

Grove City Area United Way 2025—2026 Annual Report April 2025—March 2026



In this report:

President's Remarks	2, 3
The Market	3
Dolly Parton Imagination Library	4
Stuff the Bus	4
211	5
Food for Kids	5
Day of Caring	6
Community Service Award Recipients	7
Individual Giving	8
Corporate Giving	9
Campaign In Review	10
2026 Grant Awardees	11
Board of Directors and Staff	12



Grove City Area
UNITED WAY

2025—2026 Grove City Area United Way Year in Review

Nate Gressel, Board President

When I first arrived here, I did so as an outsider. I did not grow up walking these streets, nor did I have the deep-rooted family histories that define so much of the Grove City Area. Coming from the outside, one often expects a period of observation—a time to prove oneself before being truly "let in." However, Grove City defied those expectations. From my first day, I have been met with an extraordinary level of warmth and openness. I want to express my deepest personal gratitude for the way this community has accepted me and for the invaluable professional and personal relationships we have built together. It is a rare thing to find a place where the spirit of "neighbor helping neighbor" is not just a slogan, but a daily practice.

This past year has tested that spirit in unprecedented ways. We have navigated a turbulent landscape defined by government shutdowns and a prolonged Pennsylvania budget impasse that left many of our vital systems in limbo. During these times of political and fiscal uncertainty, the burden of care often falls on local shoulders. I have watched with immense pride as our volunteer Board of Directors and local leadership stepped into the gap. Their dedication is the bedrock of this organization; they provide the vision and the governance that allow us to remain a steady hand in stormy seas.

Our affiliate non-profit agencies have been nothing short of heroic. Throughout this difficult year, they have worked tirelessly to protect, feed, and serve this community—especially our children, who are often the most affected by economic instability. From ensuring food security to providing safe environments for development, these agencies are the frontline defenders of our local quality of life.

However, we must be honest about the reality we face: the need in the Grove City area is the highest it has ever been. As the "safety net" for the region, the Grove City Area United Way is seeing a sharp increase in requests for assistance as families struggle to keep pace with rising costs and dwindling public resources. Paradoxically, as the need grows, we face the daunting challenge of shrinking charitable gifts and donations. The

economic pressures affecting our households are also affecting our donor base, creating a widening gap between available resources and community requirements.

Looking toward the future, we must recognize a sobering truth: without the safety net provided by the Grove City Area United Way, many of our affiliate agencies would simply cease to exist. They rely on us not just for funding, but for the collective strength that our organization represents.

As we move into a new year, our focus remains steadfast on our most vulnerable populations. We invite you to continue this journey with us. Whether through a donation, volunteer hours, or simple advocacy, your support ensures that the "outsider" who arrives tomorrow finds the same strong, supportive community that I was so fortunate to discover.

Together, we are Grove City. Together, we live united.



Nearly half of Grove City Area School District's students (46%) qualify for free or reduced lunch. Food insecurity is a very real and growing problem in our community.

To address this urgent need, the Grove City Area United Way has funded the creation and ongoing operation of a food pantry for GCASD students and their families. Housed within the Guidance Office at the Grove City High School is The Market.

At The Market, students and district families in need are able to pick up food for family meals and snacks. High School students can take their orders home with them, while food for Middle School and Hillview families is picked up by a parent.

The Market has been made possible by funding from the Grove City Healthcare Foundation and the Buhl Regional Health Foundation.



The Grove City Area United Way is proud to be the 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 has provided significant financial support to the Imagination Library program in Grove City. The Imagination Library is open to all children from birth to age 5 who reside in the Grove City Area School District. To date, **30,651** 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, **1,984** backpacks filled with new school supplies have been distributed. We received more requests for help (139) in 2025 than in any other year.

In 2025, we were assisted in our mission by Broad St. Grille, Grove City Area Federal Credit Union, AHN Grove City, Grove City YMCA, Church of the Beloved Disciple, North Liberty Presbyterian Church, Grove City Area Meals on Wheels, NexTier Bank, Days for Girls Grove City Team, Grace United Methodist Church, Grove City Community Library, Salvation Army Grove City Service Unit and numerous individuals who donated supplies and their time to volunteer.



HELP STARTS HERE

Similar to 911, 211 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 211 (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 211 database contains information on over 6,000 health and human service agencies. Together with the Mercer County United Way, the Grove City Area United Way funds 211 in Mercer County. 115 calls were made to 211 from the 16127 zip code during calendar year 2025.



46% 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 School District to operate the Food for Kids Program. This program provides registered students with a bag of easy to prepare meals, 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 2025-2026 school year, Food for Kids has averaged **77** 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. Major financial support for Food for Kids is provided by the Grove City Healthcare Foundation, Bonner Realty, All Good Things Thrift Shoppe, Classic Croozers and Turner Insurance.



2025 Sponsors

Platinum \$500

Bonner Realty, LLC
Grove City County Market
McNickle & Bonner
Northwestern Mutual, Gould
Financial

Gold \$250

Anderson Insurance Group
Bashlin Industries
Mercer County State Bank

In 2025, 311 volunteers came together to work at 32 projects throughout Grove City. Thank you to our sponsors, our volunteers and our community partner sites who allowed us to serve them.



