

**Grove City Area United Way
2021—2022 Annual Report
April 2021—March 2022**

**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD
IN THE WORLD**



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2021—2022 Grove City Area United Way Year in Review

Sonni Zambino, Board President

We're still dealing with Covid.....but

Life returned to some semblance of normalcy as we moved out of 2021 and into 2022. It can now be somewhat difficult to find a parking spot (one your vehicle fits into) on Broad St., local restaurants have made a comeback for their indoor dining, the unemployment rate has dipped significantly and most businesses are having trouble finding employees to service their customers. I would be remiss not to mention the tremendous help to so many families, all over the USA, who were helped by the Child Tax Credit. However, as the days of 2022 quickly pass we continue to have members of our Community who would agree that their lives are still anything but normal.

Today the cost of housing, food, transportation and needed medical or mental health services weighs heavily on the people of our Community who are barely making ends meet, whether employed or not. At least 15% of our Community lives at, or below, the Federal Poverty Level.

By LIVING UNITED our generous donors have allowed us to put money aside for those tough times through our Venture Grants. These grant applications are available to any of our agencies in need of additional money to fulfill their mission, and the mission of the GCAUW.

Our Community is blessed with having remarkable women at the helm of this organization: Amy Foley, our Executive Director and Kathy DiStasi, our Financial Administrator. Their commitment to Grove City is to be commended and celebrated. On behalf of the Donors and the Board I have to say "we couldn't do this without you!"

In addition to working with our Grantees, Amy and Kathy spearhead the following programs of the Grove City Area United Way: Food for Kids, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Stuff the Bus and the Day of Caring. We are excited to announce that the Day of Caring will return on April 22, 2023.

Our Board of Directors consisted of 13 dedicated and wonderful people who represent a cross-section of Grove City residents who aren't afraid to voice their perspective. Each board meeting is a learning experience for me, especially when it comes to "Robert's Rules Of Order." I have been seated on many national boards and one local (to San Francisco) board. Being on the board of a charitable organization, in the town that raised me, has been a dream of mine for decades.

From March, 2020 through September, 2021 GCAUW Board Members and Staff picked up and delivered the weekly Food for Kids bags at 8 a.m. from County Market. The bags were then distributed to GCHS, the Middle School and Hillview. Other board member activity included shifts to help the Salvation Army by ringing the bell at Christmas time.

We had three very dedicated board members “roll off” the board this year: Mike Clancey, Brad McGill, and Darian Murray. Their collective THIRTY years of service are much appreciated by the current board, and especially by the Grove City Community.

I also want to welcome four new board members: Paula Anderson, Thomas Biro, Nate Gressel, and Michele McCracken. Our Board and Staff look forward to working with you to serve our fellow residents, neighbors and friends in Grove City.

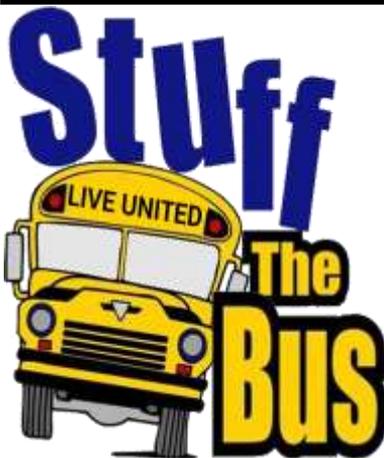
Two longtime friends and fellow board members, Mike Hazy and Alex DeGross, orchestrated a chili cook off fundraiser at Big Rail Brewing this past spring. The weather was cool, and sometimes wet, but these guys raised over \$1,200 in one afternoon. Many board members were in attendance, and of course Amy and Kathy were there. A great deal of thanks to Alex and Mike, as well as to Bill Smith and Sean Corbett of Big Rail Brewing, for their hard work.

I also want to take time to acknowledge and thank some others who have been instrumental in the health and well being of Grove City this past year:

- Dave and Nicole Knopp, along with the County Market staff, who pack all of the Food for Kids bags each week and prepare them for delivery to our schools.
- Kathy Leonard and Abbie Turner-Michael who for the past ten years spearheaded the fundraising efforts for Food for Kids.
- George Junior Republic BARJ program for picking up and delivering the Food for Kids bags every week after COVID restrictions were lifted.
- Marcy Covert of Broad Street Yoga who once again donated all profits from the Beast Before the Feast to our United Way.
- John Jopek of the Grove City YMCA for organizing a Skate Night Fundraiser for our campaign.
- Rabbi Jeff Glickman and his wife Mindy, for including the GCAUW in their amazing Turn to the Wonderful project.
- All of the Directors and Staff of our grant funded agencies. It is because of the hard work you do each and every day that our most vulnerable citizens have a roof over their heads, heat in the winter, food to eat, after school care, community enrichment, and a safe place to live.



