



stories

2017 Community Report

A year of impact & inspiration
as told by our community in
Westmoreland, Fayette &
Southern Armstrong Counties.





mission driven

The United Way story starts with our mission.

Together, we're working to change lives in our community by investing in and providing programs focused on educational opportunity, financial stability and healthy living.

We raise money through our Impact Fund and grant those dollars

to the most effective and efficient programs in our community.

But we're more than that. When we see an unmet need in the community, we tackle it through collaboration and volunteer power, and we bring the right community leaders together to find a solution. That's the United Way difference.

2 Stories of Impact

Our 2017 Impact Report and special reports from our three focus areas.

14 Stories of Spirit

Stories from our community and corporate volunteers, plus our 2017 Volunteer Report.

20 Stories of Strength

Together, we're stronger: United Way's Regional Report and local leadership.

Dear Friends,

It has been another full year of life changing work reaching thousands of our friends and neighbors that has been made possible by you—United Way donors and volunteers. This year's local community report is aptly called "Stories of Impact," because there are so many to share. You will read about the first time expansion of our school readiness work into Southern Armstrong County, as well as the growth of our Companies in the Classroom program. You can scan the impressive list of partner agencies and their programs supported through United Way, as well as the outcomes they achieve. You will learn about the rewards of volunteering to support older adults to live independently in their homes and the value of those volunteer efforts in Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties. In addition, you can see what an impact United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania made across our entire region.

As you read through this community report, you will notice many numbers, impressive numbers. But we encourage you to remember that behind each of those numbers is a story—the story of a young child struggling to read, the story of a hard-working family struggling to make ends meet, a story of an older adult struggling with loneliness. We hope that you will agree that our collective investment in improving lives in our local community are impressive stories of impact. Thank you for your ongoing support of United Way.

Betsy Krisher
Local Operating Board Chair
Westmoreland, Fayette &
Southern Armstrong Counties

Bobbi Watt Geer
Regional Vice President



stories of impact

2017 impact report



53,380 STUDENTS & PARENTS
served through our funded partners and programs in Education.

Our vision for a great education in our community:

- We want every child to be prepared to succeed in school and life.
- We support early care and education through targeted programs and investments.
- We partner with students, families, teachers and early care centers to help children start kindergarten ready to learn.



59,626 PEOPLE & FAMILIES
served through our funded partners and programs in Income.

Our vision for family financial stability:

- We want every local family to be financially stable, because a steady income leads to a better life.
- We fight poverty through innovative programs and investments.
- We fund community safety net services, like food banks and shelters.



7,652 SENIORS & PEOPLE
served through our funded partners and programs in Health.

Our vision for a healthy community:

- We want every person, including seniors and people with disabilities, to have easy and adequate access to health services.
- We support older adult independence, family caregivers and elder abuse prevention through programs and community partnerships.

impact fund partners

Our Impact Fund brings together donations from thousands of people in Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties, transforming their support into life-changing moments for people in need. We invest in local human service programs through Impact Fund grants, and they become our partners in creating real change in education, income and health across our region.



education funding focus: programs that help kids succeed in school, work and life.

COMMUNITY-BASED MENTORING, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LAUREL REGION
Matches volunteers with at-risk children in a one-to-one mentorship, which offers them individualized time and attention on a regular basis.

SCHOOL-BASED MENTORING, BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LAUREL REGION
Matches volunteers with at-risk children, which offers them individualized time and attention on a regular basis at school.

DATING AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION/EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS, BLACKBURN CENTER
Gives presentations to students and teachers about domestic/dating violence, sexual assault awareness/prevention and cyber-bullying/bullying awareness.

TRUANCY ELIMINATION, CRIME VICTIMS CENTER OF FAYETTE COUNTY
Works with families of elementary and middle school students to develop educational plans for successful school attendance.

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER, GREENSBURG YMCA
Provides children ages six weeks through five years with age and developmentally appropriate activities and literacy-focused lesson plans.

OUTREACH EDUCATION, HELPING ALL VICTIMS IN NEED (HAVIN)
Provides community-based prevention education related to domestic and sexual violence, dating violence, stalking and child abuse.

