




90 YEARS OF IMPACT



United Way



Middlesex United Way

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF IMPACT



DIVISION	OCT. 18	OCT. 21	OCT. 23	OCT. 25
GENERAL	8,687.	356.	4,177.	7,978.
SPECIAL GIFTS	15,257.	10,180.		
INDUSTRIAL				
EMPLOYEES	14,086.			
SPECIAL	13,082.			
COMMERCIAL				
EMPLOYEES	6,195.			
SPECIAL	16,759.			
ORGANIZATIONS				
SPECIAL	12,434.			
GRAND TOTAL	86,482.			

In 1935, the Middletown Community Chest was founded with a simple yet powerful mission: to unite neighbors in addressing the community's most pressing needs. Over the decades, our name may have changed (several times) to Middlesex United Way, but our commitment to creating a thriving, caring community has remained steadfast.



This year, as we celebrate 90 years of service, we honor the generations of volunteers, donors, and community partners who have helped make our work possible. Together, we have provided critical support to families, empowered individuals to achieve their potential, and strengthened the bonds that tie us all together.



Scan the QR code on the back cover of this Annual Report to view a photo gallery from the past nine decades and learn more about our history.

Thank you for being a part of this milestone. Here's to 90 years of impact—*and many more to come!*





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SHAWONDA S. SWAIN

Dear Supporters, Volunteers, and Community Members,

As we turn the page on another year, we take a moment to reflect on our accomplishments and reaffirm our commitment to building a stronger, more resilient Middlesex County. At Middlesex United Way, we believe United is the Way to create lasting change.

This past year has been one of growth and renewal. We closed the year in the black, strengthened systems across our departments and Board, and forged meaningful relationships in nearly every one of the 15 towns we serve. By partnering with local organizations and supporting community events, we've deepened our roots and amplified our impact.

We proudly rolled out a bold new three-year strategic plan, reignited the energy of our Women United group, and expanded the scope of our support to include new agencies in our network. This has allowed us to increase our contributions to the community, ensuring more individuals and families have access to the resources they need to thrive.

As an organization, we are moving onward and upward. But we know the challenges we face as a society require us to stand together. In times of uncertainty and change whether for better or worse it is our unity that will lead us forward.

This is why Middlesex United Way continues to weave itself into the fabric of the communities we serve. Together with residents, local agencies, and dedicated partners, we are lifting our most vulnerable neighbors and building a future where everyone can succeed.

Thank you for your unwavering support, generosity, and belief in the power of unity. Together, we can ensure that brighter days lie ahead for all. Because when we stand united, anything is possible.

United is the Way.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2024-2025



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Meg Slater
Board Chair

Laurie Salafia
Treasurer

Marisol Rodriguez
Human Resources Chair

Allison Dowe
Chair, Women United

Gary Wallace
Vice Chair

Lakisha Hyatt
Campaign Chair

Kevin Reich
Chair, Community Impact Council

Alissa DeJonge
Governance Chair

AT LARGE MEMBERS

Rev. Robyn Anderson

Ramona Burkey

Jon Brink

Scott Carlson

Kimberly Hogan

Barbara Holloman

Faith Jackson

Joshua Rivera

Kristen Roberts

Joe Santaniello

Clifford Straub

HONORARY MEMBERS

Harry E. Burr
Retired

David Reynolds
Retired

Rosario A. Rizzo, Jr.
Retired

Jean Adams Shaw
Retired

William E. Wrang, III
Retired



OUR NEW BOARD CHAIR

GARY WALLACE



Gary Wallace brings a wealth of experience as the incoming Chair of the Middlesex United Way Board of Directors. A U.S. Navy veteran and former Captain of the Middletown Police Department, Gary has decades of leadership experience and a steadfast commitment to community service. In his current role as Director of Community Engagement and Relations at Community Health Center, Inc., he leads strategic initiatives to promote health equity and build healthier communities through innovative partnerships at local, regional, and state levels.

Deeply involved in civic life, Gary serves on the boards of Middlesex Health, the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, The Connection, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, and Oak Hill, among others. His passion for mentoring youth and supporting veterans is evident through his work with the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce, the Middletown American Legion, and other organizations.

A champion for social justice and public health, Gary has been recognized for his contributions by numerous organizations, including the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Mayor's Office of Middletown, and 100 Men of Color. Gary was named the recipient of William J. Pomfret Veterans Community Service Award and most recently as the recipient of the Chief Michael L. Green Community Service Award by the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. As Chair, Gary is committed to advancing the mission of the Middlesex United Way of helping to build a stronger future for all 15 towns that make up Middlesex County.

OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



MICHELE BOUTIN

Michele Boutin will join the Middlesex United Way Board of Directors in 2025 as the Representative for the Women United affinity group. Michele has been an active member of the Women United committee for the past two years, contributing to fundraising efforts that support grants for organizations benefiting women and children in Middlesex County.

In May 2024, Michele earned a Master's in Social Work from the University of Saint Joseph. Her professional experience includes working as a social worker at the Hebron Senior Center, where she assisted older residents in accessing services and programs. Currently, Michele is an IICAPS Clinician at Wheeler Clinic, providing mental health support to children and families.

In her spare time, Michele is passionate about volunteering with Women United and other organizations dedicated to supporting women and children. She also contributes to legal name change clinics in the Middletown and Hartford areas. Michele enjoys spending time with her two sons, Tyler and Kyle, and her puppy, Gabby. Additionally, she loves running and regularly participates in local races throughout the year.



STEPHANIE FISHER

Stephanie Fisher joins the Middlesex United Way Board of Directors as a dedicated community leader passionate about making a difference. With over five years of experience in the home care sector at Change Inc., she has cultivated a strong commitment to service and compassion. Previously, she honed customer relations skills while working in title insurance.

Since 2020, Stephanie has been an active member of the Town of Durham Recreation Committee, including serving as chairperson, promoting community engagement and recreational opportunities. She has also been a devoted member of the Middlesex United Way's Emerging Leaders Society since 2019, contributing to initiatives like the annual holiday toy drive and the Middletown Community Thanksgiving Project.

Outside of her community work, Stephanie enjoys an adventurous lifestyle, finding joy in simple pleasures like coffee and waterfront sunsets. She looks forward to leveraging her experience and passion for service to inspire others and drive meaningful change in Middlesex County.

PAST UNITED WAY BOARD CHAIRS

1935 Bertrand E. Spencer	1965 John B. Newman	1995 Jean Adams Shaw
1936 E. Dudley Butler	1966 Morton W. Briggs	1996 Rosario Rizzo
1937 James McConaughy/James Bunce	1967 Woodbridge A. D'Oench	1997 Rosario Rizzo
1938 Rev. John O'Connor/W. W. Wilcox, Jr.	1968 Clifford R. Carlson	1998 Jane S. McMillan
1939 Amor P. Smith	1969 Robert B. Brainard, Jr.	1999 Andrew P. Rapp
1940 Amor P. Smith	1970 George B. Raymond	2000 Andrew P. Rapp
1941 Rev. John O'Connor	1971 George B. Raymond	2001 David L. Reynolds
1942 Burton B. Fall	1972 Kenneth T. Hampton	2002 David L. Reynolds
1943 Burton B. Fall	1973 Kenneth T. Hampton	2003 John Biddiscombe
1944 J. Alfred C. Dodd	1974 Paul S. Carrier, Jr.	2004 John Biddiscombe
1945 J. Alfred C. Dodd	1975 William H. Chadwick	2005 Kelly Smith
1946 Vincent R. Kiernan	1976 William H. Chadwick	2006 Kelly Smith
1947 Elmer E. Schattschneider	1977 Frank J. Sutkowski	2007 William E. Wrang, III
1948 G. Eugene Goundrey	1978 Betty Matteo	2008 William E. Wrang, III
1949 G. Eugene Goundrey	1979 Betty Matteo	2009 Faith M. Jackson
1950 William F. Briggs	1980 Daniel W. Potter	2010 Faith M. Jackson
1951 William F. Briggs	1981 Gordon B. McWilliams	2011 Gary Simonsen
1952 Howard B. Smith	1982 Gordon B. McWilliams	2012 Gary Simonsen
1953 John W. Goodrich	1983 Patrick J. Crowley	2013 Clifford O. Straub
1954 John W. Goodrich	1984 Patrick J. Crowley	2014 Clifford O. Straub
1955 Arthur J. Connell	1985 Ralph H. Shaw, II	2015 William Holder
1956 Christie E. McLeod, MD	1986 Ralph H. Shaw, II	2016 William Holder
1957 Walter P. Staniszewski	1987 Ralph H. Shaw, II	2017 Patricia Charles
1958 William C. Langley	1988 Norton W. Cann	2018 Patricia Charles
1959 Donald C. Davis	1989 Norton W. Cann	2019 Scott Carlson
1960 William J. O'Brien	1990 William J. Russell	2020 Scott Carlson
1961 Nathan I. Shapiro	1991 William J. Russell	2021 Kimberly Hogan
1962 Nathan I. Shapiro	1992 Barbara Weiss	2022 Kimberly Hogan
1963 Richard J. O'Brien	1993 Barbara Weiss	2023 Meg Slater
1964 Vincent A. Amato	1994 Jean Adams Shaw	

