

Disaster Relief - Another Way We're Here to Help

Many of us are finishing our summer vacations and turning our attention to Fall, getting ready for cool weather and for school to start again. Others, unfortunately, are dealing with urgent matters brought on by weather-related disasters right here in Delaware and beyond our borders.

I'm sure you've read of the devastating wildfires that destroyed the historic town of Lahaina in West Maui, leaving a path of destruction spanning nearly 3.5 square miles. You've undoubtedly heard of the relentless severe heat waves in the southwestern United States.



While fewer in number and severity, weather-related disasters occur in Delaware, too. On August 7, driving rains and wind uprooted dozens of trees and damaged houses in the Brookside, Ogletown and Cherokee Woods sections of Newark.

On April 2, a tornado killed one man and impacted homes in a 14-mile path of destruction from Bridgeville to Ellendale in Sussex County.

The homeowners face extraordinary costs for debris cleanup, home repairs, loss of furniture and personal property and in some cases, losing memorabilia saved over generations. My heart goes out to the people now working to repair their homes and their lives. We know they need more than our thoughts and prayers. They need our help.

Of course, monetary donations are always important, and you can donate through our emergency fund at <https://uwde.org/give-online/disaster>.

If you would like to donate directly to Maui, we suggest the **Maui United Way Disaster Relief Fund.**

Assistance and information are important, too. Delaware 211, our statewide helpline, is here to help those affected access the resources they need, including help with food, utilities, insurance claims and referrals to local agencies and organizations.

Many of these families need a literal helping hand – volunteer work crews for clearing

up debris, technical assistance with plumbing and electric, food drives and distributions, donations of clothing and household goods.

I'm so proud that my United Way colleagues and our partners have stepped up in numerous ways to support our neighbors in need. Below you will see accounts of our coworkers participating in cleanups and food drives in Milford and Newark. And read about one of our teammates who recently won an award for her dedication to helping in Sussex County. These are ways United Way of Delaware and our community partners are here to meet the wide range of our neighbors' needs.

We are in the process of creating a United Way of Delaware Disaster Response Team -- a cadre of volunteers who stand ready to react to an emergency -- who can be activated at short notice. If you would join us in a work crew or a food drive, to volunteer your skills in repairing damaged residences, clearing debris, or helping out in other ways, [sign up online](#) to let us know you want to be added to our list.

It's about giving our time, talents, and treasure. Most of us have one or more of them. Let's show up for people who need us now and be ready for those who might need our help in the future.

Sincerely,
Michelle

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

What Living United Is All About

By Jeff Quiggle

On August 8, 2023, a storm swept through northern New Castle County with winds that, in some areas, gusted to over 100 mph, toppling trees and damaging at least 50 homes in the area. Power was out for several days for nearly 40,000 residents. United Way of Delaware and Delaware 211 responded to support the storm-damaged neighborhoods of Brookside, Ogletown, and Cherokee Woods in northern New Castle County.

On Wednesday, August 16, UWDE joined with partners that included New Castle County Police recruits, state troopers, state and county elected officials, and state and county emergency management workers to help clean up storm debris from the Brookside neighborhood. The storm downed large trees and broke off large branches, which needed to be cleared from roads and residents' property.

One of the UWDE volunteers, Alexandra Southerst, said "I was struck by the diversity in age within our volunteer group. On our worksite, we had volunteers as young as eight or nine years old who pitched in just like the adults. They dragged branches to the trailer and organized debris to make loading easier. They spoke up and contributed ideas on how to get the job done most efficiently. It was a reminder that our young leaders are truly a model of what's possible when the community, regardless of age, rallies around a common cause."

Another of our UWDE volunteers, Marcus Watkins – who grew up in the affected neighborhood – added, “It was great to be part of the effort to give relief to the neighbors and community I was raised in. That's what Living United is all about. Today we might be helping, but tomorrow we might need help.”



Food Drive Serves 150 Families in Newark

Food Bank of Delaware held a food distribution event at Jennie Smith Elementary School to support area residents who were without electricity after the storm and lost perishable food.

