



BUILDING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

2022 **ANNUAL REPORT**



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Dear Friends,

IT IS WITH DEEP GRATITUDE THAT WE SHARE UNITED COMMUNITY'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT.

If we were asked to describe United Community's past year with a single word, that word would be transformation.

The pandemic forced us to transform how we serve the community along the Route 1 corridor, ensuring that we were able to meet the needs of residents as we continued to navigate the challenges presented by COVID-19. We initiated mobile food distribution sites at six neighborhoods in our community while continuing to provide services at our Fordson Road food pantry. After a year-long closure, we reopened our Early Learning Center, providing safe, quality childcare to children aged 6 weeks to 5 years. Progreso resumed in-person English as a second language and citizenship classes while maintaining virtual offerings for those who needed it.

United Community also continued its transformation from an organization simply serving poverty to one committed to ending multigenerational poverty in our community. Through our leadership we are engaging community residents and coordinating a previously disconnected ecosystem, including county government, nonprofits, faith organizations, schools, and more, to address complex problems and achieve common goals.

None of this would have been possible without our loyal and generous supporters, who answer the call time and time again to support this community. We are so grateful to everyone who is committed to making a difference in the lives of families we serve.

We hope as you consider the impact we have had in our community, you think about how we can continue to move from serving poverty to ending it, and how you can partner with us to achieve this vision. Our work is getting harder, not easier, and now is the time for even greater action and redoubled efforts. As the numbers reflect, we have realized much success. However, there is so much more to do, and your support is needed more than ever.

Warmly,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alison DeCoursey".

Alison DeCoursey
President and CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Curcio".

Tom Curcio
Chair, Board of Directors

Building Thriving Communities

United Community is an over 50-year-old nonprofit offering an array of human services that lifts families in Fairfax County out of poverty. We engage community voice and family participation to break the cycle of generational poverty.

OUR MISSION is to build thriving communities and create equitable opportunities by providing supportive services and advancing community driven solutions.

OUR VISION is to end multigenerational poverty.

The Community We Serve

Geographic Area

The map at left shows the human services regions of Fairfax County. United Community primarily serves those living in Region 1.

For more than 50 years, United Community has dedicated efforts to serving the historically most impoverished area of Fairfax County, the Route 1 Corridor. Located in Southern Fairfax County and interspersed among some of the region's wealthiest communities, this locality continues to demonstrate the greatest levels of poverty in the county. Generations of residents in this area have faced multiple serious challenges.



Region 1

85% of United Community's clients live in the 2 zip codes with the highest rates of poverty in Fairfax County, 22306 and 22309. Below is a profile of these communities and the people we serve.

83% of clients live at or below the federal poverty line (\$27,000 for a family of 4)

83%

50% lower family median income than the median income for Fairfax County (~\$54k vs. ~\$112k)

50%

92%

92% are Black or Latinx households: 55% Black and 37% Latinx

66%+

More than two-thirds of households identify as rent burdened

Life expectancy for residents is 11 years lower than other residents in Fairfax County

11 yrs

More than 25% of residents do not have health insurance

25%+

Who We Are



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Our Approach: Four Focus Areas

Providing Early Childhood Development & Youth Education

Engaging youth today is critical to breaking the cycle of poverty. United Community provides impactful learning opportunities and life-changing support to families and children of all ages through our [Early Learning Center](#), [Healthy Families](#), [Community Schools](#), and [Community Center](#) programs.

Addressing Food Insecurity

We provide access to healthy food for thousands experiencing food insecurity through our [food pantry](#) and six [mobile distribution sites](#).

Empowering Individuals & Families

Through our [Family Achievement Program](#), [Stepping Stones](#), and [Progreso Literacy and Citizenship Center](#), we connect families with essential resources and supports that enable residents to thrive and transform their lives.

Creating Equity

[Opportunity Neighborhood](#) and [COMMUNITY+](#) engage community voice, build trust and create systemic change through organizing and connecting local stakeholders.

13,383
clients and
their families
served

2022 Impact Highlights

140
children ages 0-5
received early
interventions



2,245
students K-8th grade
supported during and
after school for
long-term retention
and success




627,500
pounds of food distributed



8,698 families provided with
nutritious food

598 individuals
enrolled in case
management services



1,985 families
received medical
funds or emergency
assistance to prevent
eviction or utility
disconnection



35 community
members actively
engaged in leadership
roles



2,000+
households connected with health,
education and community resources





Providing Early Childhood Development & Youth Education

Milestone: United Community Early Learning Center Celebrates a Full Year of Return to Learning

The pandemic forced the closure of United Community Early Learning Center to protect the safety of children, families, and staff. Thanks to our supporters, we were able to weather the storm and reopen in the summer of 2021.

