

REACH OUT A
HAND
TO ONE
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION
OF ALL.
GIVE. ADVOCATE.
VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED



United Way of Ocean County has been voted the "Best Place to Volunteer!"

In July 2015, Asbury Park Press readers were asked to vote on a variety of "Best of the Best" businesses and organizations throughout Ocean County.

Thank you to all of our dedicated volunteers, and to the APP readers who voted for us. We truly appreciate the recognition.

United Way recruits people and organizations who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done.

We invite you to be a part of the change. You can give, you can advocate and you can volunteer. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED.

IN THIS ISSUE:

A Year in Review

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Service Projects | See the results of our Spring Food Drive, School Supply Drive and Holiday Stars Gift Drive |
| Day of Action | Thanks to all of our volunteers who came out to support our Partner Agencies |
| AmeriCorps Program | Learn about all of the Sandy-damaged homes that were repaired by our members and volunteers from the community. |
| "Hearts of Gold" Gala | We ended 2015 with our biggest fundraiser of the year! |

OUR TOP 10 COMPANIES With the Largest Workplace Campaigns

- 1- Oyster Creek Generating Station
- 2- United Parcel Service (UPS)
- 3- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- 4- Cowan, Guteski & Co., P.A.
- 5- Costco
- 6- Johnson & Johnson
- 7- Causeway Family of Dealerships
- 8- Perlmart, Inc. (Perlmutter ShopRites)
- 9- Macy's
- 10- TD Bank

Thank you to all of our generous donors!

United Way of Ocean County Online Volunteer Center

Are you an Ocean County non-profit group seeking volunteers, or a resident looking to share your time, skills or talent? Then check out the United Way of Ocean County **Online Volunteer Center** by visiting www.uwocnj.org.

Volunteers that use the online volunteer center have access to numerous opportunities: Short-term and long-term, individual, group, family and internships!

With many volunteer opportunities available, you will be able to find a project that matches your skills, talents and interests quickly.

Partner agencies that use the online volunteer center will receive free of charge access to post volunteer opportunities online.

Your posts will also have a national reach, as they will be shared with all major nationwide volunteer databases.

A message from our Board President...

Happy New Year! 2015 has been a banner year for the United Way of Ocean County. Not only did we repair/restore over 90 Superstorm Sandy homes in Ocean County, we raised over \$75,000 from our wonderful and best ever gala in November! Huge thank you to the dedicated staff: Jackie, Debbi, Dyane and Rob, who worked so hard this year to ensure the United Way of Ocean County was successful in making our community a better place to live.



We supported our 46 partner agencies, whether financially, advocating their mission or by providing volunteers. As you'll see in our newsletter, we also organized several service projects during 2015: **Spring Food Drive, School Supply Drive, Day of Action, AmeriCorps Program, Holiday Stars Gift Drive and working with numerous ReBuild Volunteers.**

In 2015, we also provided funding for 23 programs through our Allocations process. Our Allocations teams did a fantastic job of determining how to spend our grant money. This rigorous process requires our Board members and volunteers to read through grant applications and complete site visits to determine the community's need for those funded programs.

United Way of Ocean County was able to provide grants for **STEM Programs** (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math), **senior services, addiction programs, easing hunger, healthy living and Youth Housing** programs, to name a few.

I would like to introduce and welcome our multi-talented Interim Executive Director, **Nancy S. Clarke**, who hails from Ocean Grove, NJ. We are thrilled to have her onboard until we fill the United Way of Ocean County Executive Directorship in 2016.

Lastly, I would like to thank the engaged and committed United Way of Ocean County Board of Directors. I am constantly reminded of a quote from Margaret Mead when I think of our current board: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

**Nancy E. Eriksen, President
United Way of Ocean County Board of Directors**

Executive Board

- | | |
|---|---|
| Nancy Eriksen, President Exelon Oyster Creek | Carol Kirsimagl, V.P. Marketing & Communications |
| Jeremy Grunin, Vice President Grunin Properties | Edmund Liguori, V.P. Fund Distribution Staples |
| Jeffrey Farrell Secretary JT Farrell & Associates | Deborah Mathis, V.P. of Finance (Past President) |
| Donald Cowan, Treasurer (Past Pres.) Cowan, Guteski & Co., P.A. | Cowan, Guteski & Co., P.A. |
| Thomas Ando, V.P. of Resource Development OceanFirst Bank | Thomas Hayes, Appointee NJ Natural Gas |
| William Dooner, V.P. Board Training Tax Firm | Sandy Levine, Appointee Sandra Levine Productions |