Volunteers from the United Way of Delaware helped load cars up with frozen meat and seafood, vegetables, fresh fruit, milk and other provisions. The drive supported some 150 families.



Sarah Carter - Impact Award Winner

Sarah Carter, Stand By Me Sussex County
Community Engagement & Philanthropy Manager,

recently won an Impact Award at the Spur Impact Mill Summit that recognized Delaware leaders who make significant impact to their communities.

Sarah spearheaded tornado assistance efforts on behalf of United Way of Delaware (UWDE), serving as primary point of contact with Delaware Emergency Management Agency (DEMA) and has been working with the 118 individuals/families who have reported damage.

She is present at work sites and coordinates people and duties. Sarah does more than paperwork: she cuts down broken trees and torn branches with a chainsaw and works side by side with the volunteers on the backbreaking debris removal.

She knocks on doors and speaks to the homeowners to inquire if they need assistance. In many cases, she has been able to solve or refer individuals to appropriate organizations and/or entities.

We are proud of Sarah being awarded for this work. We are also grateful for her commitment to her community and to UWDE.



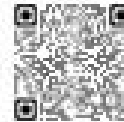
Come to the Parent Empowerment Cafe

United Way of Delaware is partnering with Nemours and Colonial School District to host three Parent Empowerment Cafés to support families by providing information and advice on childrens' social-emotional wellness and nutrition. Our first session, *Managing Generational Stress and Trauma*, is this Wednesday from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Route 9 Library. Come and join us in this safe, no-judgement zone! **Register** at <https://bit.ly/convoparents> For questions, please contact Ken Livingston at klivingston@uwde.org

**PLEASE JOIN US.
SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLNESS,
EDUCATION AND PHYSICAL HEALTH.**

Families will be able to share experiences, issues and ask questions in a culturally responsive safe space. Families will learn about community resources increase awareness of social-emotional wellness.

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| <u>Managing Generational Stress and Trauma</u> August 21, 2023 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center 3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720 |
| <u>The Well Parent</u> September 26, 2023 6:00pm - 7:00pm | Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center 3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720 |
| <u>Nutritional Wellness</u> October 19, 2023 6:00 - 7:00pm | Location: Route 9 Library & Innovation Center 3022 New Castle Ave, New Castle, DE 19720 |



Please register!
<https://bit.ly/convoparents>

The First Latinos Unidos Student Summit

Join Latinos Unidos, the Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative, the Latinos Unidos affinity group, and Latino-serving student organizations, Advisors, School Administrators, and Allies from across Delaware at the First Annual Latinos Unidos Student Summit in Saturday, September 16! The Student Summit is by and for high school students who want to turn up the volume and activism of Latino-serving student organizations. **Learn more and register here**



Thank you to the Kent County Levy Court for supporting Freedom Schools in Kent County this past summer! Thanks as well to our partners, the **Capital School District** and **Caesar Rodney School District**, and **First State Community Action Agency**. Freedom Schools is a summer program that addresses children's academic, social and emotional achievement gaps. Funds were provided through Kent County's ARPA, At-Risk Non-profits Program.



3rd Annual

Backpack Giveaway + Resource Fair

Help us reach our goal of 1000
Bookbags for 1000 Children!



Donate here:
bit.ly/UWDEgiveaway

Register to attend by Calling 2-1-1, Press 4

August 12th

Dover Library

35 Loockerman Plaza
Dover, DE 19901

12-2pm

August 26th

North Wilmington Library

3400 N Market Street
Wilmington, DE 19802

11:30-1:30pm



Reading Assist



2-1-1

Delaware



United Way of Delaware

Support Our Work

Live United!

If you would like to support our efforts to help build a better Delaware, please donate to United Way of Delaware [here](#). You can make a one-time donation or a recurring monthly contribution. When you give to the United Way of Delaware you're joining individuals and organizations who are working together to improve life for everyone in Delaware and Salem County (NJ). We appreciate your support.



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