report to the community 2024



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OUR MISSION

UNITED WAY OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD MOBILIZES **PEOPLE, PARTNERSHIPS,** AND RESOURCES TO CATALYZE CHANGE THAT STRENGTHENS THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

> SERVICE AREA Acushnet, Dartmouth. Fairhaven, Freetown, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, and Wareham.

LIVE UNITED

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHAIR

Thank you to everyone who has invested in our community through the United Way of Greater New Bedford. Whether you contributed financially, volunteered your time, or partnered with us, your support has truly made a difference. This year has been one of growth, program expansion, and deeper impact.

We are excited to share this year's Annual Report, marking a pivotal moment for our organization. It introduces our new five-year Strategic Plan, designed to evolve our mission and position us well for our 75th anniversary in 2028.

This report takes a fresh approach by using the Strategic Plan as a framework to highlight our key impact areas. Rather than providing a comprehensive catalog of our work, we'll showcase specific programs and partnerships that demonstrate our impact and illustrate our efforts within these areas.

Our economic and cultural landscape has changed profoundly in recent years, prompting us to rethink how we serve the community. This year, we expanded our economic mobility initiatives by dedicating additional resources and enhancing our infrastructure for greater impact. In addition to our grantmaking efforts, we launched two new programs focused on financial literacy. Our goal is to foster stability and upward mobility for the individuals and families we serve. We are proud to lead this multi-faceted approach to reduce poverty levels and address long-standing resource gaps, and we are already seeing positive results.

Our Strategic Plan is a crucial step toward our future success, ensuring we remain agile and prepared to build a stronger, more resilient community for all by meeting people's immediate needs and building pathways for a better tomorrow. As we look ahead, we invite you to partner with us and engage in our mission. Together, we will create lasting change and empower our community to thrive.

With gratitude,

Michelle K. Hantman

Michelle N. Hantman President & CEO United Way of Greater New Bedford

Dr. Shanna Howell, PhD Vice Principal of Student Support Services, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School Board Chair, United Way of Greater New Bedford

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024-2029

WE HAVE SET THREE GOALS

Establish measurable community impact strategies and collaborate with partners to catalyze equitable outcomes.

Leverage our unique role in the region to grow participation and support through proactive engagement with current and potential partners, donors, and volunteers.

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Build our organizational strength and agility.

These goals are supported by four new impact areas to guide our work: Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency.

We are committed to turning our strategies into concrete, measurable results that advance our mission. Collectively, our goals and impact areas for the coming years will maximize regional collaboration and harness the full spectrum of resources and capabilities that UWGNB brings to the community.

A YEAR IN NUMBERS



3,901 Hours of

volunteer service valued at **\$124,079**, were completed at United Way









2



·see our impact in action



MOBILE MARKET Served 664 households

\$584,000 given in grants & other distributions





VOLUNTEER SOUTHCOAST 1,492 Volunteers

connected with opportunities through VSC



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

IMPROVING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL.

Recent statewide assessments reveal that Bristol County faces the highest food insecurity rates in Massachusetts, with 48% of residents struggling to balance the cost of food with other essential expenses such as utilities, transportation, rent, and medical care. This issue is compounded by a severe shortage of mental health professionals, exacerbated by a lack of diversity and language skills within the sector. Additionally, the lingering effects of COVID-19 continue to impact individuals' mental well-being making our work more crucial than ever.

At United Way of Greater New Bedford, we recognize that meeting basic needs-such as housing, food,

Source: 2024 Greater Boston Food Bank's Fourth Annual Statewide Report

clothing, and healthcare—is fundamental to a healthy life. Our commitment is to enhance access to resources and improve the well-being of individuals, families, and youth across the South Coast region.

- Nutrition & Food Security
- Mental Health
- Maternal & Child Health
- Substance Misuse



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: HUNGER COMMISSION

For so many families, the cost of living has impacted daily life and forced residents to make tough decisions. At United Way of Greater New Bedford, we continue to increase access to basic needs to address critical local issues such as food insecurity. We distribute hundreds of thousands of pounds of food yearly to local food pantries, council on aging centers, and shelters throughout Greater New Bedford, Westport, and Fall River.