Board of Directors

- | | |
|--|--|
| Sandy Broughton Investors Bank | Melissa Russo J. Knipper & Co., Inc. |
| Rob Clifton Comcast | Luis Santa Cruz Wells Fargo |
| Kelly Filler Jay & Linda Grunin Foundation | Susan Sedivec Big Brothers Big Sisters |
| Tim Gerne UPS | Christopher Shea R. C. Shea & Associates |
| Kenneth Greco Shore Community Bank | Dina Vicari R. C. Shea & Associates |
| Jan Kirsten Ocean County College | David Wintrode, Past President Causeway Ford |
| Christine Lemond | Harvey York, Esq., Past President Novins, York & Jacobus |
| David Nilsen TD Bank | |



Our Board Members stopped to take a group photo at our "Hearts of Gold" gala.



Thank you to the FirstEnergy Foundation for their generous donation of \$20,000. In addition to running a workplace campaign, FirstEnergy gave additional funds to support our ongoing mission of helping others in the community.

"The FirstEnergy Foundation and Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) are pleased to support United Way of Ocean County's mission to improve the lives of Ocean County residents by mobilizing the caring power of residents" said Maria Sessa, JCP&L area manager. "We are committed to serving the communities our customers, employees and retirees live and work in, and United Way offers many important programs and services to help achieve that goal." (Pictured: United Way of Ocean County Board President, Nancy Eriksen, JCP&L Area Manager, Maria Sessa)

Network Fills Critical Gap for Ocean County Veterans

Following active military duty, there are veterans across the country who have difficulty transitioning to civilian life. Vetwork, a nonprofit organization and UWOC partner agency, exists to support Ocean County veterans in crisis.



“Every year in Ocean County there are between 45 and 65 homeless veterans,” said Paul Kozak, director of Veterans Outreach Services for Vetwork. “Our goal is to get them into existing VA (Veterans Affairs) programs. But there’s a gap between the time they ask for help and receive help from the VA. We fill that gap for services. They may get a date two or three weeks into the future, or longer,” said Kozak. “But what do they do *today?*”

Vetwork immediately provides food and emergency motel accommodations, employment and/or treatment for addiction. Then the organization lines up interviews to get the veterans into a VA program.

From Homelessness to Stability

Recently, a homeless veteran who had been living in his car, got a critical leg up from Vetwork. He received food, shelter and gasoline to ensure he could travel to the Vetwork office for comprehensive intake. Vetwork helped him apply for a transitional housing and work/study program through Veterans Haven South, in Winslow, NJ. Upon completion of the program this veteran was able to secure a good-paying job and affordable housing.

“He had the drive to pursue the job,” said Kozak. “We gave him the tools to sustain himself while he transitioned. People need a cell phone that works. They need stability, not to be sleeping in a car.”

The Vetwork Mission

Vetwork is a program of Vetgroup, Inc., that grew from the Ocean County POW/MIA Organization, founded in 1984 by a handful of Vietnam War and Korean War veterans. Kozak served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. “When we came back there was nowhere to go,” he said. “Veterans need someplace to go for guidance and direction, to deal with post-traumatic stress and family issues, and to find work and housing.”

Kozak is very grateful for the longtime support of United Way of Ocean County. “It’s essential to do our job—to stabilize veterans who are on the streets and get them into existing VA programs. We need funding to assist homeless veterans.”

To learn more about Vetwork, visit vetwork.org



Spring FOOD DRIVE!

Every year, as the supplies from holiday food drives dwindle, food pantries see empty shelves. That's where the United Way of Ocean County steps in. Last April, our team worked with over 20 businesses and organizations to help stock food pantries, resulting in the donation of several thousand pounds of food and in-kind support worth \$22,600.