PAST UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

1935 Charles R. Hoover	1965 Morton W. Briggs	1996-97 Harry Eben Burr
1936 Elmer S. Hubbell	1966 Woodbridge A. D'Oench	1997-98 Frank Sumpter
1937 Rev. Marion J. Creegar	1967 Clifton R. Carlson	1998-99 David Audette
1938 Rev. John O'Connor	1968 Robert B. Brainard, Jr.	1999-00 Donald B. Wilbur
1939 Rev. John O'Connor	1969 George B. Raymond	2000-01 Robert G. Kiely
1940 Rev. John O'Connor	1970 Everett G. Patterson	2001-02 Peter Patton
1941 Ansel A. Packard	1971 Kenneth T. Hampton	2002-03 William Ryczek
1942 Rev. George L. Whithey	1972 Richard R. Carella	2003-05 Wilfredo Nieves
1943 Elmer E. Schattschneider	1973 Eugene R. O'Brien	2004-05 William E. Wrang, III
1944 Vincent R. Kiernan	1974 William H. Chadwick	2005-06 Harry Eben Burr
1945 Rev. George L. Withey Vincent Keirnan	1975 Anthony S. Marino	2006-07 David L. Reynolds
1946 Rev. Edward J. McKenna	1976 Frank J. Sutkowski	2007-08 Gary Simonsen
1947 Rev. Alvin D. Johnson	1977 Betty Matteo	2008-09 Deborah Bochain
1948 G. Albert Hill	1978 Chester A. Tibbetts	2009-10 David Giuffrida
1949 William F. Briggs	1979 Daniel W. Potter	2010-11 Chandler J. Howard Larry McHugh Michael Roth
1950 Arthur J. Connell	1980 Gordon B. McWilliams	2011-12 Harry Eben Burr Arthur V. McDowell, III, MD
1951 Howard B. Smith	1981 Ralph H. Shaw, II	2012-13 Gary Gomola
1952 John W. Goodrich	1982 Patrick J. Crowley	2013-14 Vincent G. Capece, Jr.
1953 Richard F. Murray, Jr.	1983 Howard F. Kelley	2014-15 Patricia Charles
1954 Donald C. Davis	1984 Barbara J. Maynard	2015-16 Greg Treacy
1955 Christie E. McLeod, MD	1985 Norton W. Cann	2016-17 Kristen Roberts
1956 William C. Langley	1986 David M. Royston	2017-18 Kevin Reich
1957 William J. O'Brien, Jr.	1987 Harold Brown	2018-20 Justin Carbonella Toral Maher Joe Santaniello Meg Slater
1958 Creighton F. Magoun	1988 Joseph E. Milardo, Jr.	2020 Dr. Michael Conner
1959 Ernest H. Nelson	1989 James E. Coppage	2021 William Holder
1960 Nathan I. Shapiro	1990 Charles B. Stone, Jr.	2022 Duncan Olaechea Marisol Rodriguez
1961 John W. Macy, Jr.	1990-91 Donald M. Russell	
1962 Richard J. O'Brien	1991-92 Robert G. Kiely	
1963 Vincent A. Amato	1992-93 Rick Bellows	
1964 John B. Newman	1993-94 Ralph Shaw, II Jean Shaw	
	1994-95 Edward McMillan Jane McMillan	
	1995-96 John Beckert	

MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY VOLUNTEERS

BOARD COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Lakisha Hyatt, Chair
Joshua Rivera
Debra Hopkins*
Barbara Holloman
Kevin Reich

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Laurie Salafia, Chair
Allison Dowe
Brian Kelleher*

COMMUNITY IMPACT COUNCIL

Kevin Reich, Chair
Gary Wallace
Barbara Holloman
Wilfredo Nieves
Jon Brink

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Alissa DeJonge, Chair
Ramona Burkey
Gary Wallace
Meg Slater

AUDIT COMMITTEE

David Reynolds, Chair*
Rick Morin*

HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Marisol Rodriquez, Chair
Kimberly Hogan
Faith Jackson



*NOT CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR FUNDED PARTNERS



2024-2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANTS

Youth Opportunity

Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau
 Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater
 Police Activity League of Middletown
 Northern Middlesex YMCA
 Free Center

Education

Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore
 Westbrook Youth & Family Services
 The Connection, Inc. - Entrepreneurial
 Workshops

Financial Security

Kuhn Employment Opportunities, Inc.

Racial Equity & Inclusion

STEAM Train, Inc.