This year marks our 10th Mobile Market season in partnership with YMCA Southcoast Dartmouth,

Share the Harvest Farm. This program provides thousands of households with free, fresh produce in neighborhoods across the region. The goal of Mobile Market is to give working residents who are unable to visit a food pantry during the day access to healthy food options.

In addition, through a new partnership with Coastal Foodshed, more fresh produce is supplied to residents. Coastal Foodshed purchases locally sourced fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, meat, eggs, dairy products, and honey that UWGNB delivers to local partners.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

OUR SISTERS' SCHOOL AND NATIVITY PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Now, more than ever, students, especially those in middle school, need access to mental health support. With this in mind, United Way of Greater New Bedford has funded positions at both Our Sisters' School and Nativity Preparatory School to offer counseling services to students, provide critical guidance and orientation to faculty and staff to meet students needs, and also connect parents and families to resources and information that may help them address any challenges experienced outside of the school environment.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE REALIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

The Greater New Bedford region is often described This national initiative reinforces what we see as a "child care desert," marked by a critical shortage locally: high-quality learning opportunities are key to of quality childcare options. This shortage is ensuring that every child can thrive in school and life. reflected in notable gaps in preschool enrollment, United Way of Greater New Bedford believes that particularly among different income levels and early education and in-school, after-school, and racial/ethnic groups. Expanding access to affordable, summer programs foster lifelong curiosity and high-quality childcare is essential for supporting long-term achievement. Our programs, funding, child development and enabling parents to fully and advocacy are designed to enrich learning participate in the workforce. opportunities and help young people reach their Beyond early childhood education and care, full potential.

Beyond early childhood education and care, consistent participation in in-school, after-school, and summer learning programs is critical to student success. This is a focus of the federal "Improving Student Achievement Agenda" for 2024, which emphasizes the importance of these programs in helping students close achievement gaps and develop the skills necessary for lifelong success.

Source: SouthCoast Community Foundation, Expanding Early Education and Childcare Opportunities, March 2022

- Early Education and Childcare
- In-School, After-School & Summer Learning
- Literacy Development



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: COMMONWEALTH PRESCHOOL PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) funds districts across the state to develop partnerships between schools and local early education and care programs to expand access to preschool within the district. The program aims to provide 3- and 4-year-olds with equitable access to high-quality preschool while ensuring families have multiple provider options across public and community-based classrooms. This levels the playing field for kindergarten readiness, establishing a coordinated curriculum and similar goals regardless of where a child is enrolled.

United Ways throughout Massachusetts have been awarded an EEC grant to provide technical assistance and support to participating districts. United Way of Greater New Bedford serves as a community partner, building bridges to expand the scope of work in both New Bedford and Wareham. This has been particularly helpful as Wareham gets up and running, having just been awarded the grant in 2024, while New Bedford has participated since 2015.



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

COACHING4CHANGE

Coaching4Change partners with local school districts to provide extra support for high-need K-12 students by providing college mentors who encourage and assist local school children in succeeding academically and as individuals. By training and paying racially diverse college mentors to assist students in the classroom and after school, Coaching4Change supports school improvement initiatives by increasing student engagement and social-emotional learning. At the same time, mentors participate in professional development opportunities and networking events to help advance their career planning.



FINANCIAL SECURITY

CREATING A STRONG FINANCIAL FUTURE FOR EVERY GENERATION.

The wage gap between our region and the rest of Massachusetts has widened over recent decades, with significant income disparities among racial and ethnic groups. Rising housing costs relative to wages are intensifying financial pressures, leading to potential displacement and economic instability.

Addressing these challenges requires targeted interventions and a focus on systemic issues. Research indicates that weak financial management and limited access to support systems often perpetuate the cycle of poverty.

Source: SouthCoast Health, Community Health Needs Assessment, 2022

UMass Boston, Latinas in Massachusetts: New Bedford, October 2022 To address this, United Way of Greater New Bedford provides resources, programming, and infrastructure to help residents – especially those in marginalized communities –build financial skills and improve economic mobility.

