As United Way of Weld County (UWWC) fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community, the Spanish Expanding Quality in Infant Toddler Care (EQIT) 48-hour course of training put on by UWWC Promises for Children's staff is a wonderful example of children being helped.

Making sure all children in Weld County are ready for school is a top priority, and the EQIT course does this by strengthening the skills and knowledge base of early childhood professionals who work with infants and toddlers. Statistics show that there is a direct link between school readiness, reading proficiency and graduation rates. If youth are graduating and are able to pursue further education or vocational training, Weld County will have a healthy workforce and financially stable households.

Julie, a class participant, was pleased that the course was offered. “We learned so much about infant and toddler care,” Julie said. “We were very happy with the class and the dedication of the instructors.”

Marie, another class participant, added: “This course, in particular, satisfied my needs. It was very easy to understand and the professionalism of the trainers was exhibited. It was very dynamic. Thank you for growing and motivating our learning.”

Judith Baptiste, UWWC’s Promises for Children Early Care and Education Services coordinator, said the course was designed for individuals who currently work with or plan to work with infants and toddlers and are interested in improving their knowledge and skills. “It is particularly appropriate for child care providers who are looking for an in-depth, hands-on course focused on work with infants and toddlers in group care, home care, and those who may not have taken many early education college courses,” Baptiste said. “Participants in the EQIT Course learn about the importance of brain development in the first three years of life, social/emotional, cognitive, and physical development, and working with families as well as effective strategies for curriculum and discipline through 16, three-hour modules.”
Q&A with Board Member
Mike Bond

Q: How did you become involved with UWWC?
MIKE: I was a young punk banker in my early 20s when my then boss, Gerald Shadwick, asked me to be the campaign coordinator for Greeley National Bank. His motives were sneaky and successful – it compelled me to expand my knowledge about United Way before I could feel comfortable soliciting colleagues to invest. I learned quickly how in touch United Way is with the needs of the community and how accountable UWWC is to our investors. My later participation in the Allocations Committee confirmed that accountability.

Q: Why do you think UWWC is important to Weld County?
MIKE: United Way has an unparalleled commitment to both identifying the needs of the community and how accountable UWWC is to our investors. My later participation in the Allocations Committee confirmed that accountability.

Q: Why do you feel that it’s important to volunteer your time?
MIKE: I grew up in Greeley; my wife was born in Greeley; we’ve raised our family in Greeley; I owe my livelihood to Greeley....’nuff said.

Q: What are your goals as a board member?
MIKE: My first goal was to learn - after first joining the board, it was quite apparent that I had a steep curve to overcome. Despite being a long-time advocate, I truly had no idea how many different avenues UWWC impacts our community. It was, frankly, a bit overwhelming. Now that my appreciation for United Way’s vibrant nature is firmly rooted, I endeavor to work closely with an incredible group of talented staff at United Way and fellow board members who are dedicated to a dynamic United Way that is constantly seeking the most effective and efficient ways to meet the needs of Weld County. The needs of Weld County are daunting. Every board member is committed to supporting an already dedicated team of employees in tirelessly seeking better and better ways for United Way to have impact on our community.

Q: What philosophy do you try to live by?
MIKE: To be a conduit for God’s joy through sharing His blessings, gifts and talents with genuine humility.

Family Learns About Free Holiday Meal and Transportation Through 2-1-1 Thanks to UWWC Donors

Maria, a mother of six children, called the United Way of Weld County 2-1-1 Information and Referral Program inquiring about a restaurant or church serving free or discounted holiday meals or handing out food baskets. The 2-1-1 call specialist referred Maria to a local restaurant that was serving a free holiday dinner to families. Maria also had no transportation and no family left in town for the holiday, so the call specialist informed her of local bus routes specific for the holiday meal at the restaurant. Thanks to the local restaurant, bus transportation and the 2-1-1 referral, Maria was so appreciative and thankful that she had a nicely prepared meal for her family during the holidays. 2-1-1 helps people navigate health and human services throughout Colorado.
MIKE:

What philosophy do you try to live by?

I truly had no idea how many different avenues United Way of Weld County (UWWC) impacts our community. It was, frankly, a bit overwhelming. Now that my appreciation for United Way, we are able to contribute to many worthwhile nonprofit agencies in our community assisting those in need. “Giving and volunteering was a culture in both of our families that was instilled at a very young age. Investing in our community is one of our most important shared values and United Way is an excellent vehicle that enables us to do that.”