CATCHING UP AND KEEPING UP, PEOPLES LIBRARY
Includes a tutoring program for struggling 1st through 3rd grade students in the New Kensington Arnold School District and a storytelling program for children preparing for preschool and kindergarten.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM, SEWICKLEY TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
Offers a ten-week reading course for children and young adults living in Sewickley Township and surrounding communities.

PRESCHOOL READINESS, THE ARC OF WESTMORELAND
Addresses cognitive, motor, speech, social and emotional skill development for preschool children with special needs through structured and free play guided by staff and parents.

CHILD CARE SERVICES, VALLEY POINTS FAMILY YMCA
Trained staff provide safe and affordable high-quality care for children according to their age and physical, educational, emotional and social growth.

EARLY LEARNING READINESS FOR INFORMAL FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOR CARETAKERS, VALLEY POINTS FAMILY YMCA
Provides high-quality early learning

programs in New Kensington/Arnold communities to help prepare children and caregivers for kindergarten.

JOINING TO ACHIEVE YOUTH SUCCESS (JAYS) AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM, WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY ACTION
Offers academic enrichment programs to all middle school students living in the City of Jeannette.

LITERACY FOR CHILDREN, YWCA WESTMORELAND COUNTY
Prepares adults to read to their children and enables children to increase their literacy skills.



the partner process

To receive funding from United Way, organizations apply for a three-year grant through an open request for proposal process. In their proposals, agencies explain their need for funding, exactly how funds will be used and other details about their organization.

Proposals are evaluated by a volunteer review committee, comprised of community members and subject matter experts. The committee works together to make funding decisions and award grants.

If selected for funding, agencies also provide progress reports to United Way. This vital process ensures that donations made to the Impact Fund go to the highest performing agencies and programs that address the greatest needs in our community.



income funding focus: programs that strengthen our community safety net and help families leave poverty.

DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES, AMERICAN RED CROSS OF CHESTNUT RIDGE
Helps people recover from natural and man-made disasters by providing supplies and meeting urgent needs.

LEGAL AND MEDICAL ADVOCACY, BLACKBURN CENTER
Provides accompaniment and support for those seeking protection from abuse (PFA) orders and those attending sexual assault and domestic violence hearings, trials, sentencing hearings and law enforcement and prosecution interviews.

EMERGENCY SHELTER, BLACKBURN CENTER
Protects victims of domestic violence from further physical and emotional harm and provides ongoing services to help them reconstruct their lives.

DIRECT SERVICES, CASA OF WESTMORELAND, INC.
Volunteer-based program provides a voice in court for abused and neglected children in Westmoreland County.

EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND CASE MANAGEMENT, CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF GREENSBURG
Connects callers in need of food or assistance with utility, heat or rent payments (basic needs) with a certified specialist for support and referrals.

WELCOME HOME SHELTER, CONNECT, INC.
Provides homeless single women and families with children with shelter, food, life skills classes, advocacy and on-site mental health counseling.

DIRECT SERVICES, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES OF SOUTHWESTERN PA
Offers safe, temporary shelter for Fayette County victims of domestic violence and their children.

FOOD BANK, FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
Distributes food to low-income families in Fayette County through 49 food pantries and two homeless shelters.

DIRECT SERVICES, HELPING ALL VICTIMS IN NEED (HAVIN)
Provides housing and support services for those impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.

EMERGENCY MEN'S SHELTER, UNION MISSION
Offers refuge, hope and opportunities to homeless men through a structured program that includes counseling, case management, life skills training, spiritual development and education.

MOTHERS MAKING MORE, WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY ACTION
Helps single mothers train for and secure local living wage jobs to improve their financial situation.



\$1.1 million

Dollars were granted to Impact Fund partners by United Way in the last year.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA), WESTMORELAND COMMUNITY ACTION
Provides free income tax return preparation for taxpayers who have limited or moderate incomes, or are elderly or disabled.

FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION, WESTMORELAND COUNTY FOOD BANK, INC.
Acquires, stores and distributes food to low income individuals and families throughout Westmoreland County through a network of member agencies.



health funding focus: programs helping older adults, people with disabilities and everyone in our community live healthy.

SIGN LANGUAGE AND INTERPRETATION SUPPORTS, CENTER FOR HEARING & DEAF SERVICES
Offers sign language interpreting and instruction for people who are deaf.

NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP, FAYETTE COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, INC.
Helps young, first time mothers-to-be engage in good preventive health practices for themselves and their babies.

HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES, INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS OF FAYETTE, INC.
Recruits and trains volunteers to provide medical and social transportation, grocery shopping, supportive visiting, telephone reassurance and minor home repairs to older adults living in their own homes.

DIRECT SERVICES, LAUREL AREA INTERFAITH VOLUNTEER CAREGIVERS, INC.
Enhances the quality of life for persons 60 years and older who reside in the greater Latrobe, Derry and Ligonier areas by providing companionship and assistance from trained volunteers.

DIRECT SERVICES, WESLEY HEALTH CENTER, INC.
Offers free health care to uninsured and under-insured people in Fayette, Westmoreland and Somerset counties.

OUTREACH & VICTIMS SERVICES FOR OLDER ADULTS, BLACKBURN CENTER
Addresses the risk factors for the abuse, neglect and exploitation of older adults through outreach, prevention and training and provides supportive services to victims of abuse.



special report: education

For over 10 years, United Way's Kindergarten Transition program has worked with all 23 public school districts in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties to help parents, teachers - and most importantly - our community's youngest learners transition into the kindergarten classroom. This year, the program broke new ground in Armstrong County, partnering for the first time with Apollo-Ridge and Leechburg Area School Districts.

On the first day of school, as a new kindergartener crosses the threshold into her classroom, what looks like another small step to the untrained adult eye is actually a first, giant leap into big-kid life.

Starting kindergarten is one of the biggest transitions a child tackles. It's the beginning of K-12 education, and it's full of unknowns: a big, new building, an unfamiliar classroom, a new teacher and roomful of classmates - all bookended by a big, yellow bus.

But it's also a time of transition for parents, as they send their children off to school, in most cases, full-time for the first time. Teachers, too, face the unknown each fall, as they welcome 20+ new faces from different pre-k centers and homes.

Together, these factors can add up to fear, anxiety and stress for kids, parents and teachers alike. But when successfully navigated, a smooth start to school for everyone can equal big success for students, including stronger academic performance and on-time high school graduation.

"We want every kindergarten student in our community to start school on-time, confident and ready to learn," said Jesse Sprajcar, United Way's education program manager for Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties.

"To make sure that happens, we want them to ease into the experience. We definitely don't want any young child's first experience with public education to be on the first day of school."

The program is built around district-based transition teams, which include kindergarten and pre-k teachers, parents and community members. Working with United Way, each team authors an annual transition plan, which details community activities designed for incoming kindergarteners and their families. Activities such as classroom visits, parent education sessions, student vision screenings and story time events



help prepare students and parents for the start of school, while professional development activities, many of which are hosted by United Way, help prepare pre-k and kindergarten teachers by supporting curriculum alignment and communication.

United Way supports teams with two annual planning conferences, plus individual guidance and coordination as needed. United Way also awards each district a \$2,000 or more grant to implement their plan, based upon a successful plan review.

The kindergarten transition program has reached roughly 8,000 students in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties with transition activities each year for the last several years. However, until 2017, it had yet to break the geographic divide between Westmoreland and Southern Armstrong Counties, despite an equal, if not greater, need.

"Districts in Southern Armstrong face many of the same barriers as our existing rural partners: poverty, geography and lack of public transportation, to name

just a few," said Sprajcar.

But in the summer of 2017, both districts partnered with United Way to form their first transition teams and author inaugural transition plans, targeted to students entering kindergarten in the next two years.

In addition, throughout the 2017-18 school year, both teams have hosted a series of collaborative meetings for pre-k and kindergarten teachers and school personnel.

Looking ahead, both districts will attend United Way's 2018 transition conference in June, where they will begin their next transition plan and continue to collaborate with longtime program partners.

"The collaboration happening in our region is truly remarkable," Sprajcar concluded, "and it's really helping create positive educational experiences for our youngest learners."

Learn more at unitedway4u.org/education.



\$68,000

Annual amount granted by United Way to school districts for implementing transition plans.

7,500

Total number of 2017-18 kindergarten students impacted by transition activities.

130

Number of 2017-18 kindergarten students in Armstrong County impacted by transition activities.



special report: income

As United Way's Cold Weather Shelters entered their third year of operation in 2017, they continued to exemplify community collaboration, combining the convening power of United Way with exceptional partner services. Meanwhile, United Way's income strategy committee met this year with a similar focus: to prioritize and increase collaboration among United Way funded programs.