- Financial Education and Coaching
- Public Benefits Access
- Homelessness Prevention & Affordable Housing



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: FINANCIAL FUTURES & FINANCIAL WELLNESS AT WORK

United Way of Greater New Bedford expanded its financial security efforts by launching two new programs: Financial Wellness at Work and Financial Futures. Both programs are focused on improving residents' financial literacy and economic standing.

Financial Futures is a 12-week program through Womens Money Matters that provides coaching and curriculum geared to women who want to gain control over their finances, create a supportive community with other women, and transform their lives by learning core money management skills. Women United sponsors this initiative and recruits volunteer coaches and program participants.

Financial Wellness at Work embeds a United Way coordinator in the workplace to provide employees with one-on-one coaching, resource coordination, workshops that outline healthy financial habits,

and access to low-cost, small-dollar loans through Taunton Federal Credit Union to address short-term cash flow challenges and improve credit ratings.

In addition to these programs, funding for financial security initiatives has increased by 28% in 2024 through UWGNB's Community Impact grantmaking. In June, \$115,000 was awarded to four nonprofits that are also committed to improving financial security. Grants support tax preparation for low- and moderate-income residents, financial management for seniors, financial literacy courses for young adults working towards their high school equivalency diploma, and assistance with managing personal finances to obtain or maintain housing. UWGNB will continue to grow its investment in financial security-related endeavors, given how inextricably linked it is to combating poverty.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Community Economic Development Center (CEDC) manages the Volunteers in Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which provided free tax preparation for 1,412 households this year, resulting in 3.5 million dollars in total tax refunds. After the tax season, CEDC also acts as a resource, especially for non-English speaking people, to troubleshoot tax-related issues. UWGNB funds VITA and uses the service as a resource for both Financial Wellness at Work and Financial Futures programs.

GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT



COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

ADDRESSING URGENT NEEDS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

A significant percentage of children in our region are living in poverty, experiencing homelessness, or in foster care. In New Bedford alone, 1,277 students have been identified as homeless at some point this year, putting them at higher risk of dropping out and facing emotional and academic challenges.

Providing children with stable housing, a nurturing environment, and a quiet place to focus on their studies can dramatically change their futures, setting them on a path toward success. United Way of Greater New Bedford's Family Resource and Development Center and New Bedford Community Connections Coalition are committed

Source: New Bedford Light, Record student homelessness requires creative new ideas. - Feb. 6, 2024

to supporting all families in building self-sufficiency, strengthening family bonds, and deepening family's connections to their community. By creating a healthy environment and equipping children with the tools to navigate and overcome life's difficulties, we help them build their resilience and prepare for future challenges.

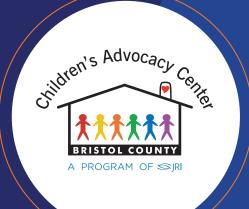
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention
- Family Case Management
- Parent Education
- Safe Living Environments



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: NEW BEDFORD FAMILY RESOURCE & DEVELOPMENT CENTER

United Way of Greater New Bedford supports caregivers with services and resources through the New Bedford Family Resource and Development Center (FRDC). As part of this work, FRDC supports caregivers with children from birth to 18 with services and resources that promote selfsufficiency, strengthen family bonds, and tighten children's connections with their community. Family Support Workers connect families to community

resources such as housing needs, mental health access, childcare, food and other basic needs, FRDC also hosts a series of programs in partnership with the Department of Children & Families including Parenting Journey, Parents in Treatment and Recovery, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, and Nurturing Fathers. These evidence-based programs promote loving and caring relationships, which greatly influence how well children learn and grow.



GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER **OF BRISTOL COUNTY**

Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County (CAC) provides a coordinated response to disclosures and allegations of child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, commercial sexual exploitation, and witness to violence. They help children and families heal from trauma and educate the community about prevention. Their Healing & Resiliency Program (HARP), creates a safe environment for survivors and their caregivers to process the impact of trauma and work towards reducing the likelihood of additional child abuse or neglect.

