

2026
REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

821 INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERED WITH UWGNB

512,691 LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY THE HUNGER COMMISSION

12,346 CALLS PLACED TO MASS 211 FROM GREATER NEW BEDFORD

726 TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED BY THE NEW BEDFORD FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

$769,100 INVESTED IN LOCAL NONPROFITS THROUGH GRANTMAKING

OUR MISSION

United Way of Greater New Bedford mobilizes people, partnerships, and resources to catalyze change that strengthens the communities we serve.

SERVICE AREA - Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, and Wareham.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR



This past year was a strong one for United Way of Greater New Bedford. We strengthened partnerships and continued to find new ways to serve the communities that count on us.

From responding to urgent food needs when SNAP benefits were disrupted to expanding our Financial Wellness at Work initiative and working with community partners on issues like early education and neighborhood development, we addressed immediate challenges while investing in lasting solutions. This is what United Way does best: bring people, partnerships and resources together to make a meaningful difference.

We are proud of what our team accomplished and grateful to the donors, volunteers, corporate partners, community organizations and board members who make this work possible. This year also brought meaningful milestones: UWGNB was named Best Nonprofit in the South Coast Almanac's Best of the South Coast Awards, we celebrated 20 years of partnership with YMCA's Sharing the Harvest Farm, and Michelle marked her 20th year of leadership as President & CEO.

As proud as we are of the year behind us, we are equally excited about what lies ahead. Our planned merger with United Way of Greater Plymouth County in early 2027 creates an opportunity to build an even stronger United Way with greater reach, broader influence, and the resources to help more people, in more ways.

As we move into this next chapter, staying connected to our communities and focused on the needs of the people we serve will remain at the heart of our work.

We are proud of where we are, grateful for everyone who helped us get here, and excited about where we are going.

Thank you for being part of it.

Michelle N. Hantman

Michelle N. Hantman
President & CEO
United Way of Greater New Bedford

Christopher R. Fortier

Christopher R. Fortier
PharmD, FASHP, CPEL
Chair, Board of Directors
United Way of Greater New Bedford


410
UNITED
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BUILDING A THRIVING COMMUNITY

A thriving community is one where families have what they need, people have opportunities to build a better future, and everyone has a chance to be part of a strong, supportive community.

That is why United Way focuses on three priorities.

- Helping households stay stable by addressing essential needs such as food, housing, and family support.
- Creating pathways to long-term success through financial stability, education, and opportunity
- Strengthening community conditions by bringing people and organizations together to improve the systems, resources, and opportunities that help our communities grow stronger.

We know lasting change does not happen through one program, one organization, or one solution. It happens when we work together to address immediate needs while also creating the conditions for long-term success.

In the pages to follow, discover how these priorities shape the programs we deliver, the organizations and initiatives we invest in, and the partnerships we build to strengthen our community and create lasting change.



ENSURING HOUSEHOLDS ARE STABLE

FOOD INSECURITY

30+ FOOD PANTRIES SERVED

512,691 LBS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY THE HUNGER COMMISION





Making sure our neighbors have access to nutritious food takes partnerships, volunteers, and a community willing to come together to meet people where they are.

This year, we strengthened that work in several ways, including a new partnership with **Spoonfuls**, the largest food recovery operation of its kind in New England, to expands our access to nutritious food that might otherwise go to waste. In 2026, an additional 94,658 pounds of food was distributed by the **Hunger Commission** because of this new partnership. Together, we're moving nutritious food from where there is a surplus to where it's needed most.

We also expanded our **Mobile Market** beyond the traditional growing season. Winter Mobile Markets helped families continue accessing fresh, healthy, hearty food during the colder months by bringing resources directly into neighborhoods and making food access easier.

As food insecurity continues to grow, so does our response. When SNAP benefits were paused, creating additional challenges for families across Massachusetts, United Ways and community partners came together through a statewide effort to raise funds and help fill the gap. UWGNB distributed over $206,000 of **Help United SNAP Grants** to local organizations, supporting their efforts to connect residents with resources, navigate benefit changes, and ensure that families had access to food during a challenging time.