Housing

Columbus House, Inc.
 The Connection, Inc. - Eddy Shelter
 Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of
 Connecticut
 The Prevention Fund**
 HOPE Partnership

Wellness

The Connection, Inc. - Hallie House
 St. Vincent de Paul Middletown
 Gilead Community Services, Inc.
 Middlesex Health
 Middletown Pride

**Middlesex United Way also supports the state's 2-1-1 and 9-8-8 Helplines through the 2024-2025 Community Impact Grant Cycle.*

***Middlesex United Way now runs the Prevention Fund to assist community members with funding for security deposits, rental assistance, and other general housing needs.*

2024-2025 SMALL GRANT PROGRAM

Youth Opportunity

Middletown Board of Education
 Ivoryton Library Association
 HK Youth & Family Services
 Lumibility

Racial Equity & Inclusion

Middlesex County NAACP

Wellness

Food4Lives, Inc.
 Valley Shore YMCA



OUR FINANCIALS*

2023-2024 TOTALS

Middlesex United Way takes its responsibility as a steward of donor contributions very seriously. United Way's Board of Directors, staff, and other professional volunteers with expertise in financial management and governance have established fiscal controls to ensure the highest level of accountability and transparency in United Way's operations.

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:			
Current-year campaign contributions:			
	\$ 885,500	\$ -	\$ 885,500
Less amounts raised on behalf of others	(71,373)		(71,373)
Total contributions	814,127		814,127
Contributed services			
Less: provision for uncollectible pledges	(50,000)		(50,000)
Prior year campaign contributions	102,149		102,149
Net campaign revenue	866,276		866,276
Other revenue and support			
Amounts raised by other agencies			
Service fee revenue	15,500		15,500
Other contributions	30,500	14,611	45,111
Other income	5,830		5,830
Net assets relieved from restriction	32,500	(32,500)	-
Total other revenue and support	84,330	(17,889)	66,441
Total revenue and support	950,606	(17,889)	932,717
DISTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENSES:			
Distributions:			
Community partners	300,000		300,000
Special allocations and other distributions	18,473		18,473
Payments to affiliated organizations	10,350		10,350
Total distributions	328,823		328,823
Expenses:			
Program services	385,500		385,500
Support services:			
Fundraising expenses	78,500		78,500
Management and general expenses	192,500		192,500
Total program and support services	656,500		656,500
Total distributions and expenses	985,323		985,323
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS	(34,717)	(17,889)	(52,606)
INVESTMENT INCOME:			
Net investment income	7,500		7,500
investment income-beneficial trusts	35,450		35,450
Net increase (decrease) in trust values		29,350	29,350
Net realized and unrealized gains and (losses) on investments	32,500	17,651	50,151
Total investment income	75,450	47,001	122,451
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	40,733	29,112	69,845
NET ASSETS:			
Beginning of year	569,345	870,170	1,439,515
End of year	\$ 610,078	\$ 899,282	\$ 1,509,360

***Editor's Note: The financial information provided in this Annual Report is not yet audited at the time of publication. We will provide a copy of the complete audited financials on our website: Middlesexunitedway.org.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

MEG SLATER



Meg Slater, an accomplished marketing manager at Wright-Pierce, exemplifies dedication to community service and leadership. At Wright-Pierce, an award-winning engineering firm specializing in drinking water, wastewater, and civil infrastructure services, Meg oversees marketing efforts for Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New York.

Meg's journey with Middlesex United Way began in 2006, when she organized workplace campaigns at Wright-Pierce. Over the years, her contributions have been nothing short of extraordinary. She was a founding member of the Young Leaders Society (*now Emerging Leaders*) in 2011, later serving as co-chair in 2014 and chair from 2015 to 2017. In 2020, she joined the Women's Initiative (*now Women United*), becoming its chair in 2021.



Since 2015, Meg has served on the Board in various capacities, including as Campaign Co-chair from 2018 to 2020 alongside her fellow "Fantastic Four" Young Leaders alumni. As Board Chair, Meg has provided visionary leadership, strengthening the organization's ability to create lasting change in Middlesex County.



Meg's dedication extends beyond Middlesex United Way. She has been active in the Middletown Refugee Resettlement Coalition and the Middletown Racial Justice Coalition, reflecting her deep commitment to equity and social justice.



Her personal story is one of resilience and gratitude. Having once relied on 2-1-1 services as a single parent living in Middletown City Housing, Meg's journey fuels her passion for giving back. Today, she lives in East Hampton with her husband and daughter, where they are engaged members of their local Democratic Town Committee.