The Grove City Area United Way is proud to be a sponsor of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) in our community. The intention of this wonderful program is to instill the love of reading in every child in our school district and to increase early literacy skills to prepare our children for life-long learning. The DPIL sends an age appropriate book each month to children from birth until the age of five and has been shown to improve school readiness for children entering kindergarten. Dollywood Foundation founded Imagination Library in 1996. Grove City Area United Way brought the program to Grove City in May, 2009. Our United Way covers all costs of the program. All Good Things Thrift Shoppe provided significant financial support to the Imagination Library program in Grove City during the year. The Imagination Library is open to all children from birth to age 5 who reside in the Grove City Area School District. To date, **23,362** books have been sent to Grove City Area School District children.



Every child should have the tools they need to succeed at school. Stuff the Bus, a drive to obtain brand new backpacks and school supplies for Grove City Area School District students in need, began in Grove City in 2008. To date, **1,460** backpacks filled with new school supplies have been distributed.

In 2021, we were assisted in our mission by Broad St. Grille, D.A.M. Good Wings, Grove City Federal Credit Union, Grove City Area School District and Meals on Wheels.



HELP STARTS HERE

Similar to 9-1-1, 2-1-1 is a nationally recognized, easy-to-remember phone number that quickly and effectively connects people in need with resources. Every hour of every day, someone in Southwestern Pennsylvania searches for services, from substance abuse treatment to care for a child or an aging parent. By simply dialing 2-1-1 (or 888-553-5778) our trained Resource Navigators can assess your needs and then match you to the best and closest resources in your community. The 2-1-1 database contains information on over 6,000 health and human service agencies. Together with the Mercer County Commissioners and the Mercer County United Way, the Grove City Area United Way funds 2-1-1 in Mercer County.



Forty-three percent of the students in the Grove City Area School District qualify for free or reduced-price school meals. While these students may receive two meals a day at school, many of them are going hungry at night or on the weekends. The Grove City Area United Way is proud to have partnered with the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals and the Grove City Area School District to operate the Food for Kids Program. This program provides registered students with a bag of food, drinks and snacks every Friday during the school year. The bag of food is enough to sustain them through the weekend. County Market grocery store is a huge partner in this endeavor as well, packing all food bags for the students every week. During the 2021-2022 school year, Food for Kids averaged **61** students each week. Every Thursday morning during the school year, George Junior Republic students and staff pick up the bags of food from County Market and deliver them to the Grove City Area School District school buildings where the bags are distributed to students enrolled in the program.

Community Service Award Recipients

2022.....David and Kathleen Cashdollar
2020.....Dorothy McMillen
2019.....Fern Torok
2017.....Gary and Jane Smith
2016.....Dave Poland
2015.....Cathy Chutz
2014.....Dr. Richard Jewell
2012.....Ruth and Dick Leo
2011.....Heather Baker
2010.....Mike Kearns
2009.....Brad Holmes
2008.....Ruth Magee
2006.....Becky May
2005.....Mike Orange
2004.....Darla Motta
2003.....Harry Lutton
2002.....Ruth and Parker Henry
2001.....Brenda McBride
2000.....Edward Berti
1999.....Jean Clinger
1998.....Andrea Isacco
1997.....Dr. William Menzies

Community Impact Award Recipients

2020.....Grove City Area School District
2019.....All Good Things Thrift Shoppe
2018.....Broad Street Yoga
2017.....Grove City Medical Center

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

~Nelson Mandela

The 2021-2022 Campaign in Review

\$206,720.09

Commercial Division	\$14,421.85
Community Division	\$8,353.56
Education	\$22,602.46
Financial	\$14,168.87
Government	\$4,560.36
Healthcare	\$4,426.16
Individual Leadership	\$88,678.35
Industrial	\$38,687.25
Professional Division	\$2,775.00
Unsolicited/Miscellaneous	\$8,046.23

LIVE UNITED.

It's a credo. A mission. A goal.

A constant reminder that when we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. We build the strength of our neighborhoods. We bolster the health of our communities. And we change the lives of those who walk by us every day.

Thank you to all of the recipients of the Community Service Award and Community Impact Award. You inspire hope in others, create opportunities for a better tomorrow and show us all what it means to

LIVE UNITED.

