500,000 reading minutes! Team Wolskee won the title under the inspiring leadership of teacher Jonni Wolskee.

Thomas Edison has previously won READbowl for Delaware. We are proud that they participate in the United Way of Delaware **My Very Own Library** (MVOL) program.

Other READBowl Participating MVOL Schools are:

- Lewis Elementary, Red Clay School District
- Bunker Hill Elementary School, Appoquinimink School District
- The Bayard School, Christina School District
- Warner Elementary School, Red Clay School District
- Forest Oak Elementary, Red Clay School District
- North Georgetown Elementary School, Indian River School District

These schools created 39 teams who have read for a **combined 2,125,237 minutes**.

READBowl is a global reading competition where teams around the globe competed to read for the most minutes. The competition begins the day of the American College Football National Championship (2nd Monday in January) and culminates with a live crowning of the World Champions of Reading on the morning of the National Football League's (NFL) Super Bowl Sunday.

Also known as *Read With Malcolm*, it is an initiative of the Share the Magic Foundation. Super Bowl Champion, Author, Keynote Speaker and Founder/CEO of Share the Magic Foundation, Malcolm Mitchell has created READbowl as part of his commitment to early childhood reading.

Watch this [video of the day's celebration here](#)



Registration is Open for the Jerry Hunter Community Classic

Formerly known as Giving on the Green, our annual golf tournament has been renamed the Jerry Hunter Community Classic after our beloved colleague Jerry Hunter who passed away last year.

Jerome “Jerry” Hunter was a friend to all, generous with his time, always ready with an encouraging word, and never above rolling up his sleeves and getting to work. We will always be grateful for his outstanding contribution to United Way of Delaware.



Join us, as a golfer, sponsor, or both, for the 1st annual Jerry Hunter Community Golf Classic. All proceeds from the Classic will support our community impact fund which improves the quality of life for individuals and families throughout Delaware and Salem County, NJ.

May 22, 2023
Hartefeld National Golf Club
[Click here to register](#)

Calling Latina Women for Focus Groups



DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION'S
CAMPEONAS PROJECT

**HELP US
HELP OTHER
LATINA WOMEN!**

**Saturday
April 1, 2023
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

At the First State Community Action Agency
Bernice Edwards conference room,
308 N. Railroad Ave., Georgetown De 19947

Join us for a conversation in
Spanish about breast cancer screenings for a
chance to earn a \$50.00 VISA giftcard.

THE DELAWARE BREAST CANCER
COALITION IS LOOKING FOR LATINA
WOMEN OVER THE AGE OF 40, WHO
HAVE HAD A MAMMOGRAM, TO
PARTICIPATE IN A FOCUS GROUP TO
DISCUSS MAMMOGRAMS.

GIFT CARDS WILL BE PROVIDED TO
EACH QUALIFIED PARTICIPANT UPON
COMPLETION OF THE SESSION.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO:

MARY JO VAZQUEZ
MVZQUEZ@DEBREASTCANCER.ORG
(240) 888-4522

Light refreshments
will be provided.




COALICIÓN DE CÁNCER DE MAMA DE DELAWARE
PROYECTO CAMPEONAS

**¡AYÚDANOS A
AYUDAR A OTRAS
MUJERES LATINAS!**

**Sábado
1 de abril de 2023
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**

En la sala de conferencias Bernice Edwards de
First State Community Action Agency
308 N. Railroad Ave., Georgetown De 19947

Únase a nosotros para una conversación en
español sobre las pruebas de detección del
cáncer de mama para tener la oportunidad de
ganar una tarjeta de regalo VISA de \$50.00.

LA COALICIÓN CONTRA EL CÁNCER
DE MAMA DE DELAWARE ESTÁ
BUSCANDO MUJERES LATINAS
MAYORES DE 40 AÑOS QUE SE
HAYAN REALIZADO UNA
MAMOGRAFÍA PARA PARTICIPAR EN
UN GRUPO DE DISCUSIÓN PARA
HABLAR SOBRE LAS MAMOGRAFÍAS.

SE PROPORCIONARÁN TARJETAS DE
REGALO A CADA PARTICIPANTE
CALIFICADO AL FINALIZAR LA
SESIÓN.

REGISTRO REQUERIDO PARA:

MARY JO VAZQUEZ
MVZQUEZ@DEBREASTCANCER.ORG
(240) 888-4522

Refrescos
será proporcionado.



Books Balls and Blocks Stimulate Student Development

Students participating in the Stubbs Early Education 21st Century Community Learning Center Afterschool program have engaged in the Books Balls & Blocks initiative, which offers games and activities to stimulate students' development. They will also receive skill-building activities that will focus on the following:

- Communication and language
- Thinking things through (Cognitive and Problem solving)
- Movement skills (Gross & Fine Motor)
- Reading and Literacy

The United Way of Delaware 21st Century Community Learning Center Program (21st CCLC) enables high-quality after-school and summer programming to students and resources for our families. The 21st CCLC Program offers students with academic and social emotional (S.E.L) enrichment while engaging students' families with meaningful supports and resources. United Way of Delaware is a proud partner with the Christina School District for 21st CCLC Programs at both Stubbs Early Education Center (Pre-K and Kindergarten Students) and The Bancroft School (1 – 8 grade students).

WHY?

- School attendance matters
- Increase academic success
- Help meet students' social emotional needs
- Enrich students' lives with cultural activities
- Inspire connectivity between students, families, teachers, and staff

WHAT?

- Facilitates high-quality after-school and summer programs
- Provides academic and social/emotional enrichment
- Complements students' standard curriculum and whole-child learning • Enables unique school-community engagement

WHO?