On November 1, 2017, United Way's Cold Weather Shelters in Greensburg and Latrobe opened their doors for a third season - and were met with a gust of frigid air.

Facing one of the most brutal winters in recent history, the shelters rallied their collaborative roots to provide overnight relief for people who were homeless or heat-less.

The program began three years ago, when United Way and other

community leaders observed a lack of emergency cold weather shelter in Westmoreland County. United Way coordinated the planning, partnerships and funding to launch the shelters in January 2016.

Today, the shelters continue to operate out of the Welcome Home Shelter in Greensburg and the Union Mission in Latrobe. They provide additional beds, food and service referrals to people in need on nights when the temperature dips below 25 degrees.

During the 2017-18 season, the shelters served 30 clients for a total of 120 nights.

"Three years in, we see that we can expect 15-25 clients per season, for about 100-150 nights of shelter," said United Way regional vice president Bobbi Watt Geer.

"While this data illustrates a greater community battle against homelessness, insufficient housing and financial instability, the Cold Weather Shelters are only half the solution," said Geer. "We also must ask, what can we do to reduce this underlying need?"

The answer: strategic collaboration.



spotlight on strategy

In Westmoreland County, 11% of people live in poverty. In Fayette County, the number jumps to 20%.

The belief that no family should struggle to make ends meet is at the core of United Way's mission. It's an overwhelming problem to fully comprehend, let alone solve.

But earlier this year, United Way's income strategy committee worked together to take a first step towards a high-level solution.

By reviewing current quantitative and qualitative data, committee volunteers identified three community deficiencies linked to local financial instability:

- lack of support for families facing generational poverty,
- lack of adequate resources for people facing acute crisis (hunger, homelessness and natural disasters), and
- need for more collaboration between organizations combating similar poverty-related issues.

With clearly defined priorities in hand, United Way and its grant review committees can make more informed funding decisions, and support the programs most capable of creating change.

And while some strategies remain consistent year-to-year, the focus on collaboration represents a new addition.

"Our committee felt strongly that the best way to help improve financial stability in our community is by working together," said United Way vice president for community impact and development Alyssa Cholodofsky. "The shelter, the food bank, the crisis center - we're all working towards the same result. The only way we're going to get there is through collaboration - and it's United Way's job to bring everyone together."

Learn more at unitedway4u.org/income.





special report: health

This year, United Way strengthened its regional efforts in the area of health, by combining the Westmoreland County Faith in Action program with Allegheny County's Open Your Heart to a Senior program. With the same dedication to serving older adults living at home, the re-named program in Westmoreland County now benefits from a stronger brand and wider exposure.

Last July, United Way further aligned its Westmoreland and Allegheny County offices to make a bigger impact on the health of local older adults.

United Way's Westmoreland County Faith in Action program officially adopted the same name as United Way's Allegheny County Open Your Heart to a Senior program, to provide greater clarity and opportunities to reach more seniors, caregivers and volunteers.

"We felt this change was important to strengthen our regional effort, recruit more volunteers and seniors and raise more awareness about the work United Way is doing with local seniors and caregivers," said United Way regional vice president Bobbi Watt Geer,

Bolstered by a new name, the program offers the same services to seniors and caregivers, and the same rewarding opportunities to volunteers.

Currently, Open Your Heart to a Senior serves about 1,000 seniors in Westmoreland County, including 93-year-old Mary Ann.

Nearly ten years ago, Mary Ann was flipping through her newspaper when she noticed an article promoting a new program - what is now United Way's Open Your Heart to a Senior. The article encouraged seniors to reach out

for help, and it piqued Mary Ann's interest.

"It said seniors could get help with anything at home or going to doctor visits, so I called. I really needed that. I still need that," Mary Ann said. "It's been a blessing."

Eventually, Mary Ann started receiving check-in calls from Open Your Heart to a Senior volunteer Elizabeth, and an incredible friendship began.



Mary Ann and Elizabeth. To read Elizabeth's volunteer story, see page 15.

"About six or seven years ago she started calling me. And she took it upon herself to call me twice a week, and we talk for about 45 minutes," Mary Ann said. "I really admire her. She will call me no matter what."