When we come together to make sure our neighbors have access to food, we're doing more than addressing hunger–we're helping create the stability families need to thrive.



ENSURING HOUSEHOLDS ARE STABLE

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

967 RESIDENTS SERVED BY THE FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER

1,395 RESIDENTS PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAMMING WITH OUR NEW BEDFORD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COALITION

Family Resource Centers

Community Connections Coalitions New Bedford





The New Bedford Family Resource Center (FRC) and **New Bedford Community Connections Coalition (NBCCC)** work together to strengthen household stability by connecting families with the resources, relationships, and supports they need.

The **FRC** provides a welcoming, culturally-diverse, family-centered entry point where parents, caregivers, and youth can access information, referrals, parenting education, family activities, and connections to essential resources such as food, housing, child care, employment, transportation, and behavioral health services.

NBCCC brings community partners together to strengthen the local family-serving network, and address challenges before they become crises through coordination and training.

Together, the FRC and NBCCC help navigate complex systems, build resilience and social connections, and access timely assistance. This coordinated, prevention-focused approach helps families remain safe and stable while strengthening the broader network of support available to children and caregivers throughout New Bedford.



2,118 BOOKS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH WASH & READ

ENSURING HOUSEHOLDS ARE STABLE

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

615 RIDES PROVIDED THROUGH RELIEF RIDES

1,500+ SUBSCRIBERS ENROLLED IN LANTERN





Ensuring households are stable means more than meeting an immediate need. It means helping families access the information, resources, and opportunities they need to thrive.

LANTERN

Lantern, powered by Women United, delivers trusted, age-appropriate, science-backed parenting information by text, covering child development, early learning, health, and parenting. Families also receive information about free and low-cost SouthCoast activities, connecting them with resources in their own communities.

WASH & READ

Since 2018, Women United has made **Wash & Read** possible, providing free, high-quality children's books at 10 laundromat locations throughout the community. These reading corners and take-home books turn time spent waiting for laundry into opportunities for connection, learning, and early literacy.

RELIEF RIDES

Stability can also start with being able to get where you need to go. Through our partnership with Lyft and Mass 211, **Relief Rides** help remove transportation barriers for residents in New Bedford and Fall River. Free rides are available for non-emergency healthcare appointments, employment opportunities, and accessing food–helping people reach essential services when transportation challenges get in the way.



CONNECTING HOUSEHOLDS TO SUCCESS

EMPOWERING FAMILIES

22 GRADUATED THE NURTURING FATHERS PROGRAM

36 PARENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

88 TEENS PARTICIPATED IN ASPIRE ACTIVITIES





United Way of Greater New Bedford creates pathways to long-term success by investing in people at pivotal moments, helping them build the relationships, skills, resources, and confidence that support lasting stability. That support can look different depending on where someone is in life.

ASPIRE

For middle school students, it means having a safe, supportive place to build positive behaviors, nurture mental well-being, experience belonging, and make healthy, substance-free choices. Through **ASPIRE (Achieve Success, Promote Individual Resilience & Excellence)**, a program of Child & Family Services, the New Bedford Family Resource Center helps young people develop the skills and confidence they need to navigate these important years.

NURTURING FATHERS

For fathers, building stability can start with strengthening relationships at home. **Nurturing Fathers** is a 14-week program that helps dads develop parenting skills, build nurturing relationships, and connect with other fathers. Dinner and childcare help make it possible for more fathers to participate.

COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER

And for new and expecting parents, often the most meaningful support is knowing they have what they need to get started. The **Community Baby Shower** provides essential supplies, information, connections, and a chance to celebrate this important transition. Building on Women United's **Baby Bundles** initiative, which has distributed more than 1,000 bundles since 2018, this event helps families enter parenthood with practical resources and a stronger sense of community.