After the year-long closure, parents shared their relief and excitement to have their children back in the classroom where they can learn and play. Staff could not have been happier to be back doing what they do best- sparking curiosity, learning, and exploration in our youngest community members.

Over the course of the year, our teachers provided high-quality learning opportunities in a nurturing environment to dozens of children through curriculum-based content and activities that stimulate and inspire. Parents, children, and teachers alike have shared the joy of having our little ones back in a space where they can learn, develop, laugh, and thrive.

Access to early childhood education and childcare is critical to our vision to ending multigenerational poverty. Please join us in celebrating an impactful year of learning and playing at the United Community Early Learning Center!

Addressing Food Insecurity

Story of Impact: From Food Assistance to Career Advancement – A Family’s Future Transformed

Meet the Thompson family - a husband and wife in their 30s with seven children aged 6-15. Recent immigrants, they faced many challenges. With a total household income of about \$25,000, paying rent and putting food on the table every month was a constant struggle.

Like many families, the Thompson family first came to United Community through our food pantry. We immediately addressed their urgent need for food, providing food assistance weekly. They began working closely with a case manager to create goals with long-term solutions. The wife, employed as a childcare worker, was interested in obtaining a certification to help secure better job opportunities. She identified a program and United Community paid for her tuition, books, fees, and transportation.

She obtained her certification and was promoted with a raise at her job. The Thompson Family’s household annual income increased by over \$7,000. To further improve her language skills and opportunities for the future, her case manager worked with her to enroll in United Community’s ESL classes.

United Community helped the Thompson family with more than just food assistance. We provided them with the tools and resources they needed to lift themselves out of poverty. United Community serves thousands of people each year. The Thompson family is just one example of how our work transforms lives every day.

416 families served weekly by food program



Empowering Individuals & Families

Story of Impact: From Struggle to Success, Helping Mary Achieve Her Dreams

When Mary came to United Community, she was a single mom in her 30s with two children and had lost her full-time cleaning job. She was at risk of being evicted and needed help.

United Community was able to provide Mary with the rent assistance she needed to avoid eviction. But we didn't stop there. We wanted to help Mary achieve long-term stability, and we discovered that she was interested in becoming a phlebotomist.



Mary researched training options and applied to an accredited institution. Because of the support of our donors, we were able to pay her tuition and fees. Throughout her training, Mary met regularly with her case manager, who provided her with transportation and food assistance and made sure she had the support needed to stay on track. In just 10 weeks, Mary completed her training and landed a position working full-time as a phlebotomist and making more than \$36,000 annually. She has plans for the future to take her board exam, which will result in another increase in salary.

Mary's success is a testament to the impact of support for United Community and importance of investing in the potential of those who are struggling.

Creating Equity

Milestone: Tax Program Helped 99 Families

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, United Community launched a program in Spring of 2022 to help community members learn about the tax system and file their taxes. We recognized that many in our community would be eligible for the 2021 Child Tax Credit, which provided much-needed relief to working families.

United Community served 99 families in total, providing them with valuable information about the tax system and helping them receive \$396,000 in tax refunds or tax credits.

One of the keys to the success of this program was the involvement of our Neighborhood Ambassadors, who are trusted partners and members of the communities we serve. They reached out to their neighbors through phone calls and door-to-door visits, encouraging them to sign up for free tax sessions with tax professionals.

The pandemic brought many challenges, particularly to already vulnerable communities. But it also presented an opportunity to build trust and work with community members in new ways. Working together as a united community, nearly \$400,000 was returned to local families and lasting relationships were formed that will help create a more equitable community.

"It was not just paying your taxes, it was that we built community relationships, that was what made me feel so proud."



– Elizabeth, Neighborhood Ambassador and Lived Experience Consultant

Giving Gratitude

Selfless Service: The Core's Integral Role in United Community's Food Program

The Core, a group of dedicated volunteers with anywhere from 7 to 32 years of service to United Community, has played an integral role in managing our food operations. Made up of **Delitia Austin, Laurel Cunnane, Pat Dickson, Mary Fesq, Neil Greene, Craig Lewis, and Ellen McClure**, The Core has developed expertise in food operations and has been instrumental in planning for large-scale food intake and distribution days. During the pandemic, they played a crucial role in transforming food distribution operations to ensure we could continue to meet the needs of the communities we serve.

"I believe in United Community's mission, and I appreciate what the organization does for the many families it serves."

– Craig Lewis

United Community is grateful to The Core for their selfless commitment to helping the community. We could not achieve our mission to build thriving communities without them.

"I enjoy serving others and working with a team to accomplish something bigger than myself."

– Laurel Cunnane

"I volunteer at UC because I feel it really helps the local area."