For Mary Ann, their phone calls are something she looks forward to every week. The two discuss the day's happenings, current events, their families, Elizabeth's job and more.

"It's something I can count on," Mary Ann continued. "Our friendship is so special. I love her like my own."

While Elizabeth lives in Allegheny County, the two get together at least once a year to visit in person. One year, Elizabeth even brought her mom to visit with Mary Ann.

"I can't say enough good things about United Way. The whole organization just does so much for seniors. It's wonderful."

Learn more at unitedway4u.org/health.



1,000

Number of older adults in Westmoreland County served by Open Your Heart to a Senior volunteers last year.

7,000

Number of hours served by Open Your Heart to a Senior volunteers in the last year.

220

Number of volunteers providing services to seniors, including home safety checks, transportation, telephone reassurance and more.

\$169,000

Collective value of Open Your Heart to a Senior volunteer services in the last year, based on the Independent Sector's value of volunteer time.

from the heart

What happens when a volunteer opens her heart to a local senior? For Elizabeth, it was the start of a life-changing friendship. As told on page 12, this friendship impacted the life of Open Your Heart to a Senior recipient Mary Ann, and helped her feel more secure at home and more connected to her community. Below, Elizabeth shares her side of the story, including how she received just as much as she gave through her experience as a volunteer.

Elizabeth learned about the Open Your Heart to a Senior program through a friend at United Way, who thought the volunteer opportunity would be a good fit for her. She started volunteering in 2008 and began making weekly, check-in telephone calls with local seniors.

“Older adults hold a special place in my heart, and I just thought there is no reason why I couldn’t do that. To check in on someone once a week could be really nice for someone else, and I wanted to help,” Elizabeth said.

But what started as short phone calls turned into a long-lasting friendship.

Mary Ann was added to Elizabeth’s call list in 2009, and the two hit it off right away. “We just clicked.”

Now, Elizabeth and 93-year-old Mary Ann talk twice a week – every Sunday and Wednesday for about 45 minutes. They discuss their daily routines, Elizabeth’s job, Mary Ann’s family, and they work through issues together that Mary Ann might be facing, such as home

improvements or doctor appointments.

“For Mary Ann, it’s nice to interact with someone different. I see her more now as my adopted grandmother,” Elizabeth noted. “I like to hear her stories of when she was a kid. I enjoy and appreciate the times I share with her over the phone.”

Elizabeth encourages others in the community to get involved with Open Your Heart to a Senior. “Seniors have such valuable knowledge and stories to share,” Elizabeth remarked. “It’s so rewarding to brighten someone’s day by just taking a small amount of time a week to do something nice for someone else – especially a senior who might be lonely.”

Learn more about volunteering for Open Your Heart to a Senior at unitedway4u.org/OYHS.



stories of spirit

into the classroom

This year, United Way teamed up with a longtime corporate partner, ABB Inc., to debut an all-new volunteer program: Companies in the Classroom. Interactive, fun and impactful, Companies in the Classroom leverages business-to-community partnership, fundraising and volunteer power to tackle early literacy and career literacy simultaneously. Today, the program is poised to double its impact in the year ahead.

When Cady Bond, ABB Inc.'s commercial operations manager, heard about the opportunity to read to local kindergarteners last year, she knew it was a great way for her to give back.

"The kids were so eager to see us," Cady said. "We know we're making a huge difference in their lives by getting them excited about reading."

United Way and ABB piloted a volunteer reader program in 2017 to help increase early literacy within local classrooms and at home, while exposing young students to different career paths within their community.

Cady, along with nine other ABB employees, read to kindergarten classes over six sessions at Rumbaugh Elementary School in Mount Pleasant. During each session, volunteers also led a class discussion about the book, helped students complete a book-themed craft project and talked to students about their job with ABB.

At the end of the session, volunteers sent each student home with a copy of the book and left a copy behind for the classroom's library.