Community Service Award Recipients

2026.....Terry Webster
2025.....Sonni Zambino
2024.....Pastor Pam Schnelzer
2023.....Abbie Turner Michael
2023.....Kathy Leonard
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

2025-2026 Individual Giving

Platinum \$10,000+

David and Kathleen Cashdollar
Sondra Zambino

Gold \$5,000+

Susan and Matthew Cyphert

Silver \$1,000+

Anonymous
Edward Berti
Michael and Beth Clancey
Mike and Jane Cleary
Ralph DiLuigi
Vincent and Kathleen DiStasi
David and Amy Foley
Amy French
Bill and Gloria Gordon
Nathan Gressel
Mike and Ashley Hazy
Joseph and Jodi Hines
Mike and Alexis Johnson
Adam and Karen Ketter
Timothy Kochin

Daniel Kulp
Ernie and Becky May
Joseph Meyn
Brad and Kathleen McGill
Luke and Abbie Michael
Stephen Miller
Matthew Morris
Betty Myford
Steven and Constance Nichols
Brendan Noone
Ron and Karen Otteni
Mike and Rachael Renick
Dan and Melanie Ritenour
Susan Stamm
Jeff and Katrina Wolinski

Bronze \$500+

Anonymous
Marcy Adelman
Brady and Sydney Beech
Larry and Jennifer Connelly
Mike and Amy Cooley
Aaron Cowan
Yvonne Gamble
Tom and Mikki Giordano
Joe Hazy
Mark and Nancy Hazy
Jeremy and Jessica Hedegore

Mark and Linda Jaskowak
Timothy and Heidi Mech
Timothy Mohr
Carolyn Patterson
Scott Patton
Dave and Kristi Poland
Larry Shipton
Diane Sidwell Jones
Ann Stinson
William Uber

2025-2026 Corporate Giving

Platinum \$10,000+

Grove City Healthcare Foundation
Pine Instrument Company

Gold \$5,000+

George Junior Republic
Grove City Area School District Employees
Grove City College Employees and Retirees
Highmark Health
Pine Instrument Company Employees

Silver \$1,000+

Acrisure, LLC dba Davevic Benefit Consultants
Community Foundation of Western PA & Eastern Ohio
Hazy Construction
Highmark Foundation
Landscape Design LLC
Mercer County State Bank
NexTier Bank
Northwest Charitable Foundation
Northwestern Mutual, Gould Financial
PNC Foundation
SECA Employees
Wabtec Employees

Bronze \$500+

All Seasons Temporaries, Inc.
Anderson Insurance
Eat'n Park Hospitality Group
F.N.B. Community Foundation
Grove City Area Federal Credit Union
Instron Corporation
Instron Employees
Wabtec Corporation

The 2025-2026 Campaign in Review

\$214,465.06

Commercial Division	\$9,444.88
Community Division	\$8,018.81
Education	\$18,694.00
Financial	\$23,089.25
Government	\$1,182.83
Healthcare	\$45,122.24
Individual Leadership	\$75,716.00
Industrial	\$26,026.50
Professional Division	\$600.00
Unsolicited/Miscellaneous	\$6,570.55

Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.

~Barbara Bush



2026 Grant Awardees

AWARE

Brandi Montgomery House	\$6,000.00
Christian Assistance Network	
Crisis Support to Grove City Residents	\$40,000.00
Days for Girls–Grove City Team	
Menstrual Products and Education	\$13,000.00
Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania	
Leadership Experience	\$2,500.00
Grove City Area Meals on Wheels	
Daily Senior Citizen Meal Delivery Program	\$11,650.00
Grove City Community Food Pantry	
Grove City Area Food Pantry General Program	\$2,300.00
Grove City Community Library	
Technology Support for Low Income Residents	\$1,320.00
Special Children's Programming	\$5,100.00
Grove City YMCA	
After School Programming	\$40,000.00
Mercer County Adult Education Center	
GED Preparation and Testing	\$6,000.00
Salvation Army, Grove City Service Unit	
Community Welfare Program	\$10,000.00
<i>Designations made to non-Grove City Area United Way grant funded agencies</i>	\$2,380.00
Food for Kids	
Lakeview Area Helping Hands Center	
The Market	

2025–2026 Board of Directors

Officers

President: Nate Gressel, George Junior Republic
Vice President: Mike Johnson, Davevic Benefit Consultants
Treasurer: Brady Beech, Northwestern Mutual, Gould Financial
Secretary: Marisa Jackson, Primary Health Network

Directors

Thomas Biro, Grove City College
Jennifer Connelly, Grove City Area School District
Lindsey Crevar, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh
Shane Crevar, PA Office of Attorney General
Adam Critchlow, AHN Grove City
Alex DeGroff, Wendell August Forge
Mike Hazy, Hazy Construction
Jeremy Hedegore, Komatsu Mining Corporation
Karen Ketler, Operational Business Concepts
Mitch McFeely, NexTier Bank
Sonni Zambino, Community Member

Incoming Board Members

Amanda Maclsaac, CDM Smith
Elena Perrine, Community Member
Bill Pritchard, Community Member
Brendan Smith, Grove City Area School District

Staff

Amy Foley, Executive Director
Kathy DiStasi, Program Director/Financial Administrator
Lisa Pritchard, Social Media Director

