Berkshire United Way was voted BEST COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATION in the Berkshires two years in a row.
For over 90 years, Berkshire United Way has been working with people like you to build a stronger Berkshire community, by supporting children and families. We provide early education opportunities so children enter school ready to learn; give young people the tools they need to make healthy decisions; and help working families become financially stable.

We celebrated positive progress this past year as the State Department of Public Health released 2015 data reflecting a significant decline in teen births in both North Adams and Pittsfield. This was particularly good news for the Face the Facts: reduce teen pregnancy coalition, a countywide, Berkshire United Way led collaborative which has targeted much of its efforts in those communities.

As we look ahead, there is still work to be done. We need to ensure that every child in Berkshire County, regardless of their zip code, arrives at school ready to learn and has the opportunity to build productive careers and fulfilling lives here in the Berkshires.

When members of our community succeed, we all succeed. Our board and staff are strong, engaged and committed to moving our community forward. We invite you to join us—on our website, Facebook page or at one of our many community events—to see how we can build a stronger community together.

On behalf of our friends and neighbors here in the Berkshires, we thank you.

Kristine Hazzard  
President & CEO  
Berkshire United Way

Christopher R. Mathews  
Board Chair 2015-2017  
Onyx Specialty Papers, Inc.

Our Vision Berkshire County is a dynamic engaged community with opportunities for all.

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Cover photos: Participants in the Early Childhood Education program at Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center, Inc., take a field trip to the Hilltop Orchard. Photo courtesy of Jessica Zerbato; Page 3, Unistress photo credit Teri Billington.
Thank you to our leading corporate investors.

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
Each one of us plays a role in addressing the current and developing needs of our community.
1,200 literacy backpacks were assembled and distributed to rising kindergartners.
Helping kids arrive at school ready to learn.

Goal
90% of Berkshire County kids in 3rd grade will read proficiently.

Achievements
✔ Quality Early Childhood Education - 464 children enrolled
   96% of children progressed to or maintained age appropriate stage in social and emotional development.

✔ Home Visiting - 178 children enrolled
   77% of parents report reading aloud, singing, and/or story telling each week.

“I never thought he’d be able to do so well. If he can do this, what else can he do?”
– Proud mother of a Trauma Recovery Program participant at Berkshire County Kids’ Place
Giving young people the tools to make healthy decisions.

Goal
Berkshire County’s high school graduation rate will show a continuous upward trend.

Achievements
✓ Mentoring – 287 kids matched with a mentor
  79% of teens report feeling connected to caring adults who act as positive role models.
✓ Sexual Health Education - 909 kids enrolled
  82% of teens report that they avoid things that are dangerous or unhealthy.

The youth development strategies we’re engaged in contribute to positive changes for our whole community. It is our hope that the teens of today become engaged leaders of our community tomorrow.

“I have been involved with Greenagers for 7 years and it has been the most influential program of my life.”
Helping working families build a stronger future.

Goal
Reduce the percentage of Berkshire County families that are low-income.

Results
✔ 366 individuals received services related to job placement

21% of individuals were placed in jobs.

✔ $1,625 received on average by participants in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, resulting in over $1.7 million in additional funds circulating in our community.

More than 17,000 people in Berkshire County are unemployed, with only 2,700 of those collecting unemployment benefits with job placement support. Berkshire United Way will begin a much broader cross sector partnership to help individuals obtain, retain and excel in jobs.

It’s EPIC
In June, the groundwork was laid for development of the new Economic Prosperity Impact Council (EPIC). EPIC is a countywide coalition led by Greylock Federal Credit Union, Guardian Life Insurance Company of America and Berkshire United Way, which aims to build pathways to sustainable incomes for individuals and families in the community. Over the next six months, a consultant from Living Cities will work with EPIC to identify shared goals and clear action steps as coalition members work together to develop and implement strategies to get more people to work and fill vacant jobs. EPIC’s vision is for Berkshire County to have a diverse, thriving, and sustainable economy where everyone has equitable access to economic prosperity.
Building Our Community

5,275 donors
$2.03 million invested
in 32 communities
16,488 lives impacted

8,094 individuals served by community coalitions

For a complete financial report, please visit our website at berkshireunitedway.org.
Our Mission

Berkshire United Way ignites the collective power of individuals and organizations to build a stronger community together.

Berkshire United Way serves as the backbone organization for the coalitions listed below.

Pittsfield promise

Objectives:
• Support early childhood literacy and development for children from birth to 3rd grade
• Work with community partners across early childhood, education, health, business and cultural sectors
• Ensure children in Pittsfield arrive at Kindergarten ready to learn

Objectives:
• Develop strategies to address early childhood education
• Close the achievement gap
• Engage families and their children in everyday learning opportunities

Chapter One...

Objectives:
• Unite the community to create a healthy environment for positive youth development
• Reduce and prevent substance use by teens
• Promote healthy choices

Some community problems can seem too complex for any one person, agency or organization to tackle. Coalitions of people from different sectors, with different expertise and experiences, are often a positive way for people to work together to develop and execute solutions to achieve a common goal. Members of a coalition have a shared vision, align their activities to support one another, are in agreement on how they will measure success, and are in regular communication with one another.
The Alexis de Tocqueville Society
Les Table de Ronde de Millions de Dollars $1,000,000 plus
SABIC
Ordre de Indépendence
$250,000-$499,999
Josephine and Louise Crane Foundation, Inc.
Ordre de Fraternité
$75,000-$99,999
Guardian Life Insurance Company of America
Ordre de Égalité
$50,000-$74,999

The Greylock Society
Beacon
$5,000-$9,999
Larry and Kelly Bird and Family
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Ken and Nancy Sewall
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Mrs. Claudia Wells
Anonymous
Tower
$3,000-$4,999
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Crescent Creamery, Inc.
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Dr. John and Ann Galt
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Cindy Hashim
Hill Engineers Architects Planners, Inc.
Ellen Kennedy and Mark Gold
David and Suzanne Klausmeyer
John G. Lindsay**
Raymond B. and Holly S. Murray
Pittsfield Rotary Club
John and Donna Quallen
Mrs. Elizabeth Sayman
Craig Smith and Virginia Stanton Smith
Mark and Theresa Wituszynski
Dr. Louis and Maryann Yarmosky
Anonymous (2)
Summit
$2,000-$2,999
Joan Bancroft
The Barrington Foundation, Inc.
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Drs. Fred Mensch and Andrea Bodine
Arthur and Sara Milano
Mildred Elley
MINTEO/Specialty Minerals
Michelle Morin
MountainOne Financial Partners
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Jeff and Brenda Noble

Participants in Girls Inc. of the Berkshires at Gladys Allen Brigham Community Center, Inc. Photo courtesy of Susan Geller.
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Jay Chavarry
Mary Anne Christian
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Douglas McNally
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* Represents donors who made gifts of $1,000 or more to support Berkshire United Way’s work/impact areas.
** Berkshire United Way sadly mourns the loss of a valued community member.
1,074 calls were made to this referral line staffed by specialists 24/7 who connect residents to the resources they need.

“I do not have enough words to tell you of all the lives I have observed made better, the families I have seen made stronger, through the work of Berkshire United Way.”

– Dr. Jason “Jake” McCandless, Superintendent of Pittsfield Public Schools