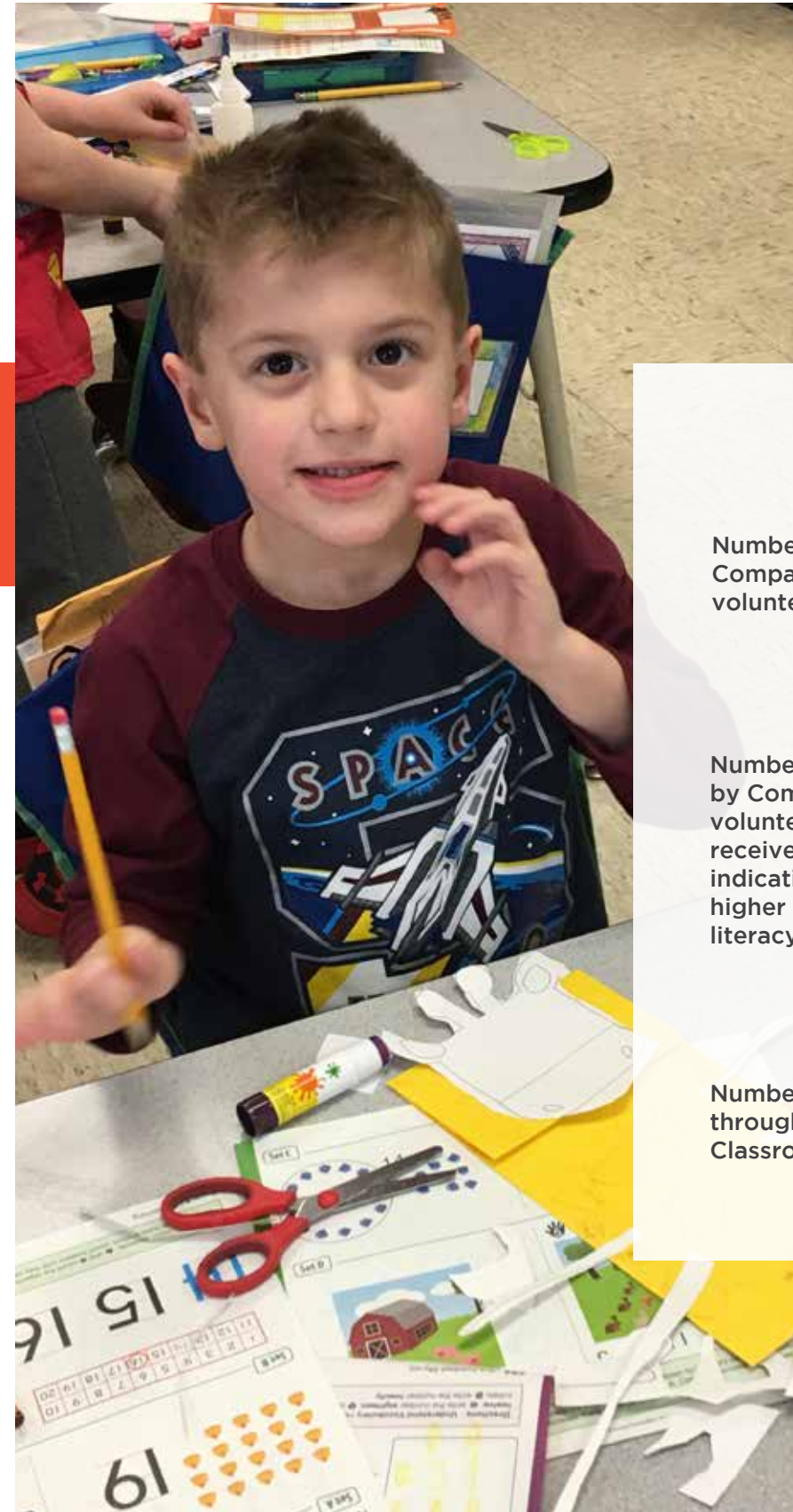
"It is so important that kids are reading every day," Cady said. "And having someone other than your teacher come in and read can really invigorate that desire to learn."

Today, the ABB volunteer reader program continues to thrive. The program has adopted the name "Companies in the Classroom" and is in the midst of an expanded second year.

This year, 11 volunteers from ABB are reading to all 150 kindergarten and first grade students at Rumbaugh. The company also raised \$2,500 to purchase supplies for the school, including crayons, highlighters, tissues and glue.

Cady encourages other businesses in the community to consider joining their efforts or starting a program at another local school. "You just have to show up with your happy face," she said. "That's all it takes to make an impact."

To learn more about volunteering with your company, visit unitedway4u.org/volunteer.