2021-2022 Individual Giving

Platinum \$10,000+

Mr. and Mrs. David and Kathleen Cashdollar
Mrs. Vicki Schultz
Ms. Sondra Zambino

Silver \$1,000+

Anonymous	Mr. Francis Jordan
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Beth Clancey	Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Michele McCracken
Mrs. Jane Cleary	Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Kathleen McGill
Mr. and Mrs. Larry and Jennifer Connelly	Dr. and Mrs. Joseph and Karen Meyn
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Debbie Denniston	Mr. and Mrs. Luke and Abbie Michael
Mr. Ralph DiLuigi	Mr. Matthew Morris
Dr. and Mrs. Vincent and Kathleen DiStasi	Dr. Constance and Mr. Steve Nichols
Ms. Lynne Doolan	Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Barbara Pezze
Dr. and Mrs. David and Amy Foley	Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Carolyn Rizza
Mr. John Gordon	Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Kim Saltrick
	Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Richelle Schell

Bronze \$500+

Anonymous	Mrs. Carolyn Patterson
Mr. and Mrs. Edward and Susan Berti	Mr. Scott Patton
Ms. Missy Davies	Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Erin Persch
Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Leah Flynn	Mr. and Mrs. Dave and Kristi Poland
Ms. Beverly Gealy	Mr. Larry Shipton
Mr. David Gold	Dr. and Mrs. Ed and Leann Smith
Mr. Shawn Hostetler	Mr. Edward Strandburg
Mrs. Nyla Kauffman	Mr. and Mrs. Roger and Deb Towle
Mr. Mitch Pagni	Dr. and Mrs. Jeff and Katrina Wolinski
Mr. Doug Parker	

2021-2022 Corporate Giving

Platinum \$10,000+

Grove City College Employees
Pine Instrument Company
Pine Instrument Employees

Gold \$5,000+

Blackout Burger Bar LLC
George Junior Republic
Grove City Area School District Employees
Thomas Construction
Turn to the Wonderful

Silver \$1,000+

Anonymous
Bashlin Industries
Bashlin Industries Employees
Big Rail Brewing Chili Cook Off Fundraiser
Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern OH
Davevic Benefit Consultants, Inc.
Grove City YMCA Skate Night Fundraiser
Highmark Health
Landscape Design
McGill, Power, Bell & Associates, LLP
PNC Foundation
Renick Brothers
State Employee Combined Appeals Campaign

Bronze \$500+

Broad Street Yoga Beast Before the Feast Fundraiser
Community Counseling Center of Mercer County Employees
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
F.N.B. of PA
Hazy Construction LLC
Instron Corporation
Instron Employees
Mercer County State Bank
Wabtec Employees
Wabtec Corporation

2022 Grant Awardees

AWARE

Brandi Montgomery House \$5,000.00

Christian Assistance Network

Crisis Support to Grove City Residents \$25,000.00

Community Counseling Center of Mercer County

Outpatient Counseling \$13,500.00

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania

Grove City Scouting \$1,000.00

Grove City Community Food Pantry

Grove City Area Food Pantry General Program \$6,000.00

Grove City Education Center for Adults

GED Preparation and Testing \$6,000.00

Grove City Meals on Wheels

Daily Senior Citizen Meal Delivery Program \$18,880.00

Salvation Army, Grove City Service Unit

Community Welfare Program \$10,000.00

YMCA, Grove City Branch

After School Programming \$22,500.00

Designations made to non-Grove City Area United Way grant funded agencies \$1,480.00

Food for Kids

Grove City Community Library

Lakeview Area Helping Hands Center

Venture Grant Awards Return

Due to the extremely generous support of our community, as well as informed requests made by our grant funded agencies, the Grove City Area United Way is able to once again offer grant possibilities to nonprofit agencies in our community, outside of our regular Community Investment Grants.

Venture Grants: These community problem solving grants will fund new or expanded initiatives in specific community problem areas, identified by the Grove City Area United Way as critical needs in the community and which are either not funded or not adequately funded through the regular Grove City Area United Way Allocation process.

Program Grants: These grants fund programs that would stimulate innovative and effective program development, management and/or service delivery to meet human service needs in the community.

Emergency Grants: These grants assist in funding unanticipated increases of basic needs which may include emergency food, clothing, shelter, heating and health care needs.

Agencies seeking any of the above grants must complete an applications process that will include a thorough review by our Board of Directors.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.

~Muhammad Ali



**Grove City Area
United Way**

2021–2022 Board of Directors

Officers

President: Sonni Zambino, Community Member
Treasurer: Dave Poland, Retired, Grove City Medical Center
Secretary: Jennifer Connelly, Grove City Area School District

Directors

Mike Clancey, Retired, USIS
Alex DeGross, Wendell August Forge
Debbie Denniston, Retired, Grove City Area School District
Adam Felton, Wabtec
Mike Hazy, Hazy Construction
Brad McGill, Bashlin Industries
Darian Murray, Farmers National Bank
Constance Nichols, Grove City College
Erin Persch, Grove City Area School District
Kim Saltrick, Community Member

Incoming Board Members

Paula Anderson, AHN Grove City Hospital
Thomas Biro, Grove City College
Nate Gressel, George Junior Republic
Michele McCracken, Community Member

Office Staff

Amy Foley, Executive Director
Kathy DiStasi, Program Director/Financial Administrator

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED 

www.grovecityunitedway.org
Facebook: Grove City Area United Way
Instagram: @gcareunitedway