

United Way is engaged in 95% of the U.S. and serves more than 1,100 communities across 37 countries and territories worldwide. They bring people together to build stronger, more equitable communities where everyone can thrive. With 11.5M volunteers, 6.8M donors, 29K community partners and 45K corporate partners, they strengthen education, economic mobility, and access to health. In 2020, United Way raised \$5.6 billion for long-term community solutions around the world. Contributions are funds donated to support United Way World wide's mission and its programs that promote education, income, and health. These funds consist of unrestricted and temporarily restricted donations. (United Way Worldwide, n.d.)

The top 4 programs that United Way donates to are Read NYC/ Educate NYC (20,494,398) Feed NYC (7,858,228), Benefits Access NYC (1,171,164), and Work NYC (United Way of New York City's 2019 Annual Report, 2020).

Read NYC/Educate NYC is an organization that helps to achieve the long-term goal of self-sufficiency, United Way of New York City focuses on a two-generation approach—looking at families, addressing their immediate and long-term needs. They work to provide children with an equal opportunity to a quality education, while at the same time strengthening their parents' and caregivers' financial stability. They root this two-generation model in education, because they know that success in school is linked to the future of communities. It is when children are empowered to succeed academically—progressing from reading at grade-level, graduating high school, and moving on to college or career—and households have moved out of crisis into financial stability that they see proven success and growth.

Feed NYC- Many obstacles stand in the way of good health for low-income New Yorkers—one being a lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables. This often leads to higher rates of

obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure. For children living in food-insecure households, the challenges go beyond physical health. The lack of food access—especially nutrient-rich foods—leads to slower cognitive thinking, headaches, lethargy, difficulty concentrating in school, and can hold them back from reaching their full academic potential. Through donations received from United way Feed NYC started numerous organizations so assist with food insecurities such as EFAP, FAC and HPNAP.

Benefit Access NYC- The New York City Human Resources Administration/Department of Social Services (HRA/DSS) is dedicated to fighting poverty and income inequality by providing New Yorkers in need with essential benefits such as Food Assistance and Emergency Rental Assistance. (Feed NYC - United Way of New York City, 2021) This program assists those in impoverished neighborhoods to obtain SNAP benefits, Food Pantry, and economic long-term assistance.

I agree with the way in which United Ways disperses their funds through different organizations. I am currently employed at one of the organizations that United Ways provides funding for, and I personally have seen the impact that it has on my clients past and present. Through united way we have been able to tackle tough challenges and assist clients with education, economic mobility, and health resources. The focus of united way to help create long term results. They educate clients for a future of success. In providing education they are creating long-term results and not just simply placing a band aid on the problem. the client is able to help themselves and not depend on public assistance long term. I would not do anything differently. Taking control of the problem at the root is the most efficient way to solve the problem and have better end results.

References

United Way Worldwide. (n.d.). United Way. <https://www.unitedway.org/>

United Way of New York City's 2019 Annual Report. (2020, September 4).
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FeedNYC - United Way of New York City. (2021, November 23). United Way of New York City. <https://unitedwaynyc.org/FeedNYC/>