



## Message from President & CEO

### Stability Restored. Dignity Preserved.

For **Louise**, a senior living with disabilities on a fixed SSI income, every dollar matters. When she was denied SNAP benefits, it wasn't just disappointing – it threatened her overall stability. For seniors with limited income, access to the right resources can mean the difference between constant crisis and lasting security.

That's when she turned to United Way of Greater Mercer County.

Through our Financial Empowerment and Community Resource efforts, Louise was connected with Lourdes Alcaraz, a compassionate Resource Specialist who understands how complex and overwhelming public benefits systems can be. Lourdes completed a new intake, identified gaps in the original application, and submitted a fresh SNAP application to ensure Louise's eligibility was fully reviewed. She also connected Louise to immediate community supports while her case was pending.

The result was more than approval, it was empowerment. After a prompt interview with Mercer County Social Services, Louise happily reported she was awarded \$220 per month in benefits. That steady support now strengthens her monthly budget and provides greater financial breathing room.

At United Way of Greater Mercer County, we do more than make referrals. We navigate systems, advocate for neighbors, and ensure seniors living on limited incomes can access the benefits they've earned. Your support helps older adults remain independent, secure, and treated with dignity.

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- NJ 211 Day
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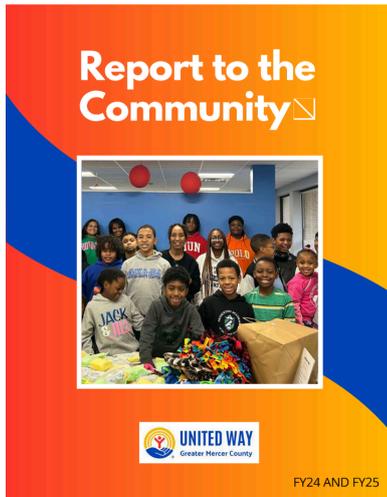


Please, make a gift today; Because aging with stability shouldn't be a privilege, it should be a promise we keep as a community.

With gratitude,  
Sandra Toussaint  
President & CEO

[Click To Donate](#)

## Annual Report to the Community



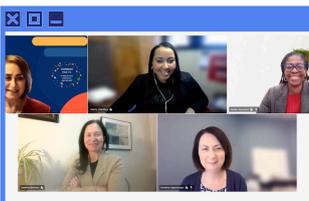
United Way of Greater Mercer County's FY24-FY25 Report to the Community highlights two years of strategic growth, measurable impact, and deepened partnerships focused on financial stability, food security, and economic mobility across Mercer County.

The report shares how donor support, corporate partnerships, and volunteer engagement expanded access to essential services—from financial empowerment and free tax preparation to SNAP enrollment assistance and coordinated food security efforts through Strike Out Hunger. It also outlines key accomplishments, real-life impact stories, and a clear snapshot of organizational stewardship, including revenue, expenses, and community investment.

Together, these pages show how United Way is evolving from a traditional funder to a hands-on community impact leader—mobilizing resources, aligning partners, and delivering data-driven solutions that help individuals and families move from crisis to stability and, ultimately, to long-term opportunity.

Report Available at [www.uwgmc.org/financials-reports](http://www.uwgmc.org/financials-reports)

## NJ 211 Day Meeting with Congressman Herb Conaway's Team



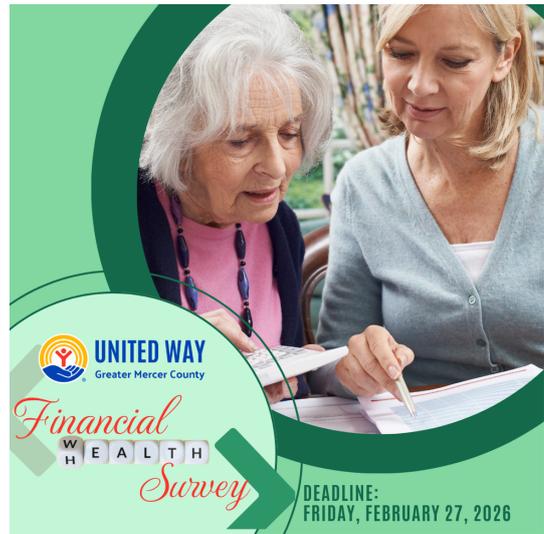
On February 11—officially proclaimed NJ 211 Day by Governor Mikie Sherrill—UWGMC's CEO, Sandra Toussaint, joined Melissa Acree, CEO of NJ 211, and representatives from United Way Worldwide for a virtual meeting with the office of Congressman Herb Conaway to highlight the critical role of 2-1-1 in strengthening our communities. Sandra

emphasized how essential the partnership between local United Ways and NJ 211 is in connecting Mercer County residents to vital services, from housing and utility assistance to food access and mental health support, and how rising demand continues to reflect the real-time challenges facing working families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

A key focus of the conversation was the proposed HELP Act, which would provide dedicated federal investment to strengthen and modernize the 211 system nationwide. This legislation would help ensure that 211 services are sustainably funded, better coordinated with other emergency response systems, and accessible in every community. As advocates for economic stability and equitable access to resources, United Way of Greater Mercer County remains committed to working alongside our federal partners to protect and expand this lifeline. We encourage supporters to contact their members of Congress and voice their support for the HELP Act - because when 211 is strong, our entire community is stronger.