Above: Students at Lakewood High School help collect perishable food for our annual Spring Food Drive. Right: Our staff members get boxed in by all of the food donated by the MATES school in Manahawkin.



The food and monetary donations were given to the following food pantries: Ocean County Hunger Relief, St. Francis Community Center in LBI, and Emergency & Community Services of Catholic Charities in Lakewood.

EXTRAORDINARY VIEWS & VISIONS



Our annual **Leadership Event** was held this summer to fete some extraordinary UWOC donors. This year's Cocktail Reception was hosted by Laura & Jeremy Grunin at their stately waterfront home. Attendees were treated to spectacular vistas while they learned of the outstanding accomplishments that their donations helped to achieve. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to exchange their individual visions with each other on ways to provide help where needed in our community. Thanks to the Grunins, UWOC had the perfect occasion to give heartfelt thanks to all our Leadership Donors for their generosity and ongoing support of our mission.

BlueClaws Community Day



Emma and Joshua Grunin threw out the first pitches at our United Way Night in July.

DAY OF ACTION 6.26.15



Every year, United Way chapters across the country join together for a nationwide day of service known as **Day of Action**.



Day of Action promotes the importance of volunteerism, increases the awareness of local human service agencies and demonstrates what people working together for the good of the community can accomplish.



Corporate volunteers donated their time to clean, paint, weed or rake at 15 different sites throughout Ocean County.

Clockwise: Our AmeriCorps members help volunteers with landscaping projects at House of Hope in Toms River; staff from Dunkin' Donut stores in Ocean County work at a LADACIN facility in Lakewood; Dr. Russell Petranto recruited both family members and his staff from Ocean County Foot & Ankle Surgical Associates to help with yard work at Providence House; JCP&L staffers focused their efforts on painting projects at 21 Plus.

HOW TO LIVE UNITED: JOIN HANDS.

OPEN YOUR HEART.
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.
FIND YOUR VOICE.
GIVE 10% GIVE 100%
GIVE 110%
GIVE AN HOUR.
GIVE A SATURDAY.
THINK OF ME BEFORE ME.
REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND

INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED



Your company or group can make any day of the year a "Day of Action."



Johnson & Johnson employees worked on a Corporate Build project with our AmeriCorps members. Their employees split up and worked at four different sites.

FedEx employees painted, participated in beach cleanup, school landscaping and beautification. They also painted interior doors and trim at a Sandy-damaged home in Toms River.



School Supply Drive Results 2015

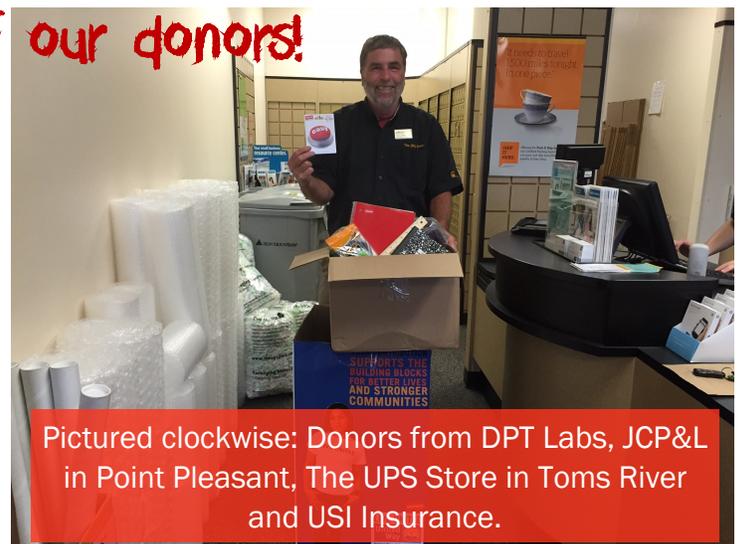
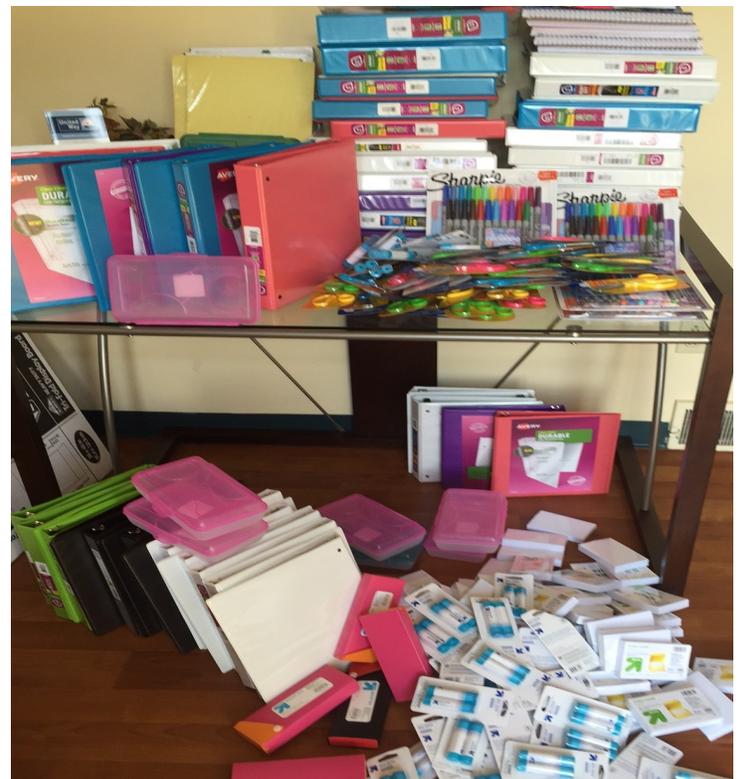
The United Way School Supply Drive provides brand new school supplies to children from low-income families residing in Ocean County.