30 WOMEN EXPANDED THEIR FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE THROUGH FINANCIAL WELLNESS FOR WOMEN



"The Financial Wellness For Women team helped me get through a very difficult time. I now feel empowered, confident, and extremely grateful for having this opportunity – on my way to financial success!"

- Financial Wellness For Women Program Participant

CONNECTING HOUSEHOLDS TO SUCCESS

FINANCIAL WELLNESS

352 EMPLOYEES HAVE PARTICIPATED IN FINANCIAL WELLNESS FOR WORK

86 LOANS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY TFED THROUGH FWW



"Having someone help with your financial situation is one thing. Having someone who is relatable, and makes you feel comfortable, seen, and heard makes all the difference. My financial wellness coordinator truly has made me feel like I can ask her for help with anything no matter how big, or small."

- Financial Wellness At Work Program Participant

United Way of Greater New Bedford's Financial Wellness initiatives create pathways to greater financial security through meaningful, individualized engagement. Whether through the workplace or a small-group experience, participants have the opportunity to build knowledge, set goals, work through challenges, and develop practical strategies for strengthening their financial lives.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS AT WORK (FWW)

Financial Wellness at Work brings a trained United Way coordinator directly into participating workplaces, giving employees access to confidential one-on-one coaching and quarterly workshops. The program creates the opportunities for shared learning to build financial knowledge, develop lasting habits, and work toward greater stability, while also connecting participants to community resources.

FINANCIAL WELLNESS FOR WOMEN (FWFW)

Women United offers a 10-week small group program, Financial Wellness for Women, that combines financial education, individualized coaching, and connection. Participants explore topics including budgeting, credit, savings, debt, and long-term planning while working toward goals that are meaningful to them.

While the programs take different approaches, both are built around the same idea: meaningful financial change takes time, support, and the opportunity to put new knowledge into practice.