COMMUNITY IMPACT 2024 GRANTS

| Caritas Communities | Resident Supportive Services Program in New Bedford | \$25,000 |
|--|---|----------|
| Child & Family Services | Caring Network | \$18,000 |
| Children's Advocacy Center | Healing & Resiliency Program (HARP) | \$25,000 |
| Coaching4Change | Near Peer Mentoring in New Bedford Schools | \$10,000 |
| Coalition for Health Equity and Early Development | Weaving The Basics Southcoast into the role of a community health workers in health centers at WIC Sites. | \$10,000 |
| Coastline Elderly Services | Money Management Program | \$25,000 |
| Community Economic Development Center | VITA Free Tax Preparation | \$35,000 |
| Damien's Place | Healthy Food Distribution | \$15,000 |
| Dennison Memorial Community Center | Academic Excellence Program | \$20,000 |
| Discovery Language Academy, Inc. | English Literacy ESL Youth Program | \$20,000 |
| Health Imperatives | New Bedford Equity Now: Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic | \$25,000 |
| Herren Project | Recovery Scholarships and Coaching in Greater New Bedford | \$25,000 |
| Meeting Street Massachusetts | Family Bridges | \$10,000 |
| Nativity Preparatory School | Mental Health & Wellbeing @Nativity Prep | \$20,000 |
| Our Sisters' School | Supporting Students for Academic and Life Success | \$20,000 |
| PACE YouthBuild | PACE YouthBuild New Bedford | \$25,000 |
| Steppingstone | New Bedford Women's Graduate Program | \$15,000 |
| Turning Point | Roadmap to Financial Stability through Support and Education | \$25,000 |
| Youth Opportunities Unlimited | Providing New Bedford Youth with Equitable Access to Nature Year-Round | \$22,000 |
| YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts | YWkids School Age Child Care Program | \$25,000 |

TOTAL FUNDING: \$415.000

LEADING VOLUNTEERISM

United Way of Greater New Bedford is proud to lead volunteerism across our region. Whether it's mobilizing volunteers for our Days of Caring, Hunger Heroes, or our Mobile Markets, or supporting other nonprofits to recruit and match volunteers, we serve as the hub for community service. Our partnerships with corporations also strengthen employee engagement and corporate social responsibility efforts, ensuring that together, we drive meaningful impact. And year-round, thousands of residents find opportunities to give back with their time and talents to make a difference through Volunteer Southcoast.

Our comprehensive approach to volunteer engagement led to a significant achievement this past year: UWGNB earned national re-accreditation in strategic volunteer engagement from the Association of Leaders in Volunteer Engagement (AL!VE). This prestigious Service Enterprise accreditation is held by only the top 11 percent of nonprofits nationwide, recognizing excellence in volunteer management and organizational performance.

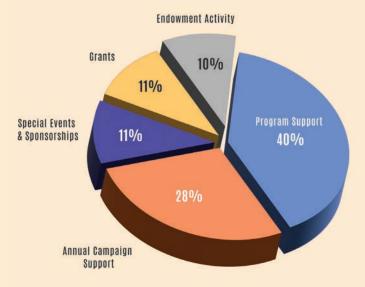
In addition, UWGNB channels the creativity and commitment of volunteers to address community challenges at the grassroots level through our Changemaker Grants, which are uniquely available to all-volunteer-led groups. These grants are the only local resource of their kind, providing vital support to volunteers working to create real change in their neighborhoods.





FINANCIALS

Sources of Operating Funds



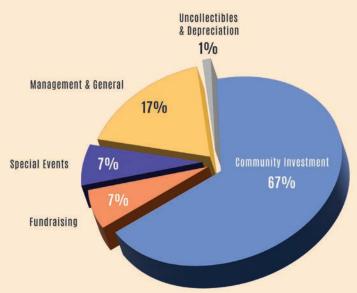
Sources of Operating Funds

| Program Support | \$1,343,359 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 🛑 Annual Campaign Support | \$932,833 |
| Special Events & Sponsorships | \$385,108 |
| e Grants | \$356,566 |
| Endowment Activity | \$334,473 |

United Way of Greater New Bedford keeps overhead administrative costs far below the Better Business Bureau's recommendation of up to 35% for nonprofit organizations. Last year, our administrative costs were 14%.