## UWGMC Launches Financial Health Survey - Your Voice Matters

At United Way of Greater Mercer County, we know that real progress begins by listening. That's why we launched our Financial Health Survey to better understand the challenges, priorities, and goals of individuals and families across Mercer County. Your feedback will directly inform our programs, advocacy efforts, and conversations with community partners and elected officials—helping drive meaningful investment and solutions that strengthen financial stability.

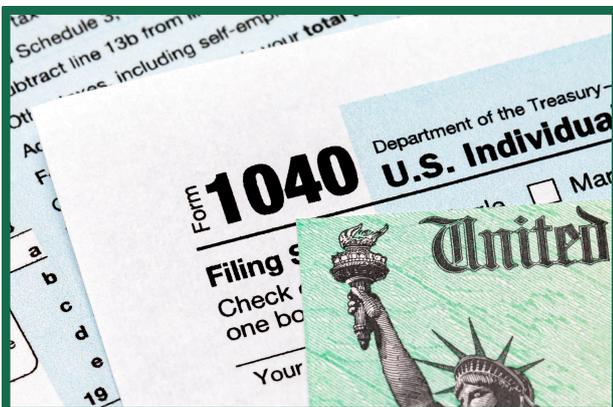


The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete, is completely voluntary and confidential, and is available in English, Spanish, and Haitian Creole. As a thank-you, participants who complete the survey by the February 27, 2026 deadline will be entered into a raffle to win one of several \$50 gift cards.

We encourage you to share your voice, and share the survey with others. Together, we can build a stronger, more financially stable Mercer County.

[Learn More at uwgmc.org/Financial Survey](https://uwgmc.org/FinancialSurvey)

## Tax Season is Here



Access FREE federal and state tax preparation at one of our tax sites throughout Mercer County!

Appointments and Walk-in services available.

In response to the current cost of living, we're increasing our service eligibility to \$67,000 (up from \$65,000) so more working individuals and families can access this vital service.

[To Learn More or Make An Appointment visit uwgmc.org/FreeTaxProgram](https://uwgmc.org/FreeTaxProgram)

## Community Appreciation Forum

On February 12, 2026 United Way of Greater Mercer County hosted our Client Appreciation Brunch in our Financial Empowerment Center to honor the families who trust us as partners on their journey toward stability and success.

The event created a welcoming space for connection and honest conversation. Clients shared their lived experiences and ongoing challenges, helping our team gain deeper insight into how we can continue building programs that are responsive, respectful, and client-centered.

More than a celebration, the brunch served as a listening session, reinforcing our commitment to economic mobility through access to financial coaching, workforce pathways, benefits navigation, and long-term stability supports. These conversations strengthen our ability to design initiatives that help families move from crisis to confidence and from surviving to thriving.

We are grateful for the trust our clients place in us and remain dedicated to walking alongside them as they build stronger financial futures for themselves and their families.



## United in Impact



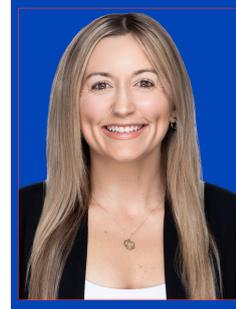
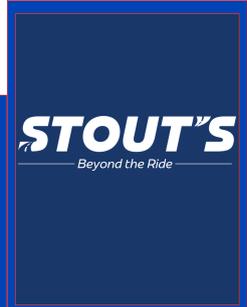
WHERE IMPACT

*Blooms*

Thursday, April 30, 2026

THE BOATHOUSE AT MERCER LAKE  
334 S POST RD,  
WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP, NJ 08550

5:00 - 8:00 PM



On **April 30, 2026**, our community will gather for an evening “**Where Impact Blooms**” a celebration of what’s possible when leadership meets purpose. The **6th Annual United in Impact Awards** is more than a ceremony it’s a reflection of the compassion, commitment, and collaboration that define Mercer County. This year, we are proud to honor **Stout’s Transportation, Lloyd Freeman** of Buchanan, and **Kathleen Lekko** of NRG—leaders whose dedication strengthens our community every day. The evening will be guided by Master of Ceremonies **Edward Bullock**, and made possible by the early support of NJM Insurance Group, Buchanan, NRG, and Your Part-Time Controller.

Each year, this event fills the room with energy, connection, and a shared belief that together we can build a thriving, equitable community. In fact, the United in Impact Awards has sold out in the past, so we encourage you to secure your tickets soon. We also invite businesses and community partners to join us as sponsors, demonstrating your commitment to creating opportunity and stability for local families. When you attend or sponsor this event, you’re not just supporting a celebration, you’re investing in hope, opportunity, and impact across Mercer County.

For More Information about the United In Impact Awards visit [uwgmc.org/unitedimpactawards](http://uwgmc.org/unitedimpactawards).

Buy Ticket, Table, and/or Sponsorship at

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/unitedwayofgreatermercercounty/event/impactawards>

## Estate Planning and Planned Giving through

# FREEWILL

Creating your legacy is easier than ever. United Way has teamed up with **FreeWill** for a 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](http://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](http://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

<https://secure.ggiv.com/for/uwgmc>

or scan QR Code



**[DONATE HERE](#)**



# UNITED WAY

Greater Mercer County