This year, United Way of Ocean County collected and distributed over \$9,600 worth of supplies!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR DONORS & A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- Wintrode Family Foundation
- Kearney Bank, JCP&L (Pt. Pleasant),
- Wells Fargo, Nitto Denko Automotive,
- DPT Labs, Staples, Target of Toms River,
- USI Insurance,
- Ocean County Foot & Ankle Surgical Associates



Pictured clockwise: Donors from DPT Labs, JCP&L in Point Pleasant, The UPS Store in Toms River and USI Insurance.

Holiday Stars Gift Drive



The employees at Nitto Denko Automotive, New Jersey, Inc. donated toys to the families at Dottie's House.



Thank you to the Ocean County College employees and their President, Dr. Jon Larson for the wonderful donation of toys for our Gift Drive!

By the numbers...

- * 17 partner agencies requested 1,040 gifts for individual stars for 25 programs
- * 2,309 gifts were donated by supporters through adoptions and gift drives
- * \$32,539 total in-kind dollars were raised

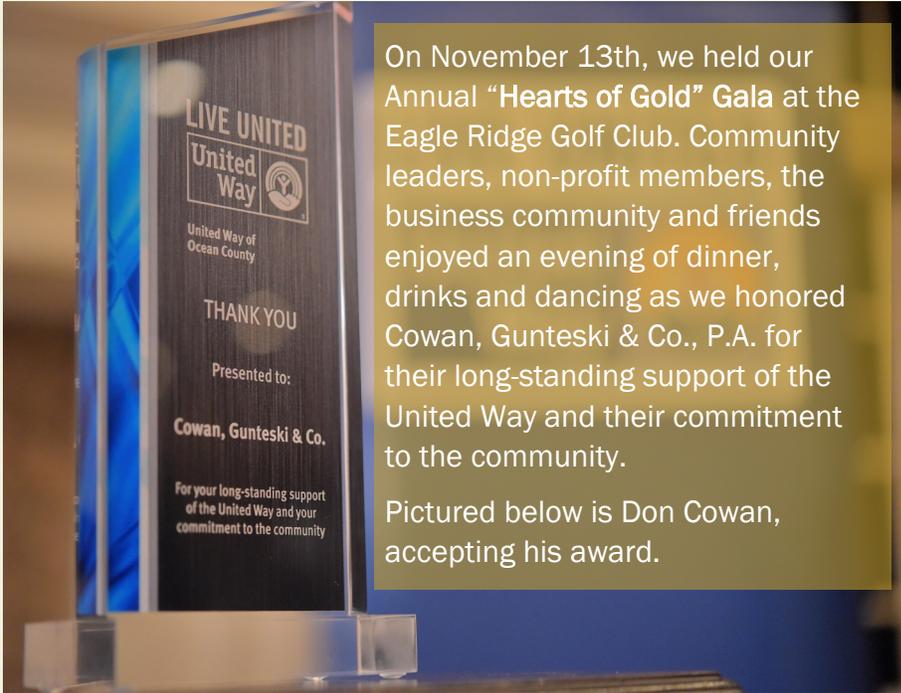


We have a very special THANK YOU for the group known as "Aleta's Angels." Aleta was a wonderful volunteer for United Way of Ocean County, who sadly, passed away this summer. Aleta was known for her enthusiasm and helpfulness, especially to us here at UWOC. Her daughter, Colleen, stepped in to take the reins this Holiday Season, to continue her mother's legacy of collecting gifts for children in need. The United Way of Ocean County and our Partner Agency recipients are extremely thankful for their generous donation of toys and clothes, worth over \$4,230. "Aleta's Angels" surely LIVE UNITED and are thanked by many families.



Above clockwise: Elves from Exelon Oyster Creek, UPS and Boscov's, all gathered to help collect toys for the neediest children in Ocean County.





On November 13th, we held our Annual “Hearts of Gold” Gala at the Eagle Ridge Golf Club. Community leaders, non-profit members, the business community and friends enjoyed an evening of dinner, drinks and dancing as we honored Cowan, Guntjeski & Co., P.A. for their long-standing support of the United Way and their commitment to the community.

Pictured below is Don Cowan, accepting his award.



Our “Wine Pull” was a big hit with our guests! Everyone who purchased a chance in the wine pull went home with a bottle of wine and one lucky winner brought home a high-end bottle of 2001 Joseph Phelps Insignia Wine.