160

Number of hours served by Companies in the Classroom volunteers.

155

Number of students impacted by Companies in the Classroom volunteers. 61% of these students receive free or reduced lunch, an indication that they may be at higher risk for early learning and literacy challenges.

1,400

Number of books distributed through Companies in the Classroom to date.

a volunteer's journey

United Way volunteers can walk many paths: They're once-a-year Day of Caring die-hards, or they're ongoing workplace volunteers, chairing their company's United Way campaign. Or perhaps they volunteer with a vision screening team, helping to detect vision issues in pre-k students. And many of these volunteers walk not just one, but many paths over the years. Like Bob, their volunteer journey changes and grows as they do.

After traveling the world for his career for nearly 12 years with his family, Bob Brooks and his wife, Sue, decided to settle down in Murrysville after accepting a job at Westinghouse. Since then, Bob has immersed himself in the community as a United Way volunteer, donor and more.

In 2009, Bob first volunteered with United Way's Open Your Heart to a Senior (formerly Faith in Action) program, driving older adults to doctor's appointments and errands around Murrysville.

From there, Bob's volunteer commitment to United Way quickly grew.

In 2013, Bob accepted an invitation to serve on United Way's regional Board of Directors. With a passion for education and women's issues, he knew getting involved on a deeper level with United Way was his next big step.

"United Way does so much good work for our local community," Bob said. "When they asked me to join their board, I immediately said okay."

And for Bob, increased volunteer experience translated into financial support, as well.

"Once I got more involved, the time came naturally, and I quickly followed with my financial contribution because I could see it would be put to the best use."

While Bob had given to United Way in the past during his career with Westinghouse, he's learned so much more about the organization over the last four years on the board and three years of being involved with United Way's regional Tocqueville Society.

"United Way's administrative expenses are very low. That was always something we felt good about, so much of the money we are giving goes back into the programs," Bob reflected. "We're always talking about the importance of transparency and United Way comes out very high on that report."

Since his start as a volunteer, Bob has witnessed community impact first-hand. In addition to his dedication to older adults, he enjoys being part of United Way's childhood literacy work and helping to solve problems in his community.

"With United Way, you can pick what you're passionate about and get to work."



2017 volunteer report

1,700

Number of United Way volunteers in Westmoreland, Fayette & Southern Armstrong Counties.

\$337,000

Total value of services completed by volunteers.

14,000

Hours of service completed by United Way volunteers.

183,000

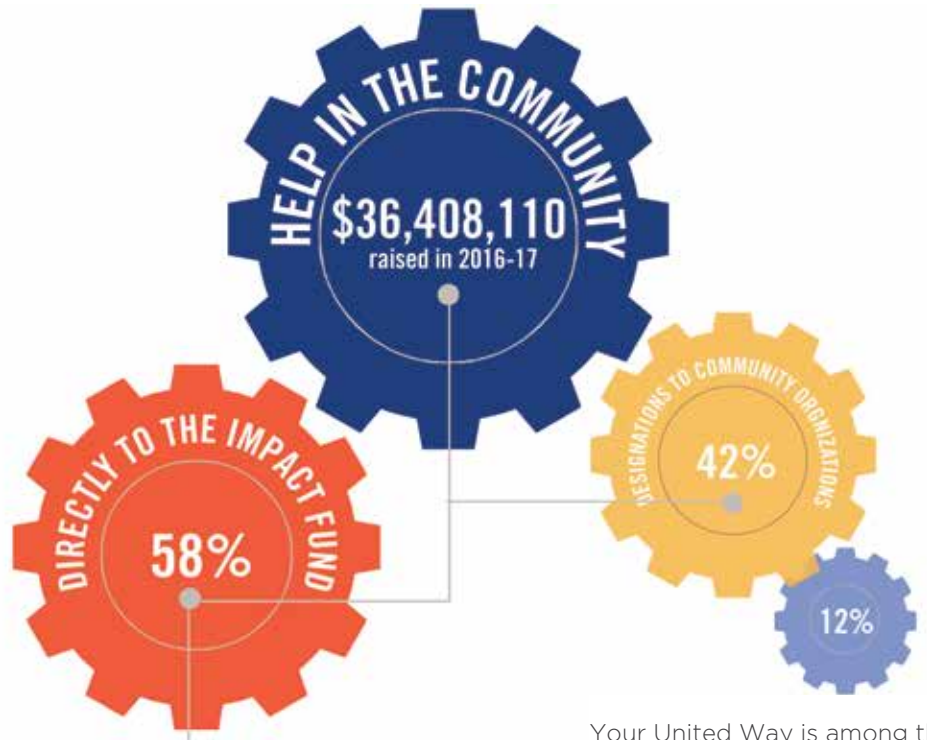
Number of community members impacted by United Way volunteer service.



stories of strength

2017 regional report

United Way's work in Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties is only part of the impact we're making in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Through our work in Allegheny County, we're improving even more lives in our region.