IMPACTING CHANGE

BUILDING COMMUNITY

821 INDIVIDUALS VOLUNTEERED WITH UWGNB

1,379 VOLUNTEERS WERE CONNECTED WITH OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH VOLUNTEER SOUTHCOAST





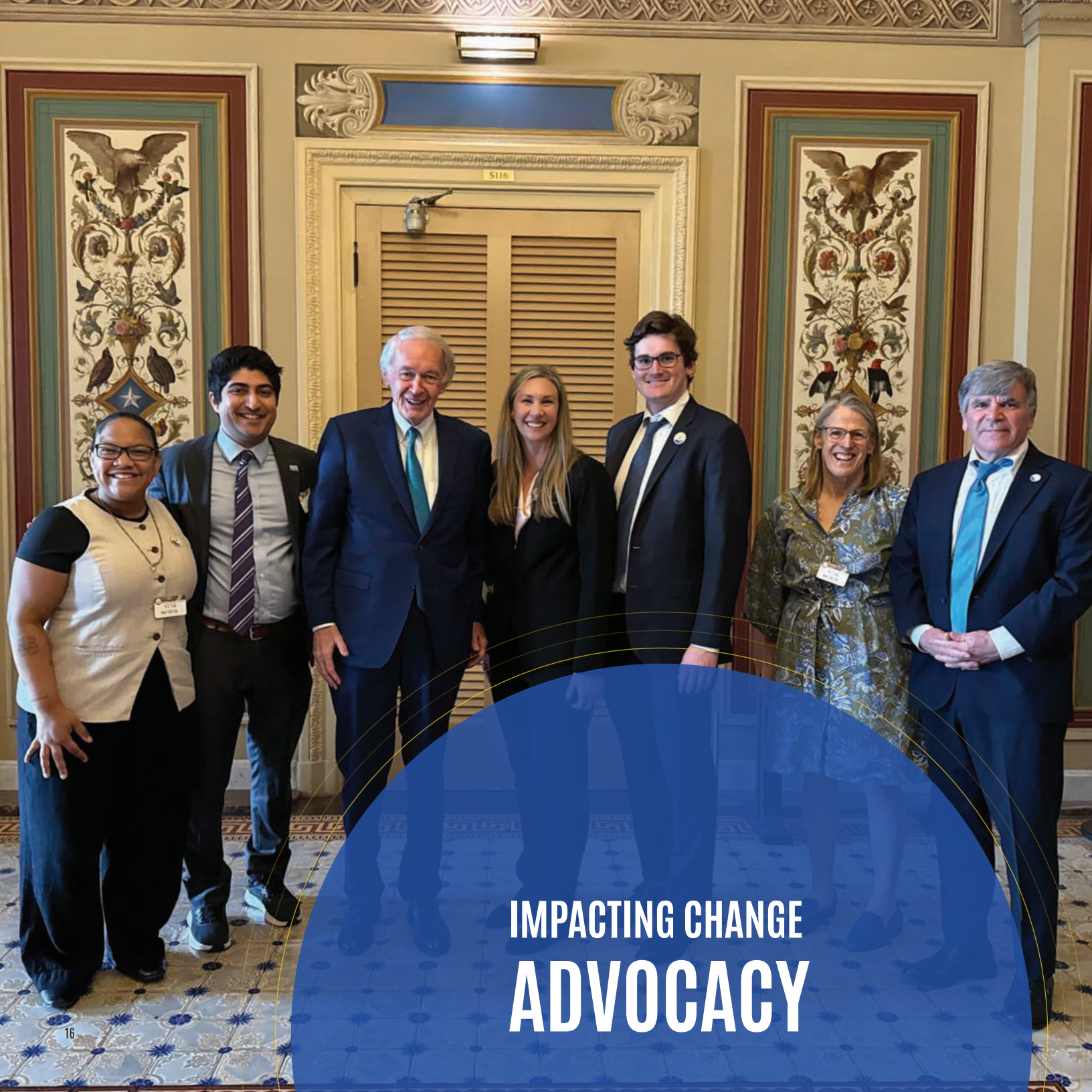
Some of the biggest changes in our community start with something simple: people coming together to help.

Volunteerism is at the heart of United Way of Greater New Bedford's work to build stronger communities. Whether someone has an afternoon to give, or a passion they want to put into action, we help connect people with meaningful ways to make a difference.

Through **Volunteer SouthCoast**, we bring volunteers and local nonprofits together. The platform makes it easier for organizations to find the people they need and for volunteers to discover opportunities that match their interests, skills and availability. It is one more way we help build connections across our community.

Additionally, we host events where volunteers can join together to give back. Through our Days of Caring, groups of volunteers come together to roll up their sleeves and support local nonprofits. This past year, more than 200 volunteers took on projects at local nonprofits through our **Day of Caring** in the fall and our **Youth Day of Caring** in the spring. These projects included landscaping, painting, organizing, and more.

Our widely popular Hunger Heroes events bring people of all ages together to help address food insecurity. Each year, volunteers assemble 1,000 vacation meal packs for local students in the spring and 1,000 Thanksgiving meals for families in the fall. These efforts show what is possible when hundreds of people come together around a shared goal – and that no matter what age, everyone can make a difference!



IMPACTING CHANGE
ADVOCACY





A thriving community depends on conditions that make opportunity possible, not only programs that respond to individual needs. During the year, United Way of Greater New Bedford used its convening role to bring the SouthCoast's priorities to local, state, and federal policy discussions. Through United Way Worldwide's **Advocacy Forum** and **Capitol Hill Day**, UWGNB joined other Massachusetts United Ways in advocating for stronger food security, early education and care, and household financial stability.

Closer to home, UWGNB helped advance a more coordinated early childhood system in New Bedford, working with city leaders, schools, providers, and community organizations to explore models that better align resources and services for young children and their families. UWGNB also participated in efforts to address food insecurity at the systems level, including the statewide Anti-Hunger Task Force and regional food policy initiatives.

Our advocacy also included supporting the ENOUGH Act-legislation designed to fund place-based, community-driven approaches to persistent poverty, and engaging policymakers around the barriers facing households across the SouthCoast.