G
A
L
A

2
0
1
5





The Gala is our primary fundraiser of the year and we are excited to share the news that this year's gala was one of UWOC's most successful fundraising events, bringing in a profit of over \$75,000. We look forward to what's in store for 2016.



The dance floor was lively while guests enjoyed a live band. Signature drinks such as the Cowan Cocktail and Peach Sparkletini added some extra fun to the evening. The silent auction included elegant gifts and guests also had a chance to win a Diamond pendant or the 50/50.

"Hearts of Gold" Gala 2015

Thank you to our Major Gala Sponsors:

- Cowan, Guteski & Co., P.A. - Gold Heart Sponsor
- Jay & Linda Grunin Foundation - Diamond Heart Sponsor
- Exelon Oyster Creek - Diamond Heart Sponsor
- Perlmutter Family ShopRites - Ruby Sponsor
- TD Bank - Ruby Sponsor

Thank you to all of those who joined us this year, provided a gift for our Silent Auction or sponsored our event, including journal sponsors. Thank you to Corinne Jewelers for donating the lovely "Hearts on Fire" necklace, our Gala Committee members, UPS volunteers and all of the attendees who helped make our Gala so successful. Thanks to you, we were able to raise \$75,000 for United Way of Ocean County programs!



AmeriCorps PROGRAM

The purpose of United Way of Ocean County's ReBuild NJ AmeriCorps Program was to fill the gap left in unmet funding, with donated labor and volunteers. The ReBuild NJ Program trained AmeriCorps members to guide unskilled volunteers in helping repair homes damaged by Superstorm Sandy.



1



2



4



3

With four feet of water in their Brick Twp. home, Superstorm Sandy victims Frank, a disabled veteran, and Theresa Hagen had begun repairing their house, using RREM funding to rebuild. Due to mold, asbestos and lead, inspectors deemed the Hagen's home a bio-hazard. Their house was condemned and the entire home had to be demolished. All of the money spent on the initial rehabilitation was completely lost. The Hagens were out of funds and felt defeated...until they learned about United Way's ReBuild NJ!

Our Disaster Case Manager worked with the Hagens and determined that they could use our AmeriCorps members and volunteers to help meet some of their rebuilding needs. After the initial framing, the non-profit labor through United Way of



Ocean County's ReBuild NJ AmeriCorps program began installing the insulation and drywall in attempts to remain on schedule for their August completion date.