– Pat Dickson



Summer Soiree: A Lovely Evening on the Potomac with Generous Supporters

In June, Danae and Eric Delman generously opened their Alexandria home to host United Community's first in-person donor appreciation event since the pandemic.

Over 100 of United Community's most generous supporters came together to enjoy a lovely summer evening on the Potomac River. Donors learned about the mission and future vision to end multigenerational poverty from President and CEO Alison DeCoursey, were thanked for their philanthropic commitment by Board Chair Tom Curcio, and learned firsthand about the impact of their support from Neighborhood Ambassador and Lived Experience Consultant Elizabeth Villatoro.

It was a joy to see so many old friends, meet new ones, and celebrate our supporters. United Community thanks Danae and Eric for hosting such a wonderful event and is grateful to our community of supporters who make our mission to build thriving communities possible.



The Power of Partnership

AT&T Empowers Communities through Technology & Education



United Community is grateful for the transformational support of AT&T, a philanthropic contributor since 2015. From providing critical funding for youth STEM education to sponsoring United Community events, AT&T's long-time support has touched the lives of children and families across our programs.

In 2022, AT&T was instrumental in providing support for summer programming for under-resourced children through United Community's SPARKS Summer Camps. Because of AT&T's generosity, dozens of children received high-quality STEM learning opportunities throughout the summer and a safe, nurturing environment in which to socialize with other children during out-of-school time. Over the course of this long relationship, AT&T's support has also been crucial in providing healthy meals to children in the summer months, ensuring their physical well-being, while simultaneously offering programs that help close academic learning gaps and promote social-emotional well-being. Additionally, AT&T provided seed funding to open a computer lab for United Community's Progreso Literacy & Citizenship Center to provide digital literacy lessons and empower adult learners. AT&T has also been counted on as an event sponsor, lending their support to

numerous United Community events and playing a pivotal role in raising awareness about our mission.

AT&T embraces the true meaning of collaboration, extending not only their philanthropic support, but also sharing their expertise through volunteer leadership. We are honored to have Garrett McGuire, AT&T Regional Director of External and Legislative Affairs, serving on our Board of Directors. His expertise and passion have propelled our mission forward, creating a lasting impact on the lives of those we serve.

We cannot overstate the impact of our relationship with AT&T on the communities we serve, and we are so grateful for AT&T's longstanding support. Thank you, AT&T, for your commitment to building communities where everyone thrives!

"At AT&T, we're working every day to create connection – a connection to friends, family, work, commerce, education, health, entertainment and more. Our connection to United Community helps young people get the support they need to excel in school and in life."

– Garrett McGuire, AT&T Regional Director of External and Legislative Affairs

Battelle Transforms Communities through STEM Education

Contributing support since 2009, Battelle is one of United Community's oldest and most dedicated philanthropic partners. Battelle has been a Gala sponsor, supported STEM scholarships, matched employee contributions dollar for dollar, and provided funding for youth STEM education.

In 2022, Battelle provided critical support for STEM programming for United Community's free SPARKS Summer Camps for children ages 6 -12. Battelle created a pathway for collaboration with the Children's Science Center, which allowed for fun and meaningful hands-on learning opportunities at camp and helped inspire a love of learning STEM by providing unique opportunities to explore and create for dozens of children.

Early interventions and quality education are critical to our mission to build thriving communities and vision to end multigenerational poverty. As a trusted partner, Battelle is investing in the future of children in our community, helping to create a roadmap for high-paid careers, and nurturing tomorrow's STEM leaders.

Battelle believes high quality STEM education is essential to address the equity gap that face so many American children including those in the communities United Community serves. They have committed to expanding access to STEM to economically disadvantaged communities and are currently impacting 1.4 million students through STEM education outreach nationwide, donating nearly \$20 million annually to more than 1,000 partners across the county where its employees live and work. United Community is honored and thankful to be among the organizations Battelle has chosen to support. Thank you, Battelle!



