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Activity Journal 4

Social Welfare Policy and Services

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This was my first time visiting the United Way website. In doing so, I was pleasantly surprised at what I found. On the main page of the website we are given stats: 27,000,000 people helped during the first year of COVID, 35% of families earning under \$30,000 have internet access and 21,000,000 calls for help were answered by 211. This is followed up by the sites mission statement which reads “United Way seeks to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.”

I live on Long Island, New York. When I put my zip code (11713) into the search engine to find a location near me, I was led to www.unitedwayli.org. Here, I was given more stats which are: 64,647 teens participated in educational programs, 13,932 vets received financial/mental health help, and 16,540,462 healthy meals were served. This is stationed in Deer Park, New York. In my community, this outreach offers housing assistance and grants for those living with HIV/AIDS, help with the costs of prescriptions, safe spaces for healthy conversations about racism, Summer Youth Employment and so on.

From what I can see, it seems as though the funds are going towards great things in the community. I would, however, like to see more money going toward single income parents. It would also be cool if there was some sort of a discount on transportation services such as UBER or LYFT for those who are single income earners with no reliable transportation to get to work. It would also be nice to see the United Way partner with the local childcare centers in my

community and offer vouchers of some sort for single income earners who work full time and need child care. Aside from that, though, the website is a great resource for both social workers as well as those in need of resources.