- United Way of Delaware + Christina School District
- Stubbs Early Education Center + The Bancroft School (students and parents).

HOW?

- Hands-on science, technology, engineering, math & arts (STEAM)
- Homework help, literacy activities, SAT preparation and tutoring
- Career Exploration
- Dance, music, theatre, visual arts
- Health counseling and mental health programs
- Physical education & sports

- Leadership development, social and emotional learning, violence prevention
- Family Engagement: adult education, family events, family literacy

If you would like to receive additional information about our 21st Century Community Learning Center Programs at Stubbs Early Education and Dual Generation Center or The Bancroft School, please contact Dr. Amber Battle-Winston, Sr. Director of Student Success at abwinston@uwde.org



Chemours Offers *Future of Chemistry* Scholarships to Hispanic Students

The *Chemours Future of Chemistry Scholarship* program targets Hispanic/Latinx students pursuing college or trade education in fields related to non-medical STEM careers. Five students will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

The application is open to high school seniors and current college students who will be enrolled in classes in Fall, 2023. The deadline for submission is March 31.



Click on the links below for the application.

Link to Spanish version: [**CLARO FoC 2023 Application \(SPA\)**](#)

Link to English Version: [**CLARO FoC 2023 Application \(ENG\)**](#)

Help Lighten the Burden for Seniors

Long-time United Way of Delaware partners ChristianaCare, Delaware 211, and Always Best Care are teaming up with A Helping Hand to support seniors across Delaware.

Throughout this month-long campaign, we will be collecting financial contributions as well as physical donations of items needed most. Donated items can be dropped off at your closest senior center.

Help us raise \$1,500 by April 27th so more of Delaware's seniors get the critical resources they need. You can [**donate online here**](#).

Contact Delaware 211 to learn more.

A HELPING HAND PRESENTS

Senior Care Days '23

During the months of March and April, we have a goal to raise \$1,500 to help provide essential items to our neighbors in need.

UWDE.ORG/EVENTS/SENIOR-CARE-DAY-2023

Parents and Students: It's Not Too Late To Receive Financial Aid. Let Us Help!



FAFSA Completion Appointments are available with Stand by Me NexGen. Our financial aid experts will help you complete your FAFSA form in a virtual one-on-one setting.

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

Income Tax Assistance Program Seeks Volunteers

United Way of Delaware (UWDE), Nehemiah Gateway Community Development Corporation and First State Community Action Agency are providing free tax preparation services to

Delawareans with annual household incomes of \$60,000 or less, and those with zero taxable income but who must file to receive tax credit.

Returns are prepared by trained, IRS-certified volunteers who work on behalf of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. Volunteers are knowledgeable about tax credits and deductions such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), the Child Tax Credit, and other credits that might benefit qualified households.

Persons interested in being a volunteer to provide tax services in your community or who are in need of free tax filing services, visit: [Do You Qualify for Free Tax Prep Assistance?](#)

TAX TIME!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

In partnership with Nehemiah Gateway, free tax services are being offered and volunteers for many positions are needed. Visit our website for more information.
uwde.org/2023/02/delaware-free-tax-preparation

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!

Choose one of the following roles:

- Tax Preparer
- Financial Navigator
- Intake Specialist
- Greeter
- Interpreter
- Office Support



Small Business Owners: Make the Connection

Attention, Minority Small Business Owners! True Access Capital is hosting the "New Market Opportunities Procurement Fair" to help small businesses connect with federal, state and local governments, as well as with private corporations to learn how to uncover opportunities to work together. The event is free to attend. Learn more [here](#).



Thursday, April 27, 2023
8:30 AM – 3:00 PM
Wilmington Library
10 East Tenth Street
Wilmington, DE

Morning Keynote Presenters:
Troy and Kim Adams,
Mountain Consulting, Inc.
mountainconsultinginc.net

This event is designed to help small businesses, led by people of color and other historically marginalized groups, learn how to access procurement opportunities with federal, state and local government, and with private corporations.

For questions, contact John Banks
at jlbanks@trueaccesscapital.org

Participating Organizations

APEX Accelerators
Christiana Care
Christina School District
City of Wilmington
Delaware State University
Delaware Office of Supplier Diversity
DuPont
Eastern Minority Supplier Development Council

J. P. Morgan Chase
KOG International
New Castle County Government
University of Delaware
U.S. Small Business Administration

Sponsor
JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Co-hosts



Keep an eye out, as our list of participants continues to grow!
This is a FREE event, however registration is required.
Register today at <https://bit.ly/3LMfu9w>





DELAWARE DRONE SOCCER

SCRIMMAGE



APR 1st. 1-3 PM

CENTRAL YMCA

501 W. 11th St.
Wilmington, DE 19801

Come watch and learn all about Drone Soccer.
A co-ed eSport for ages 12+
that leads to STEM immersion.



Join the world's newest eSport
Academic & competitive teams forming now!

- Players, ages 12+, fly remote controlled quadcopters and collide in full- contact gameplay
- STEM education
- Aerospace career training
- Drone pilot certification
- Regional, national & international competitions



SIGN UP TODAY!

www.dronesoccer.com



ANYONE WHO GIVES \$150 OR MORE TO
UNITED WAY OF DELAWARE WILL BE ENTERED TO WIN A NEW

2023 KIA SELTOS

2 Year Lease

OR

\$8,000
CASH

Participants who donates \$150 or more
to the **United Way of Delaware** will be
entered for a chance to win!

GIVE TODAY

 Kia of Wilmington
Auto Team Delaware

 United
Way
United Way of Delaware



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

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