FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT UNITED WAY

What does United Way do?
United Way of Greater New Haven fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our 12-town region. We tackle issues that cannot be solved by any one group working alone. United Way believes success is nurtured children, thriving families, and vibrant communities where everyone has opportunity to live their best possible lives.

What is the United Way campaign?
The United Way campaign is an annual effort that provides employees from more than 100 businesses in greater New Haven with the opportunity to give back to the community through the ease of payroll deductions. These campaigns provide critical resources that allow United Way to continue its life-changing work for local children and families.

Why should I give as part of my company’s United Way campaign?
The United Way campaign is a community-wide effort to improve the lives of children and families in need. Your gift will be combined with the gifts of your co-workers and employees at other businesses to make a powerful impact in the Greater New Haven community.

If you care about improving schools, helping people attain financial stability, and providing families with access to healthy food, a small investment in United Way’s strategic interventions will make the biggest difference in people’s lives.

What towns does United Way of Greater New Haven serve?
United Way’s programs serve residents in 12 towns: Bethany, Branford, East Haven, Guilford, Hamden, Madison, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Orange, West Haven, and Woodbridge.

Do my dollars to United Way stay local?
Yes. The money you donate to United Way supports local efforts to create lasting change in our community. Dollars raised in our community stay in our community to help build a better life for us all.

How is my donation to United Way used?
Gifts to United Way’s Community Fund are invested in education, financial stability, and health programs that will make the most impact on children and families in need.

How do you decide which efforts and programs to support?
Investments from United Way are made by a group of volunteer experts representing a cross-section of Greater New Haven. These volunteers annually evaluate various community programs and make recommendations to the United Way Board of Directors regarding the strategies, partnerships, and roles that enable United Way to respond to community needs and change community conditions. These volunteers bring community knowledge, content expertise, and strategic thinking skills to help United Way develop and execute its community agenda, make funding recommendations, and evaluate results.
Can I choose where my contribution is directed?
Yes. Giving to the United Way Community Fund is the most powerful way to invest in our community, but you can choose to have your contribution designated to the following focus areas: Education, Financial Stability, or Health. You may also select a qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

When do the deductions start coming out of my paycheck?
Payroll deductions begin at different times of year depending on each company’s preference. Please check with your United Way development officer or your Human Resources representative to learn more about your company’s schedule.

Can I make my contribution by cash or check instead of payroll deduction?
Although many people find payroll deduction to be the most convenient way to donate, you can make your donation by check, cash or credit card. Just complete the pledge form by selecting the payment method and give it to your United Way campaign coordinator. You may also send a pledge form and check in a sealed envelope to: United Way of Greater New Haven, 370 James Street, Suite 403, New Haven, CT 06513. Please note it is for your company’s United Way campaign.

Can I give stock for my United Way contribution?
Yes. For specific instructions, please call Jennifer Vercher at 203-691-4218.

Is my contribution tax-deductible?
Absolutely! Your payroll stub or canceled check serves as verification for tax purposes. Based on IRS regulations, donors who make non-payroll gifts of $250 or more will receive a letter from United Way of Greater New Haven regarding that gift for tax purposes.

What is United Way’s administrative and overhead cost?
United Way of Greater New Haven is committed to keeping overhead costs as low as possible so that more dollars are at work in our community. For the last three years, overhead expenses were 19% of the total dollars raised. United Way is committed to financial accountability and transparency. A copy of our annual 990 filing and audit are available to the public at uwgnh.org.

Who do I contact if I have any additional questions about United Way’s work in the community?
You can contact Brian Mezzi, Assistant Director of Resource Development, at bmezzi@uwgnh.org or 203-815-2379.