



Message from President & CEO



A Mother's Courage. A Community's Impact.

When you're raising seven children on your own, every day brings new challenges. But when Joanna's refrigerator broke, it quickly became more than just an inconvenience – it became a crisis.

Without a working fridge, food for her kids spoiled faster than she could replace it. Her landlord refused to fix it, and before long, Joanna was struggling to keep up with groceries and rent. For months, she juggled impossible choices: feed her children or keep a roof over their heads.

Then Joanna found help through United Way of Greater Mercer County's community network. Our partners connected her with Lourdes, a compassionate UWGMC Bilingual Resource Specialist, who walked beside her every step of the way.

Lourdes helped Joanna:

- **Apply and Receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits for food security.**
- **Access local food pantries for immediate help.**
- **Apply for Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) to keep her family's lights and heat on.**
- **Work out a repayment plan on back rent, which led her landlord to fix the refrigerator and repair her home.**

Today, Joanna's children can sit down to warm meals – in a home that feels secure again.

When you give to United Way of Greater Mercer County, you make stories like hers possible. You offer hope, stability, and dignity to families right here in our community.

Please, make a gift today – because every act of kindness helps a neighbor like Joanna rebuild their life.

With gratitude,

Sandra Toussaint

President & CEO

United Way of Greater Mercer County

DONATE

UWGMC Welcomes Bonner Scholars from The College of New Jersey!

United Way of Greater Mercer County is proud to welcome four Bonner Scholars from The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) as part of our fall internship program. These talented students will lead a Community Health Social Media & Awareness Campaign, designed to educate and engage Mercer County residents around key health topics, including maternal health, diabetes prevention, dental hygiene, and vision care.



Over the next several months, the Bonner Scholars will research community health needs, create engaging and culturally relevant social media content, and help connect families to trusted local resources. This collaborative effort highlights the power of student leadership and innovation in advancing community well-being.

Through this partnership, UWGMC continues to invest in the next generation of changemakers while strengthening our mission to improve the health and quality of life for every resident in Greater Mercer County.

****SAVE THE DATE ****

Thursday, April 30, 2026



BECOME A SPONSOR: EMAIL SANDRA TOUSSAINT AT
SANDRA.TOUSSAINT@UWGMC.ORG

From Campus to Community: Princeton and United Way Deliver Tools for a Bright School Year”

This summer, we were honored to partner with Princeton University’s Community Affairs (PUCA) team in their annual backpack and school-supply drive, and we are proud of the ripple effects it created. Through the drive, faculty and staff donated 50 backpacks and essential supplies to fill them with, from notebooks and binders to pencils, crayons, and highlighters, which were delivered to United Way of Greater Mercer County (UWGMC).

When the Pace Center for Civic Engagement reached out to explore a volunteer opportunity for 26 incoming freshmen during their orientation, we welcomed the chance to bring students into the work. On August 28, 2025, these new Tigers gathered in our offices, assembled the backpacks, filling them not only with the school supplies provided by PUCA but also with valuable community resource materials, information about local services, programs, and supports for families in need. This kind of hands-on activity embodies what it means to connect philanthropy and people: students learning about the Mercer County community while contributing to it.

Once prepared, the completed backpacks made their way into the hands of children across Mercer County through collaboration with our valued partners: LALDEF, Trenton Board of Education, and HomeFront. Together, we ensured the backpacks reached neighborhoods and families most in need, reinforcing our shared goal of community resiliency and youth opportunity.

At United Way, we believe that when local businesses, volunteers, and community organizations come together, we’re not just providing supplies, we’re sending a message of care and connection. Every backpack delivered represents a child beginning the academic year with confidence, and a community reminding them that they are never alone on their path to success.

This effort, while impactful in itself, is just one piece of our broader, countywide mission to support youth opportunity. We know that year after year, coordinated efforts like this multiply: hundreds of backpacks, thousands of dollars in donated supplies, and countless volunteer hours. Together, we are helping to make sure every student in Mercer County starts the school year with confidence, dignity, and the resources they deserve.

For those inspired to take action, UWGMC welcomes volunteers, donors, and partners to join the movement. Learn more at www.uwgmc.org.



Estate Planning and Planned Giving through **FREEWILL**

Creating your legacy is easier than ever. United Way has teamed up with **FreeWill** for a brand-new way to make sure everyone in our community has access to a FREE will planning tool. Now, it's easy to ensure that your family and our community thrive for generations to come.

Through our partnership with with FreeWill, supporters have the opportunity to write their legally valid wills online for free and name "United Way of Greater Mercer County" as a beneficiary. In less than 20 minutes, you will have a will that is valid in all 50 states.

If you have a more complicated estate, FreeWill can be used to create a set of documented wishes to bring to a lawyer's office and save time and money.

Making a will gives you peace of mind today and leaves a legacy that supports the people and causes most important to you. Many people like you who care deeply about enriching our community have taken this step already – join them in supporting our community's needs for future generations!

Secure your legacy with United Way of Greater Mercer County and write your will today.

Get started at uwgmc.org/freewill

Together, we can create real change and improve people's lives, now and into the future.



Visionary Circle: \$5,000-\$9,999

Gateway Circle: \$2,500-\$4,999

Pacesetter Circle: \$1,000-\$2,499

Neighbor Society: \$500 - \$999

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND
BENEFITS OF GIVING**

WWW.UWGMC.ORG/LEADERSCIRCLE

To continue making a difference in the lives of people in Mercer County, consider a donation today.

For Secure online Credit Card
Donations go to
uwgmc.org/Fall2025ppeal
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UNITED WAY
Greater Mercer County