

# COVID-19 Crisis Response Community Impact Report - Food Security



United Way  
of Western Connecticut

## Direct Program Initiatives, March 2020 through May 2021

**295+** volunteers recruited and mobilized to deliver food to the elderly and homebound across our region during the height of the pandemic.

**\$60,000+** donated directly from United Way funds to food pantries in greater Danbury, Southern Litchfield County, and Stamford.

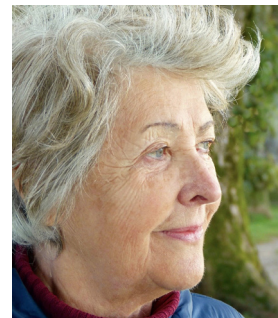
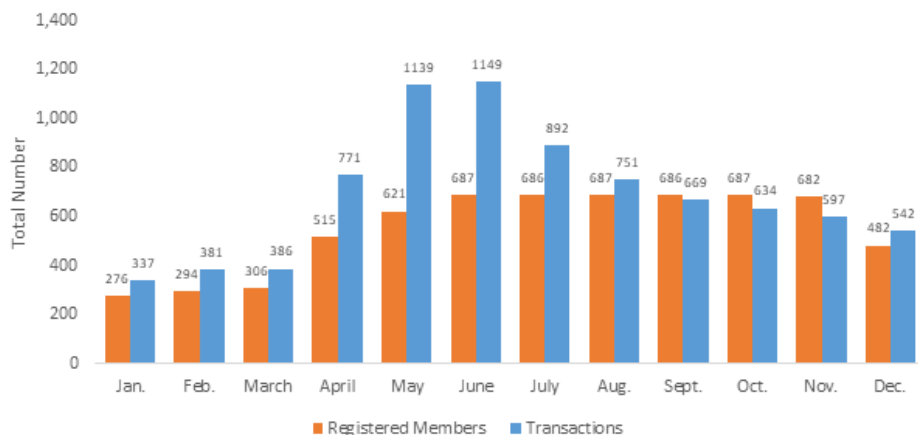
**328+** households received more than **\$87,000** in free, fresh produce through the Healthy Savings Program. (The produce benefit was doubled to \$20 per week during the height of the pandemic.)

**\$71,000** to Stamford and **\$60,000** to greater Danbury in COVID Resiliency Grants to nonprofits to address food security.

**780+** struggling households in the 15 cities and towns we serve received **\$200** in cash payments to purchase food and other necessities through the ALICE Emergency Fund.

**6,500+** pounds of food collected through Days of Action in Stamford and Danbury.

### Healthy Savings Card Usage and Membership by Month, 2020



*“When you’re older and you’re on a fixed income, well, I’ve found that **Healthy Savings** has really helped me a great deal. In the summer, vegetables are more plentiful and affordable because we have the farmers’ market. But in the winter, I wouldn’t be able to do that. With this program, I am able to get plenty of fresh vegetables and fruits. And the coupons are wonderful.”*

*– Healthy Savings Program beneficiary*

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## Community Collaborative Initiatives, March 2020 through May 2021

**\$117,000** raised through the **Feeding Our Neighbors Challenge** to benefit food pantries in greater Danbury, in partnership with Union Savings Bank, Newtown Savings Bank, and Savings Bank of Danbury.

**100+** families received holiday meals as well as toys for children through the **Amber Room Pay It Forward Campaign**.

**275+** families in Southern Litchfield County received a complete family meal, through **Operation Thanksgiving**, in an annual partnership with the Woman's Club of Greater New Milford.

**38,000+** Farmers to Families Food Boxes with **572** US Tons of food distributed since the pandemic began by our partners in Stamford and Danbury.



## Age Well CT Initiatives to Address Food Security in Older Adults

United Way of Western Connecticut provides backbone support for the Age Well Community Council. The following activities were conducted through the collaborative efforts of this group:

**9,600+** hot meals delivered to older adults in Danbury since May 1, 2020. **1,000** were supported by United Way of Western Connecticut funds.

**322** older adults received Farmers Market Fresh Produce boxes in the summer of 2020.

**170+** deliveries of groceries were made to older adults through the collective efforts of the Age Well Council, Hillside Food Outreach, and United Way of Western Connecticut.



*"United Way, thank you so much! This has been such a hard time for me and my family, and asking for help is always tough. This money will help feed my family for weeks and offset my mother's unemployment. In times like these it's so nice to know people care." – beneficiary of ALICE Emergency Fund.*



# COVID-19 Crisis Response

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Funding came from generous grants and in-kind contributions from corporate, private, and community foundations, as well as individual ALICE Emergency Fund and United Way Community Fund donors. **Thank you!**

### ALICE Emergency Fund Grants

- Bank of America
- BI Cares Foundation
- Genworth Foundation
- The Goodnow Fund
- Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation
- Legg Mason
- Newtown Savings Bank



- BI Cares Foundation
- Connecticut Community Foundation
- Genworth Foundation
- The Goodnow Fund
- PCLB
- Pitney Bowes
- MAV Foundation
- Synchrony
- Tufts Health Plan Foundation



### COVID Response Operations

- Synchrony Financial

### Food Security, including Healthy Savings

- Anonymous Family Foundation
- Bank of America



### In-kind - Food Security

- Buck Family
- Subway
- UPS



*"United Way has been my biggest support since I began my job here. The resources you provide to our community have a great impact on the recipients. The United Way makes a difference, and I am so fortunate to witness firsthand the emotion of relief the Connecticut United Ways COVID-19 Response Fund provided. Thank you so much for thinking of Bethel's Residents once again." — Megan Alworth-Khazadian, Social Service Director, Town of Bethel*