For over a decade, Meg's unwavering commitment to Middlesex United Way has inspired others and created a profound impact. The 2024 Community Service Award is a testament to her exceptional service and leadership.

2024 HONOREES



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

Anita Ford Saunders

JUSTIN WILKIE NEXT GENERATION AWARD

Stephanie Fisher

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater

LIVE UNITED AWARD

Lisa Christensen, MARC Community Resources

Peter Keast, St. Vincent de Paul Middletown



PAST UNITED WAY AWARD WINNERS

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

1949 John C. Barry	1969 John F. LaRosa	1989 Patrick J. Crowley	2011 Linda Ann Morales
1950 Mrs. Frederick S. Hurlburt	Morton W. Briggs	1990 Howard F. Kelley	2012 Wilfredo Nieves
1951 C. Eugene Goundrey	1970 Henry Sherwood, MD	1991 Donald M. Russell	2013 William Holder
1952 William F. Briggs, Sr.	1971 Clair B. Crampton, MD	1992 William J. Russell	2014 Gary Simonsen
Robert B. Brainard, Sr.	1972 Mrs. John W. Spaeth	1993 Carl A. Capello	2015 Deborah C. Bochain
J. Alfred C. Dodd	1973 Woodbridge A. D'Oench	1994 Thomas H. Stickney	2016 David Director
1953 Morris S. Wrubel	1974 Everett G. Patterson	1995 Barbara M. Weiss	2017 Clifford O. Straub
1954 Mrs. Carroll A. Campbell	1975 Robert B. Brainard, Jr.	1996 Joseph E. Milardo, Jr.	2018 Kristen Roberts
1955 Miss M. Elizabeth Murphy	1976 Andrew F. Johnson	1997 Robert J. DeJonge	2019 Matthew Stillman
1956 Frederick S. Hurlburt	Sturges G. Redfield, Jr.	1998 Rosario A. Rizzo, Jr.	2020 Jean D'Aquila
1957 Howard B. Smith	1977 Paul S. Carrier, Jr.	Ralph D. Strong, Jr.	2021 Pat Charles
1958 Christie E. McLeod, MD	1978 George B. Raymond	1999 Harry Eben Burr	2022 Kim Hogan
1959 John B. Goodrich	1979 Kathryn I. Briggs	2000 Jane S. McMillan	2023 Kevin Reich
1960 Donald C. Davis	1980 Shirley F. Shapiro	2001 John S. Biddiscombe	
1961 Mrs. Harry B. Rosener	1981 Daniel W. Potter	2002 Donald B. Wilbur	
1962 William C. Langley	1982 Frank J. Sutkowski	2003 Andrew P. Rapp	
1963 Mrs. Clair B. Crampton	1983 Gordon B. McWilliams	2004 David L. Reynolds	
1964 Nathan I. Shapiro	1984 Edward D. Stites	2005 Earl S. Brown	
1965 Richard J. O'Brien	1985 Russell G. D'Oench, Jr.	2006 Douglas W. Johnson	
1966 Vincent A. Amato	1986 Richard R. Carella	2007 Faith M. Jackson	
1967 John B. Newman	1987 David M. Royston	2008 Kelly Smith	
1968 Mrs. Victor L. Butterfield	1988 Jean Adams Shaw	2009 Patti Anne Vassia	
	Ralph H. Shaw, II	2010 William E. Wrang, III	

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AWARD

2006 Douglas & Midge Bennett	2013 Rosa Carrero	2019 Dr. Michael Conner
2007 Arlene Rosener Mazzotta	2014 Christine Fahey	2021 Gary Wallace
2008 Reverend Moses Harvill	2015 Rob Rosenthal	2022 Pastor Moses Harvill
2010 Elizabeth Morgan	2016 Joseph Santaniello	2023 Judy Sullivan
2011 Willard McRae	2017 Lorenzo Marshall	
2012 Joan Youngs	2018 Cathy & Bob Boone	

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

2006 Clinton Public Schools and Youth & Family Services	2012 Middletown Adult Education	2018 Columbus House
2007 Community Health Center	2013 Middlesex YMCA	2019 Child and Family Agency of Southeastern CT
2008 Amazing Grace & SSKP	2014 MARC Community Resources	2021 Gilead Community Services
2010 Partners in the Healthy Communities	2015 Shoreline Soup Kitchens & Pantries	2022 Middlesex Habitat for Humanity of CT
2011 HOPE Partnership	2016 The Coalition for Housing and Homelessness	2023 Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore
	2017 The Connection, Inc.	

TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY PHILANTHROPY AWARD

2006 Paul & Sally McConnell	2017 Vincent Capece
2007 Peter Harding	2018 Bill & Sharon Griffin
2008 The Director Family	2019 Laura Pedersen
2010 Chandler Howard	2021 David Glidden
2011 Herb & Sherry Clark	2022 William J. Ryczek
2012 The Guilmartins	2023 David Reynolds
2013 Harry Eben Burr	
2014 William E. Wrang, III	
2015 John Sullivan	
2016 The Community Foundation of Middlesex County	

JUSTIN WILKIE NEXT GENERATION AWARD

2017 Kevin Harris
2018 Meghann LaFountain
2019 Eric Kane
2021 Kapildeo Singh
2022 Shanay Fulton
2023 Meg Bush

LIVE UNITED AWARD

2022 Officer Jason Bodell (Middletown Police Department)
Audrey Livingston (Loaned Exec. from Middlesex Health)
2023 Barbara Holloman

WOMEN UNITED



Power of the Purse
AN EVENING TO SUPPORT WOMEN LIFTING UP OTHER WOMEN

In 2024, Women United made a remarkable impact in Middlesex County by reviving the much-loved "Power of the Purse" fundraiser, raising significant funds to support small grants for women and children in our community.

Scan the QR Code above to view photos from the event.

Under the leadership of co-chairs Allison Dowe and Dawn Norton, the volunteer-driven group revitalized its mission, hosting several successful events throughout the year. As their tenure concludes, the group is poised for continued success under the incoming chair, Michele Boutin, in 2025.

ELS
EMERGING LEADERS SOCIETY



EMERGING LEADERS SOCIETY

STUFF-A-CRUISER
2024 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



In 2024, the Emerging Leaders Society made strides in rebuilding its presence by hosting the successful Stuff-a-Cruiser Toy Drive in November. Partnering with the Middletown Police Department, the event raised over \$800 which was used to purchase toys and gifts for the City of Middletown Recreation Department's holiday initiative. Thanks to this effort, nearly 400 children received gifts, spreading joy across the community. Looking ahead to 2025, the group is eager to engage new members and grow under the dynamic leadership of Stephanie Fisher.



Following more than a decade-long hiatus, Middlesex United Way brought back its Golf Tournament in 2024. The popular event brought together enthusiastic players and generous supporters, and we're aiming to make 2025 even bigger and better. Thank you to Portland Golf Course for hosting our tournament.



This past October, Middlesex United Way hosted its 2nd Annual President's Masquerade Ball. The evening was nothing short of spectacular! With a vibrant Mardi Gras theme, the event brought our community together in style and raised over \$10,000 to support Middlesex United Way's vital grants and programs. Thank you to everyone who joined us in making this night unforgettable!

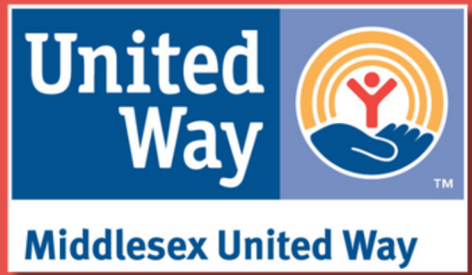


Scan the QR Codes above to view photo galleries from the 2024 Golf Tournament and the 2nd Annual President's Masquerade Ball.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY SUCCESS

Middlesex United Way works closely with nearly two dozen local agencies whose work falls within the established United Way impact areas of *Racial Equity & Inclusion, Education & Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Housing, and Healthy Communities/Wellness*. We are proud to partner with groups and organizations that make such a tremendous difference in the community.

Scan the QR codes below to learn more about their work.



LEADING THE WAY



St. Vincent de Paul and the Amazing Grace Food Pantry have been vital resources for families in Middlesex County for many years.

During the 2023-2024 Grant Cycle:

- An average of 663,600 meals were served through the Amazing Grace Food Distribution Initiatives.
- The agency served an average of **1,000 families** each month.
- During the school year, an average of **363 elementary school students** in Middletown brought home two meals and snacks in their backpacks. That adds up to approximately 29,300 meals served.

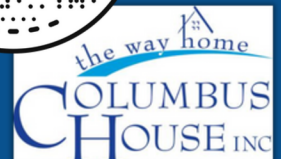
"SUCH A BLESSING..."

HEIDI AND HER FAMILY LOST EVERYTHING THEY HAD IN AN APARTMENT FIRE AND MOVED INTO A MOTEL. SHE BEGAN GETTING FOOD FROM AMAZING GRACE FOOD PANTRY THROUGH HER SOCIAL WORKER. HEIDI CALLED THE FOOD "SUCH A BLESSING" AS IT WAS FRESH AND LIKE GETTING GROCERIES FROM A LOCAL STORE. HEIDI NOW VOLUNTEERS AT AMAZING GRACE TO SHOW HER APPRECIATION AND PAY IT FORWARD.