Why do you support UWWC? “By donating to United Way, we are able to contribute to many worthwhile nonprofit agencies in our community assisting those in need.”

How important is it for your grandchildren to see you volunteer and contribute to nonprofits such as UWWC? “It’s extremely important that our grandchildren see us volunteering and contributing to help others making our community a better place for all of us to live.”

What about UWWC stands out to you? “United Way of Weld County is a community problem solver. It brings together agencies and volunteers to address important community needs and creates a better quality of life for Greeley, Weld County and beyond.”

When did you decide to become a donor to UWWC? “Giving and volunteering was a culture in both of our families that was instilled at a very young age. Investing in our community is one of our most important shared values and United Way is an excellent vehicle that enables us to do that.”

Jean Morrell adds more memories of her UWWC experiences:

“Pete and I both served on the United Way Board. I was the chair when (current President and CEO) Jeannine (Truswell) was hired which is one of my proudest accomplishments! Before being on the Board, I was the Chair of the United Way Campaign. I was also one of the founders of the Tillers Club, an idea which was developed while attending a national United Way meeting. Jeannine has said that prior to the Tillers Club program, less than 30 people were contributing $500 or more annually to United Way of Weld County. Since the Tillers Cub began, millions of dollars have been donated by hundreds of individuals to United Way of Weld County.”

The Kenneth W. Monfort Society (KWMS) recognizes local philanthropic leaders who believe in UWWC and make a generous annual contribution of at least $10,000 to create long-lasting changes by tackling our community’s most serious issues. These concerned individuals accept a leadership role in making major individual financial contributions to UWWC. National and international membership is also granted for United Way World Wide Tocqueville Society to individuals who contribute at least $10,000 annually to United Way.

Thank you to those who committed for 2017-18:

Dr. Neil Allen, Jamie and Sarah Baessler, Joe Malara, Carrico Family Foundation, Kyle Futo, Don and Lynn Janklow, Dr. Richard and Mary Kemme, Roger and Jamie Lynn Knoph, Donna Lakin, Charlie K Monfort, Dick Monfort, Kaye Monfort, Myra Monfort, Jean and Pete Morrell, Tom and Kay Norton, Frank G and Betty Ottesen, Mike and Lori Shoop, Tate and John Todd, Bob and Betty Tointon, Jeff and Anne Wenaas, Stow and Maggie Witwer.

Would you like to become a member of KWMS? Contact Jeannine Truswell (jeannine@UnitedWay-Weld.org) or Christi Smith (christi@UnitedWay-Weld.org) at 970-353-4300

Thanks to the Five Local Car Dealerships for Making $20,000 Car Voucher Giveaway Possible

The partnership between UWWC and the five local car dealerships made the annual $20,000 car voucher giveaway at Texas Roadhouse in Greeley another success. Ten UWWC donors advanced as finalists for the drawing. Three semifinal drawings were held at the participating car dealerships – Ehrlich Toyota, Ghent Chevrolet Cadillac, Honda of Greeley, John Elway Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram and Weld County Garage Buick GMC – all of whom donated the cost of the car voucher. The annual giveaway would not be possible without the car dealerships’ financial support toward the car voucher, and for supporting United Way of Weld County during the giveaway of the car voucher, which was won by long-time UWWC donor Daryl Vaas of Greeley.

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Thank You to Community Partners for a Great Outcome on Warm Toes Drive

Thanks to the many companies, organizations, churches and individuals who participated in the United Way of Weld County Warm Toes Drive as 2,825 socks were collected throughout the county.

The socks will be distributed to the Cold Weather Shelter, Sunrise Mobile Outreach, North Colorado Health Alliance, Frontier House, Point-In-Time Homeless Count, Soccer without Borders, Veterans Services, North Range Behavioral Health and Weld Project Connect.

“United Way of Weld County is so grateful for our community partners who go above and beyond during the Warm Toes Sock Drive,” said Nicole Quinn, volunteer engagement coordinator for United Way of Weld County. “The continued success of this drive is not possible without their dedication to the cause.”

The purpose of the drive each year is that UWWC wants to make sure no one in Weld County goes without warm socks for the winter. According to the Mayo Clinic, in cold enough conditions, frostbite can occur in 30 minutes or less. Warm, well-fitting socks can prevent this for many people. With the communities help, we can provide a pair of warm socks to those in need.