These efforts reflect UWGNB's role as more than a funder or service provider. By convening partners, elevating local experience, connecting community needs to policymakers, and helping align resources around shared challenges, we work to improve the systems and conditions that shape opportunity and create a stronger foundation for everyone to thrive.



IMPACTING CHANGE

INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

$796,100 AWARDED TO 37 ORGANIZATIONS THROUGH GRANTS

Dollars raised by UWGNB are put to work supporting programs and initiatives that address community needs and create meaningful change.

This year, grants were awarded through our Community Impact Grants to local organizations, Changemaker Grants to grass-root volunteer groups addressing local issues, Help United Grants to assist during the pause in SNAP benefits and to help people who are unhoused get state identification cards to access benefits.

2025-2026 GRANTS

Achieve Greatness University
Be the Solution to Pollution
Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford
Caritas Communities
Catholic Charities of Fall River
Child & Family Services
Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County
Coaching4Change
Coastline Elderly Services
Community Boating Center of New Bedford
Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)
Damien's Food Pantry
Dennison Memorial Community Center
Disabled American Veterans of New Bedford
ELECT SouthCoast
Flurries Unified All Stars
Freetown Food Pantry
The Friends of Hazelwood Park
Friends of the New Bedford Free Public Library
Gingerbread Girls
Good Shephard's Pantry
Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
Greater New Bedford Girls Flag Football League
Health Imperatives
Herren Project
Immigrants' Assistance Center
INFOvantage Brochures
Meeting Street Massachusetts
MoLife
My Brother's Keeper
Nativity Preparatory School
New Bedford Free Public Library
NorthStar Learning Centers
Nutrients Out of WasteWater
Our Sisters' School
PathwaystoFreedom
People Acting in Community Endeavors (PACE)
Positive Change Against Chemical Addiction (PAACA)
Rochester Affordable Housing
Saint Anthony's Food Pantry
Salvation Army (New Bedford Corps)
School on Wheels of Massachusetts
Shepherd's Pantry
South Coast LGBTQ Network
Southcoast Health
Steppingstone
Turning Point
Veterans Transition House
Wareham CORE
Works 4 U
YMCA Southcoast
Youth Opportunities Unlimited
YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts

Please go to unitedwayofgnb.org for the complete audited financial statement.



GIVE & GATHER AUTUMN MIXER

Give & Gather Autumn Mixer plays an important role in advancing United Way of Greater New Bedford's mission by generating support for programs and initiatives that address local needs. By combining community, generosity, and a shared purpose, Give & Gather helps ensure United Way can continue bringing people together, investing in local solutions, and creating opportunities to strengthen and improve lives in Greater New Bedford.











POWER OF THE PURSE

Women United's **Power of the Purse** continued its tradition of excellence in 2026, earning recognition as the South Coast's Best Gala for the fifth consecutive year! The event drew its largest sold-out crowd to date, bringing together a record number of community members for an inspiring evening of connection, generosity, and empowerment.

Guests enjoyed the highly anticipated purse auction while celebrating the collective impact of Women United's work. Funds raised through Power of the Purse directly support Women United's four signature initiatives, helping women and children in our community achieve financial stability, access essential resources, build stronger futures, and thrive. More than a fundraising event, Power of the Purse continues to unite women in lifting up one another and creating lasting change throughout Greater New Bedford.



GIVING COMMUNITIES

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY $10,000 +

James and Joan Amaral
Robert P. Clancy
Roland and Tracey Giroux
Michelle* and Jason Hantman
Richard† and Kathleen Strozyk
Diana Tottenham
1 Anonymous Donor

ADMIRAL $5,000-$9,999

Melissa Cruz
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Marjorie and Nick Greville

COMMODORE $2,500-$4,999

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Jillian Blanchard
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COMMANDER $1,000-$1,499

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Rhonda Veugen*
Christopher Wise
Melissa Wojnar

* Women United Leader
† Deceased

Our donor list acknowledges all gifts and pledges made to the **2025-2026** campaign. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and commitment to Greater New Bedford. Every effort has been made to provide a complete and accurate report of our donors. If we have made an error or omission, please accept our sincere apologies and let us know so we may correct our records and recognize your support appropriately.