Throughout the Pandemic, Columbus House has maintained a track record of success, not only in continuing to move people into permanent housing placements, but also in keeping individuals and families safe from the virus and off the streets.

- Columbus House's Housing programs secured permanent housing solutions for **more than 300 people** in 2022.
- The Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Rapid ReHousing (RRH) programs served **837 people** in 2022, with **98% of PSH clients** maintaining or improving their living situation and **89% of RRH clients** remaining housed within 12 months of exiting to permanent housing.



"A SOURCE OF STRENGTH"

"COLUMBUS HOUSE IS SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE A NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN THE CLIENTS OF OUR SERVICES, WHO NOW WORK ON OUR STAFF. IT'S ALWAYS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO BE DRIVEN BY PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND IN A VERY PERSONAL AND REAL SENSE: THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT WE'RE DOING AND WHAT THE PEOPLE THAT WE'RE SERVING ARE GOING THROUGH."

Margaret Middleton
Former Chief Executive Officer, Columbus House



CELEBRATING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



In 2024, Middlesex United Way proudly supported Middletown Pride with a Community Impact Grant, amplifying its ability to serve the LGBTQIA2S+ community. Middletown Pride held a record 25 events during the 2023-2024 grant cycle, the highest number since it began. Funding provided by Middlesex United Way helped allow the organization to engage over 300 people across the Middlesex County Community. Scan the QR Code below to visit Middletown Pride's website.



LEADING THE WAY

“WHEN I STARTED MIDDLETOWN PRIDE, I WAS SO THANKFUL AND SO SURPRISED ABOUT HOW MANY PEOPLE HERE IN THE MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY WERE JUST SUPER ACCEPTING... AND NOT ONLY DID THEY INSTANTLY GET INVOLVED FROM THE START, THEY SAID: ‘OKAY, BUT LET US DO MORE AND WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?’ WE’VE SEEN THAT TIME AND TIME AGAIN WITH MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY JUST SHOWING UP EVERY YEAR.”

*Christopher Forte
Founder, Middletown Pride*



QUEER SWIM SUCCESS:

A trans masculine individual felt safe and welcomed at Middletown Pride Queer Swim event, a crucial step for someone previously anxious about public spaces. They are now a regular attendee of Middletown Pride events.



PRIDESGIVING DINNER:

A participant who was estranged from their family found solace and support through Middletown Pride's Pridesgiving Dinner, sharing the holiday with their chosen family and strengthening their connection to the community.



CELEBRATING YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater is celebrating its 50th season in 2024-2025! Founded on the principles of inclusivity and creativity, Oddfellows offers a wide range of programs for children and teens. It is a place where kids can freely express themselves and feel accepted.

The continued partnership with Middlesex United Way ensures that every child, regardless of their financial background, can participate in programs like the Children's Circus, a renowned day camp model that has inspired similar initiatives nationwide.



LEADING THE WAY

“WHAT MAKES ME WANT TO COME IN EVERY DAY IS JUST FEELING LIKE, IN A LITTLE WAY, WE’RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THIS COMMUNITY AND AFFECTING KIDS’ LIVES AND FAMILIES’ LIVES...”

Dic Wheeler

*Executive Artistic Director
Oddfellows Playhouse Youth Theater*



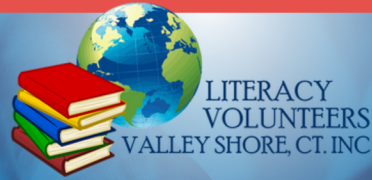
CHILDREN'S CIRCUS OF MIDDLETOWN



Nearly 200 children took part in the 36th Annual Children's Circus of Middletown in 2024. It featured a spectacular 100-minute performance with over 1,000 in the audience. The beloved camp provides children with the opportunity to learn acrobatics, juggling, clowning, and more! It is focused on Middletown residents, offers a sliding-scale fee, and provides free breakfast and lunch for all enrolled children.

Scan QR Code to learn more and see additional photos.

CELEBRATING EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS



Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore, a longtime community partner of Middlesex United Way, is dedicated to bridging the language gap for more than 250 adults in the shoreline community, including many recent immigrants from nearly three dozen different countries.

The organization's mission is crucial: helping individuals gain essential English language skills to enhance their job prospects, navigate daily life, and integrate more fully into their community.

With over 300 dedicated volunteers, LVVS offers personalized tutoring tailored to each learner's needs.