Thank you to the companies/organizations/churches/individuals who participated: Christ Community Church, Ameriprise Financial, Wells Fargo, Vestas, Connecting Point, Lincoln Park Emporium, Community Donor – Brett Yackey, Hensel Phelps, Great Western Bank, St. Brigit’s Episcopal Church, First Christian Church, United Way of Weld County, Windsor/Severance Library, JBS Carriers, Bank of the West, Living Faith Christian Fellowship, Community Donor – Marcia Cervantes, Flood and Peterson, ProRealty, Saint Patrick Presbyterian Church, North Colorado Health Alliance, Bartels and CO, Trinity Episcopal, Community Donation – Verniece Thomas and Huntington Learning Center.

Everyone needs a roof over their head.

Together we can address homelessness in Weld County.

Your contributions at work funding programs and services in the area of Financial Stability at:

- A Woman’s Place
- Aims Community College
- Almost Home
- Carbon Valley Help Center
- Catholic Charities
- Connections for Independent Living
- Greeley Area Habitat for Humanity
- Greeley Transitional House
- Habitat for Humanity of the St. Vrain Valley
- Hope @ Miracle House
- IRCNOCO
- Jobs of Hope
- Kids at Their Best
- LaSalle Ministry Alliance
- Lincoln County Economic Development Center
- Northern Colorado Youth for Christ
- Reachout Ministries
- Stepping Stones of Windsor
- The Salvation Army
- United Way of Weld County
  » Emergency Food & Shelter Program
  » Family Business Solutions
  » GET Bus Pass Program
- Piton Foundation Earned Income Tax Credit Initiative
- Realizing Independence Through Education (RITE)
- UWWC AmeriCorps VISTA Project
- Weld Homeless Coalition
- Weld Refugee Collaboration
- Weld Self-Sufficiency Collaborative
- Weld Together
- Weld’s Way Home
- Weld Food Bank
- Women2Women

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As United Way of Weld County moves into a collective impact model as the framework for achieving community-wide results, an example of collective impact was front and center in the securing of a housing navigation center and cold weather shelter in January.

The 9,000-square-foot space is located next to Sunrise Community Health’s Monfort Family Clinic, 2930 11th Ave., in Evans, at the TriPointe building (old State Farm facility).

Jeannine Truswell, president and CEO of United Way of Weld County, said no one single agency made this happen on its own. United Way of Weld County, Sunrise Community Health, Catholic Charities, City of Greeley, City of Evans, NCMC, Inc, UCHealth and several faith-based organizations came to the table to make it happen.

“It will bring United Way of Weld County’s navigation center, housing support and cold weather shelter services on site. It is an extension of Sunrise’s care management and wrap-around services” said Mitzi Moran, CEO at Sunrise Community Health.

Lyle SmithGraybeal, United Way of Weld County vice president of community impact, said United Way of Weld County and community partners are establishing a housing navigation center for homeless and unstably housed families and individuals.

Truswell said securing the shelter and navigation center was an example of Weld’s Way Home living united. Weld’s Way Home is a county-wide initiative addressing and preventing homelessness in Weld County.

United Way of Weld County will continue to contract with Catholic Charities to manage the cold weather shelter portion of this project. Hours of the shelter, which will have room to sleep 80 people, are from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. If you want to get involved with Weld’s Way Home, contact Cassy Westmoreland at (970) 304-6187 or cassy@unitedway-weld.org. If you want to volunteer to provide and serve meals at the shelter, contact Monica Gerber at (970) 616-8606 or mgerber@ccdenver.org.

“Bringing these services on campus will directly improve our ability to connect with a very hard to reach population - those experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty.”

- Mitzi Moran,
CEO at Sunrise Community Health

Thanks to UWWC Investors: Nonprofits, Government Agencies, Community Health Center and Faith-based Organizations Work Together to Secure Housing Navigation Center/Cold Weather Shelter
THANK YOU TO OUR CORNERSTONE PARTNERS

Cornerstone Partners donate all or a portion of their corporate donation to help cover 100% of administrative and fundraising costs for the resources under our management. This ensures that your donation goes directly to programs and services that benefit our community.


LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

When you make a gift to United Way of Weld County’s Legacy Endowment Fund, you are truly making a gift with a future! Your endowment gifts guarantee that financial support will remain readily available for the future needs of the community. If you are interested in any of our planned giving options, we will be pleased to work with you and your advisers to develop a planned gift that best suits your particular needs.

For more information or to discuss your needs in confidence, please contact Christi Smith, Vice President of Resource Development, at 970-304-6185 or christi@unitedway-weld.org