Please go to unitedwayofgnb.org for the complete audited financial statement.

Uses of Operating Funds



Uses of Operating Funds

| Community Investment | \$1,991,763 |
|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 🔴 Management & General | \$356,566 |
| Fundraising | \$221,829 |
| Special Events | \$221,123 |
| Uncollectibles & Depreciation | \$37,980 |



Platinum Transparency 2024

Candid.



GIVING COMMUNITIES

ALEXIS DE TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY \$10,000 -

James S. & Joan Amaral Robert P. Clancy Roland & Tracey Giroux **Richard & Kathleen** Strozyk

ADMIRAL \$5.000-\$9.999

Michael K. Davis Marjorie & Nick Greville Elizabeth Weinberg Smith

COMMODORE \$2.500-\$4.999

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United Way was founded on the belief that everyone has the potential to be a philanthropist. Whether you contribute thousands of dollars annually or give just \$2 a week from your paycheck, your generosity fuels the collective power of United Way. Every gift, no matter the size, drives meaningful change in our community. Those who commit to an annual contribution of \$1,000 or more are recognized for their exceptional generosity and honored as leadership donors within our giving societies, exemplifying the spirit of community leadership. NAVIGATOR SOCIETY United Way of Greater New Bedford's Navigator Society recognizes individuals and couples whose generosity charts the course for a better future for all residents. Women United

Locally established in 2018, Women United is a powerful, passionate network of women who influence change in our community through focused investment of their time, talent, and resources.

*Women United Leaders



The Tocqueville Society nationally recognizes philanthropic leaders and our most generous local donors. This philanthropic group was named by United Way for the Frenchman Alexis Charles de Tocqueville, who declared himself most impressed with Americans' generosity. The French diplomat and historian recognized the importance of voluntary action on behalf of the common good.

WOMEN UNITED

In 2024, we expanded our Wash & Read program and are now in nine laundromat sites, ensuring families have access to free, age-appropriate books that reflect the rich diversity of our community. Our partnership with Women's Money Matters saw 36 women graduate from Financial Futures, now equipped with the knowledge, confidence and tools to manage their finances and set meaningful personal goals. In April, over 350 supporters gathered for an epic Power of the Purse event-the most successful fundraiser in United Way of Greater New Bedford history. And, we were honored to be named Best Gala by readers of SouthCoast Almanac for the

third year running!

We also continued our outreach to parents and caregivers through Bright by Text, a free parenting tool that delivers expert tips, activities, events, and resources directly to subscribers' phones in both English and Spanish.

It's been a busy and impactful year, and we're gearing up for so much more!



This list acknowledges all gifts and pledges made to the 2023-2024 campaign. We have made every effort to provide a complete and accurate report that recognizes all donors. If you note errors or omissions, please accept our sincere apologies and contact us.



WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS

Employees at companies of all sizes have the opportunity to make a difference in Greater New Bedford by making donations to United Way through employee giving campaigns. We thank each participating company for their support.

Acushnet Company Alden Court Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center ATI Flat Rolled Products Atkore Babbitt Steam Specialty Bank of America BankFive BayCoast Bank Benco Dental Supply Company **BMO Financial Group** Bristol County Savings Bank Brittany Global Technologies Brown Brothers Harriman Citizens Charitable Foundation Citizens Financial Group DBA Citizens Bank City of New Bedford **Coastal Financial** Colonial Wholesale Beverage **Community Nurse Home Care Cornell Dubilier Electronics** Costco Cumberland Farms (EG America) Davico Mfg. Dennison Memorial Community Center Eastern Bank Eversource Exelon Corporation Fisher & Rocha, Inc. Five Star Manufacturing