LEADING THE WAY



"TUTORING IS DEEPLY REWARDING. YOU'RE NOT JUST TEACHING ENGLISH; YOU'RE BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES."

Susan Graves

*Board Member
Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore*



Literacy Volunteers Valley Shore is unique in its impact because it is primarily volunteer-run with the support of one staff member. The organization is always looking for new tutors to support its mission. Training is provided and no prior experience is needed. Scan QR Code to learn more about how you can help.



MIDDLESEX VITA

A LOOK AT THIS YEAR'S NUMBERS:

615

Returns Processed

More than

\$769,000

in refunds back to the community.

*Data provided by Middlesex VITA for the 2024 tax season.



What is VITA?

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) SITES OFFER FREE TAX HELP TO INDIVIDUALS WHO NEED ASSISTANCE IN PREPARING THEIR OWN TAX RETURNS. MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY SUPPORTS THE LOCAL VITA PROGRAM IN MIDDLESEX COUNTY. SINCE 2009, LOCAL VITA VOLUNTEERS HAVE HELPED SECURE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN REFUNDS BACK TO THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY COMMUNITY.

EMAIL MIDDLESEXCT.VITA@GMAIL.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTEERING OR SETTING UP AN APPOINTMENT.



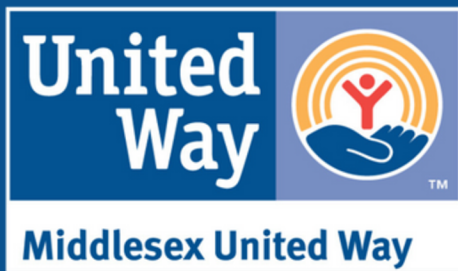
“...I FOUND HER CHILD CREDITS, SHE HAD EARNED INCOME CREDITS, AND THE MONEY SHE SAVED FOR NOT HAVING TO PAY FOR IT... SHE CRIED. SHE JUST CRIED. THAT WARMS MY HEART BECAUSE I KNOW I REALLY, TRULY HELPED SOMEBODY...”

Linda Ring
Middlesex VITA Volunteer Coordinator



SCAN THE QR CODE ABOVE TO LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR MIDDLESEX VITA DURING THE 2025 TAX SEASON





THE PREVENTION FUND

HELPING PEOPLE STAY IN THEIR HOMES AND
REBUILD THEIR LIVES.

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PREVENTION FUND?

- Helping our ALICE population with urgent financial needs.
- One-time grants for rent, medical emergencies, and more.
- Paid directly to vendors (landlords, doctors, auto repair).
- Supporting people on their path to stability and independence.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION AS THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY COALITION ON HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS IN 2008, THE PREVENTION FUND HAS PROVIDED ALMOST \$400,000 TO PAY BACK RENT, UTILITIES, CAR REPAIRS, AND OTHER EXPENSES, ENABLING NEARLY 400 HOUSEHOLDS TO AVOID HOMELESSNESS.



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



GET INVOLVED WITH MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY!

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE? WE OFFER VARIOUS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, FROM OUR ANNUAL DAY OF ACTION AND DAY OF CARING TO SMALLER INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS. JOIN US IN CREATING A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITY.

CONTACT KAREN RENNER AT [KAREN.RENNER@MIDDLESEXUNITEDWAY.ORG](mailto:karen.renner@middlesexunitedway.org) TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW YOU CAN HELP.



OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS

2024-2025*

Our corporate sponsors generously support their community through a single donation that helps Middlesex United Way's marketing programs, special events, and materials.

**Corporate Sponsors at or above \$1,000 level as of January 17, 2025 are listed below.*

EVERSOURCE



MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY STAFF

Shawonda S. Swain, President & CEO

Audrey Livingston, Loaned Executive, Middlesex Health

William Hall, Director of Communications & Marketing

Karen Renner, Administrative & Finance Assistant

Whitney Mooney, Director of Development

Desmond Mahario, Vice President of Finance & Administration

Brian Thompson, Director of Community Impact

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

1935

MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY CHEST INCORPORATED

1952

EXPANDED TO GREATER MIDDLETOWN COMMUNITY CHEST

1956

COMMUNITY CHEST BECOMES UNITED FUND

1967

EXPANDED TO NORTHERN MIDDLESEX UNITED FUND

1970

UNITED FUND BECOMES MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY

1987

UNITED WAY OF AMERICA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

2009

UNITED WAY OF AMERICA BECOMES UNITED WAY WORLDWIDE



SCAN QR CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
MIDDLESEX UNITED WAY'S HISTORY

United
Way



Middlesex United Way

ubeo
BUSINESS
SERVICES

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