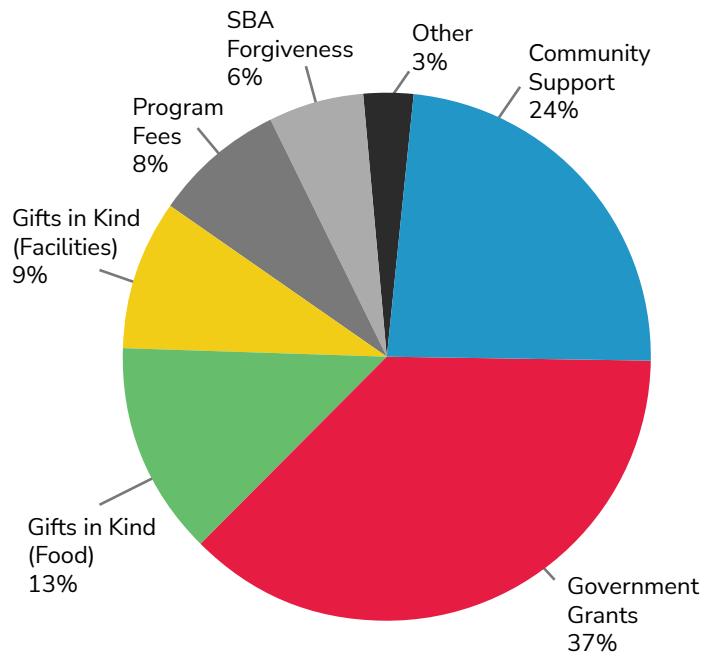
"It is gratifying when you can find a program that has as much reach into the community as UC. Over the past five years, I've enjoyed working with program staff and strengthening their STEM engagement and look forward to more growth in those programs."

– Regina Schofield, Battelle Director of Corporate Engagement & Education Outreach

Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Highlights

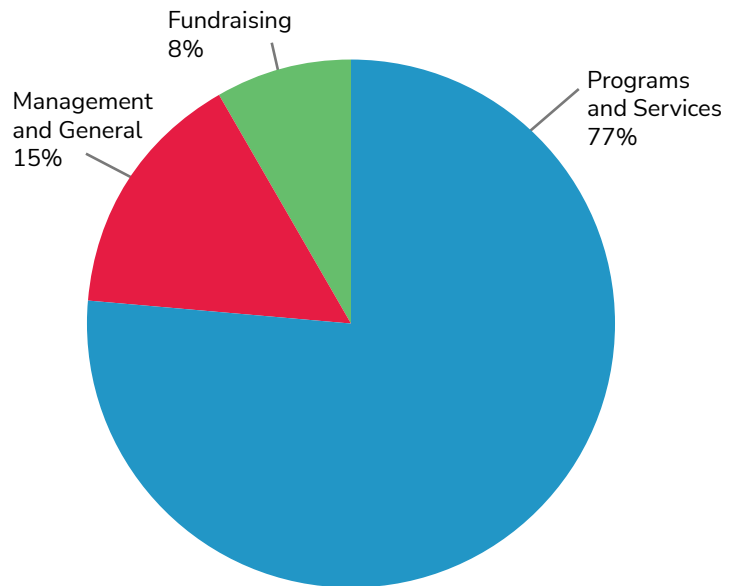
Operating Revenues

Community Support	\$1,965,459
Government Grants	\$3,099,946
Gifts In Kind - Food	\$1,082,527
Gifts In Kind – Facilities	\$765,445
Program Fees	\$659,453
SBA Forgiveness	\$500,297
Other	\$236,854
Total Operating Revenue	\$8,309,981



Operating Expenses

Programs and Services	\$6,351,489
Management and General	\$1,270,698
Fundraising	\$678,427
Total Operating Expenses	\$8,300,614



United Community is grateful for all our supporters who make our mission to build thriving communities and vision to end multigenerational poverty possible

PUBLIC PARTNERS



COMMUNITIES OF FAITH PARTNERS

Aldersgate United Methodist

Belle View Baptist Church

Bethany Lutheran Church

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Epiphany Lutheran Church of Mount Vernon

Good Shepherd Catholic Church

Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church

Mount Vernon Unitarian Church

Mount Vernon United Methodist Church

Religious Society of Friends

St. Louis Catholic Church

St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Third Baptist Church

Washington Community Church

Wesley United Methodist Church



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Your support makes our mission and vision possible.



SHARE

Grow your impact by being a voice for United Community. Share our mission to build thriving communities with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues. Invite them to visit our website, sign-up for our newsletter, or follow us on social!

VOLUNTEER

Join our community of volunteers who are critical to delivering our mission. We welcome individuals, corporate groups, and community organizations to volunteer with us! Visit unitedcommunity.org/volunteer to learn how you can get involved.

DONATE

Your donation can transform a life. Your gift will address food security, provide education, empower individuals and families, and create equity in our communities. Visit unitedcommunity.org/ways-to-give to explore ways to give and make a donation today.

ENGAGE

Engage with us wherever you are! Follow us on LinkedIn, Facebook, and Instagram. Visit our website unitedcommunity.org to subscribe to our newsletter to stay up-to-date. Email us at info@unitedcommunity.org at anytime with questions, to share feedback, or to learn more ways to engage with us!

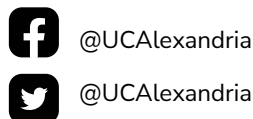


Together we can build thriving communities.



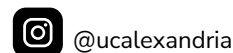
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