

Activity: Go to your local United Way (<https://www.unitedway.org/find-your-united-way>).

Pay careful attention to the current Annual Report. What agencies receive the most money from United Way? What are the services that these agencies provide to your community? Do you agree with the priorities that the allocation of funds seems to suggest? What would you do differently, if anything?

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam most current 2021 Annual report, documents that they invested and leveraged a total of twenty-four million four hundred and forty-four thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven dollars (\$24,444,787) in the Westchester and Putnam communities. Based on the annual report, it is noted that 435,746 individuals and families benefited, as well as, 358 community partners, particularly in the area of grants to nonprofits, human development services, and food and shelter programs to name a few.

Based on my observation, the agencies that received the most money from United Way are as follows; schools and nonprofit partners, who received a total of \$6.2 million dollars' worth of essential goods to meet the basic needs of people within the Westchester and Putnam communities. Thirteen point seven million dollars (\$13.7 mil) was also distributed to 5,616 residents from EITC-eligible tax refunds, and \$1.95 million dollars to 276 households from NYS Emergency Rental Assistance.

According to the United Way of Westchester and Putnam Annual Report, some of the services that was provided to the Westchester and Putnam through schools and nonprofits, were the Emergency Food and Shelter Program for Covid-19 recovery, and flood responses etc. They also provided an Essential Goods for Basic Needs Program, funded by United Way's that partners with nonprofit organizations to deliver essential goods to families in need. There is also Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center and Open Door Family Medical Center (which

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serves the economically marginalized) that received a grant from United Way of Westchester and Putnam to promote and offer incentives to their patients to get vaccinated. In addition, the Summer Backpack program also aids families and students with school supplies in disadvantaged communities to help them achieve academic success.

I believe that how the funds were priorities was fair. Based on the annual report, it was seen where families, students and communities who are in need were able to benefits from the various funded areas. For example, 3000 backpacks with supplies were given out to children and teens, 50,000 diapers were provided to families in need in Westchester and Putnam and 44,483 books and activities were also distributed to families to encourage at-home learning.

If I were to do anything differently where allocations of funds are concerned, I would allocate more funds in the scholarship program for graduate students, mainly because graduate students are not as qualified as Undergraduates for certain grants and scholarship. In this annual report, only \$10,000 (the least amount of funds allocated) was distributed in scholarship to three graduate recipients from Fordham University.

REFERENCE: The United Way Annual Report, retrieved from:

<https://bp4a68.p3cdn1.secureserver.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/UW-ANNUAL-REPORT-2021-Final.pdf>