At our Media Event in Brick Twp., (1) AmeriCorps members listen to (2) Brick Mayor John Ducey and (3) Assemblyman David Wolfe, as they are thanked for their hard work in getting the Hagen home repaired. (4) Earle Asphalt Company generously donated the driveway paving and new walkway, finishing up the outside projects and enabling the family to move back home after three years.



Summer of Service AmeriCorps members

AmeriCorps members, who receive a small cost of living allowance, devote up to a year of their time by giving back and meeting the critical needs of their community. The AmeriCorps program, which is a domestic version of the Peace Corps, provides each member with an opportunity to become leaders, learn new skills, teamwork and responsibility.

In the past two years, AmeriCorps members and volunteers have fixed or repaired over 90 Superstorm Sandy-damaged homes.

AmeriCorps members:

21,660 hours served
\$556,018 back to the community in labor

ReBuild Volunteers- consisting of corporate and faith-based groups:

1,195 volunteers
13,700 hours served
\$352,700 back to the community in labor

TOTAL: \$908,718 back into the community in labor.

This was all possible by our volunteer community!



AmeriCorps members take a moment to celebrate a job well-done!



UPS employees get ready to volunteer their time fixing up a post-Sandy home.



Marriott employees work together on a ReBuild project.

Thank you

to all of our United Way of Ocean County Partners! As we wrap up our AmeriCorps Program by the first quarter of 2016, we want to thank the hundreds of volunteers from the corporate world and faith-based groups that we were fortunate to work with. You truly LIVE UNITED!



Six Flags Great Adventure & Safari and Hurricane Harbor employees joined us for our last corporate build day. The volunteers split up into three different locations in Pt. Pleasant, Manahawkin and Toms River. As we close out our Sandy projects, we are happy to share this last project with such fantastic volunteers.



Give. Advocate. Volunteer. is our motto and is what we do here at the United Way.

Our mission:
To improve the lives of Ocean County residents by mobilizing the caring power of our community.



9-11 Rebuild Project

On September 11, 2015, Ameriprise Financial (shown left) joined a team of UWOC staff and AmeriCorps members to prepare the final touches on a Sandy-devastated home in Ortley Beach. The family passed final inspections the following week and returned home after nearly three years. A big thank you to the Ameriprise Financial team members who helped make this happen.

Please consider a donation to United Way of Ocean County

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address (Optional) _____

Phone Number (Optional) _____

I would like to contribute:

- \$250
- \$100
- \$75
- \$50
- \$25
- Other \$ _____

My gift is in Honor of Memory of (Circle One) _____

Please make your tax deductible contribution payable to United Way of Ocean County and send to:
United Way of Ocean County, 650 Washington St., Suite 2, Toms River, NJ 08753

THANK YOU!

United Way of Ocean County does not share or sell donor information with outside organizations. Information concerning this solicitation is filed with the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey and may be obtained by calling 973-504-6215. Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

UPCOMING EVENTS



United Way of Ocean County
Kick-off Breakfast



Spring Food Drive



Alternative Spring Break



Day of Action

Important information...

Visit our website

www.uwocnj.org

United Way of Ocean County– Main number

732-240-0311

Looking to volunteer?

Ext. 18 or email:

JackieLiguori@unitedwayofocean.org

Get Social With Us!



facebook.com/unitedwayocnj

Please "Like" us on Facebook



@UWOCNJ



Big changes are coming in
2016!

Stay tuned as we approach
the New Year and head
down a fresh path...

Need help? **2-1-1**
Start here.

The Helpline for Ocean County Residents in Distress.

Dial 2-1-1 to get connected with social services and community programs that can help you with your health and human service needs.

HELP US REDUCE PRINTING & POSTAGE COSTS!

Communicating with our supporters *electronically* means more dollars available for our needy neighbors. Please stay informed about how your support helps keep our County healthy, enlightened and safe. Visit us at uwocnj.org to sign up to receive your newsletters online.

LIVE UNITED 

GIVE securely online: www.uwocnj.org

United Way of Ocean County
650 Washington Street, Suite 2
Toms River, NJ 08753

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

www.uwocnj.org