Five Star Surgical, Inc. Foth-CLE Engineering Group - MA & RI Garmin International. Inc. **General Dynamics** Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational-**Technical High School** Hanover Insurance **High Point-SEMCOA** Illinois Tool Works Inc. JC Penney Johnson & Johnson Company Joseph Abboud Mfg. Lafrance Hospitality Company LifeStream Linberg Marine Macy's Manpower Manulife Financial Maritime International MASSHIRE - Greater New Bedford Workforce Investment Meeting Street Moore & Isherwood National Grid NBCU New Bedford Housing Authority New Bedford Medical Investors (Oaks Nursing Home) Northstar Learning Centers Old Colony Regional Voc Tech Hiah School

One SouthCoast Chamber PACE Paul & Dixon Insurance Paychex Poyant Signs Precix Robertson's GMC **Rockland Trust Company** Schaefer Marine, Inc. Shaws/Star Market **Skips Marine Supply** Southcoast Health St. Anne's Credit Union Sylvia Group Takeda Pharmaceuticals Target TD Bank Town of Acushnet Town of Dartmouth Town of Fairhaven Travelers Tremblay's Bus Company United Way of Greater New Bedford Verizon Foundation Webster Bank William Barnet & Son YMCA Southcoast YWCA of Southeastern Massachusetts ZAPP Precision Strip Inc.

GIFTS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND OTHER SUPPORTS

\$50.000 +

Acushnet Company BayCoast Bank The Manton Foundation Massachusetts Department of Children & Families

SouthCoast Community Foundation - Acushnet Foundation Fund

\$25.000-\$49.999

BankFive Eversource

\$10,000-\$24,999

Bank of America Bristol County Savings Bank The Carney Family Charitable Foundation Island Foundation Wendy and Ken Joblon The Sir Edwin & Lady Manton Fund Southcoast Health St. Anne's Credit Union

\$5,000-\$9,999 Bilezikian Family Foundation Claremont Companies Davico Mfg. Eastern Bank Charitable Foundation Milestone Mortgage Solution Point32 Health Sam Karam and Sons Gener Contractors SouthCoast Community Foundation The Jake Fabian Memorial II Upstream Foundation Function SouthCoast Health

\$2,500-\$4,999

Cafe Mimo Denell and Justin Brodeur Diana D'Agostine East Bay Building & Remode Eastern Bank Excel Recycling

Mark and Sheelagh White

IN KIND GIVING

Acushnet Company Ahead Blount Fine Foods Brahmin Leather Works Can'd Aid Candy Apple Farm Coastal Foodshed Constantly Varied Gear Exquisite Events Flora Folia Hair in Motion Hannoush Jewelers Jonathan's Sprouts

| | Folia |
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| n | Goodway Group |
| | Guild Mortgage |
| | JICAN Consulting |
| | Mechanics Cooperative Bank |
| | Milbury & Company |
| ns | Neto Insurance Agency |
| | Ocean Spray Cranberries |
| ral | Rockland Trust Company |
| | \$1,000-\$2,499 |
| | Abraham H. Howland Jr. Lodge |
| Fund d | Brahmin Leather Works |
| | Care Free Homes |
| | Cisco Brewers New Bedford Kitchen & Bar |
| | Coastal Financial |
| | Cornell Dubilier Electronics |
| | Demoulas Market Basket Foundation |
| eling | Jennifer and Neil Downing |
| | Enos Home Oxygen & Medical Supplies |

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GRETCHEN HUBERT **Executive Assistant** ghubert@unitedwayofgnb.org

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IN REMEMBRANCE **CHRIS GLOVER**

This annual report is dedicated to Chris Glover, our former IT consultant, who for 17 years was much more than our "IT guy"-he became a true extension of our team. Chris consistently went above and beyond, demonstrating not only exceptional skill and knowledge but also remarkable patience, kindness, and professionalism. His expertise was matched only by LIVE UNITED his ability to connect with every one of us, always treating us with respect regardless of our technical abilities. Chris's unwavering professionalism and generous spirit will forever leave a lasting impact on our organization.

NICOLE KELLY Office Assistant nkelly@unitedwayofgnb.org

DORA LIMA **Financial Wellness Coordinator** dlima@unitedwayofgnb.org

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