Community volunteers rigorously review funded agencies and programs. Selections are based on efficiency, effectiveness and measurable results, to ensure donor dollars are making the greatest impact possible in our community. See page 5 for more.

Your United Way is among the most efficient nonprofits in the U.S., spending just 12% of contributions designated to an agency on administrative fees, far below industry standards.



local operating board

Serving Westmoreland, Fayette and Southern Armstrong Counties:

**ELIZABETH E. KRISHER, CPA,
CHAIR**

Maher Duessel Certified Public Accountants

**CHARLES G. URTIN,
VICE CHAIR**

Community Volunteer

JOHN P. KLINE, SECRETARY

S&T Bank

BOBBI WATT GEER, PH.D.
United Way

TIM BELL
UPS

BIBIANA BOERIO
Community Volunteer

ROBERT BROOKS
Community Volunteer

ROBERT CLEMENS, PH.D.
Kennametal Inc.

STEPHANIE DEMARO
Penn State Outreach and Online Education

DAVID EBERSOLE
Westinghouse Electric Company

KARL E. EISAMAN
McDowell Associates Inc.

RHONDA GARRETT
Express Scripts

ALEXANDER GEBROSKY
West Penn Power

LAURA LIVINGSTON
Westinghouse Electric Company

LYZONA MARSHALL, MBA
Seton Hill University

CHAD A. MCCUTCHEON, MA
McCutcheon Enterprises, Inc.

MARK E. MYERS
West Penn Power

ALBERT J. NOVAK JR.
Excela Health

RONALD H. OTT, MPH
University of Pittsburgh

PAUL PULEO
First National Bank of Pennsylvania

DENICE ROBINSON
BPU Investment Management, Inc.

FAYE ROSATTI
Standard Bank

DR. TUESDAY STANLEY
Westmoreland County Community College



remembering our friend

Jim Morrison, who served as board chair of the United Way of Westmoreland County and then of the local operating board of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

United Way is deeply saddened to lose a good friend, wise mentor and staunch United Way champion.

Jim had been a dedicated donor, volunteer, board leader and friend. In addition to serving as board chair,

he served on United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania's regional Board of Directors and numerous committees and special initiatives, including the merger design team that led the formation of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

We have so greatly benefited from Jim's quiet commitment. He deeply understood and cared about United Way's work and the community, and he will be missed.

our local staff

MELINDA BERCIK
Leadership Assistant

ALYSSA CHOLODOFSKY
Vice President, Development
& Impact

TERRI DOMINICK
Corporate Relations Manager

JAN FOX
Program Assistant

BOBBI WATT GEER, PH.D.
Regional Vice President

TERRI GILLESPIE
Finance-Community Impact
Associate

MELANEY HEGYES
Open Your Heart to a Senior
(OYHS) Site Coordinator &
Jacobs Creek Area OYHS
Program Director

KAREN HORCHAK
Western Westmoreland OYHS
Program Director

JACKIE JOHNS
Community Engagement
Manager

RICH LAVRICH
Director of Corporate
Development & MIS

NATE SCHUCKERS
Database and Software
Administrator

MARGIE SOLOCHIER
Regional Manager - Management
Accounting & Westmoreland
Operations

JESSE SPRAJCAR
Education Program Manager

MAUREEN ZANG
Alle-Kiski & Greater Greensburg
OYHS Program Director



As a donor, volunteer or supporter of United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania, you bring our mission to life. Without you, we couldn't create life-changing moments for people in Westmoreland, Fayette and

Southern Armstrong Counties, or for those across our region.

But the story doesn't end here. Together, we will continue to transform lives and make our community a better place for everyone. Thank you.