At United Way, we believe everyone has the power to make a difference. Whether it is a few dollars a week or a leadership gift, every contribution fuels programs and partnerships that strengthen Greater New Bedford. Together, our donors create meaningful change, and our leadership donors are celebrated within our giving societies for their exceptional generosity and commitment to community.

Tocqueville SOCIETY

The Tocqueville Society recognizes individuals and couples who give $10,000 or more annually, honoring their extraordinary generosity and dedication to the common good.

NAVIGATOR SOCIETY

The Navigator Society recognizes individuals and couples who give $1,000 or more annually, celebrating their commitment to building a stronger, brighter future for all residents of Greater New Bedford.

WOMEN UNITED

Women United leaders contribute $1,000 or more annually, including through a step-up program, and leverage their collective power to strengthen families and support women. Established locally in 2018, Women United is a growing force in our community, directing resources to early childhood success, early literacy, and financial literacy.













WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

Employees at companies of all sizes have the opportunity to make a difference in Greater New Bedford by making donations to United Way through employee giving campaigns. We thank each participating company for their support.

Acushnet Company
Ameriprise Financial Services
AT&T
Babbitt Steam Specialty
BankFive
BayCoast Bank
Better Community Living
BMO Financial Group
Bristol County Savings Bank
Brittany Global Technologies
Citizens Bank
City of New Bedford
Coastal Financial
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Dennison Memorial Community Center
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Five Star Manufacturing
Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-Technical High School
High Point-SEMCOA
LifeStream
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Maritime International Inc.
MASSHIRE - Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment
MassMutual
Meeting Street
National Grid
New Bedford Housing Authority
New Bedford Medical Investors (Oaks Nursing Home)
Northern Trust Nat`l
Northstar Learning Centers
O`Reilly Auto Parts
PACE
Paul & Dixon Insurance
Precix
Robertson`s GMC
Rockland Trust Company
Schaefer Marine, Inc.
Southcoast Health
Tailored Brands/Joseph Abboud
Target
Town of Acushnet
Town of Dartmouth
Town of Fairhaven
Tremblay`s Bus Company.
United Way of Greater New Bedford
YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts
ZAPP Precision Strip

IN KIND GIVING OF $1,000+

Acushnet Company
Ahead, LLC
Blount Fine Foods
Brahmin Leather Works
B-Sharp Entertainment
Cardi`s Furniture
Catherine Grace at Blue
Constantly Varied Gear (CVG)
DJ Jules Entertainment
Exquisite Events
Gold Medal Bakery
Hannoush Jewelers
Honey Dew Kempton
Jonathan`s Sprouts
Cindy Ko Photography
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Spoonfuls
Table Talk Pies
T. Jazelle
Touch of Grace Florist & Gift Shop
Townsquare Media
Tremblay`s Bus Company, Inc.
Sharing the Harvest Community Farm, a program of YMCA Southcoast Dartmouth

GIFTS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND OTHER SUPPORTS

$50,000 +

Acushnet Company
BayCoast Bank
SouthCoast Community Foundation - Acushnet Foundation Fund
United Way of Mass Bay & Merrimack Valley

$25,000 - $49,000

BankFive
Bristol County Savings Bank
Eversource
Island Foundation

$10,000 - $24,000

Bank of America
Better Community Living
The Carney Family Charitable Foundation
Commonwealth Corporation
Community Connections
Hicks Charitable Fund
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St. Anne`s Credit Union

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Davico Mfg.
Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation
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Neto Insurance Agency
South Coast Improvement Company
Southcoast Health
Webster Bank
Sheelagh & Mark White

$2,500 - $4,999

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Tonix Pharmaceuticals

$1,000 - $2,499

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Why Not A Pear

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