



EDUCATOR  
FACILITATOR  
PROVIDER  
ORGANIZER  
ADVOCATE  
PARTNER

LIVE UNITED

# GROWING A STRONGER COMMUNITY

2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

LIVE UNITED

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
[valleyunitedway.org](http://valleyunitedway.org)





# FOOD SECURITY IN THE VALLEY

## GROW YOUR OWN NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS



Valley United Way is continuing its commitment to improving Food Security in the Valley!

*Food security, by definition, is when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food.*

The percentage of children who receive free or reduced lunch in a school district is a common indicator of poverty and food insecurity in a community. The Valley has as many as 73% of students in one school district to 23% in the lowest. While 73% is alarming, 23% is still unacceptable.

Food, or the lack of food, or appropriate food, impacts children, adults, elders, and whole families. For children it is an educational barrier because insufficiently fed children can't concentrate, they have higher absenteeism, higher incidence of health issues, and they typically may not reach their learning milestones at 3rd and 8th grade.

While working with many community partners: non-profits, municipalities, local corporations, businesses and individuals we are tackling food insecurity and hunger and want to engage all our valley communities to take part in assuring all our residents are food secure.

One of Valley United Way's responses to this plight is our "Grow Your Own" garden program which locates neighborhood gardens in areas where residents might be challenged with transportation, financial resources and access to healthy food.



Last year we piloted gardens in three low income neighborhoods; two in Ansonia (Gatison Park and Pinelot Park areas) and one in Derby (Irving School area).

The beds, built by Emmett O'Brien vocational school, planted by neighbors and volunteers, and watered, weeded, cared for by the neighborhood and then harvested by the local low-income residents.



This year we are excited to announce that, in addition to our current locations, we will have new garden locations in Seymour (at the Community Center), Derby (5th Street, Derby Library and Griffin Hospital Campus), Ansonia (the YMCA campus and Beaver Brook) and Oxford (Immanuel Lutheran Church), bringing our garden locations to 10 with over 70 beds. Each location is unique and will cater to that specific neighborhood community and population.

### A.L.I.C.E.:

[www.valleyunitedway.org/index.php/a-l-i-c-e-report/](http://www.valleyunitedway.org/index.php/a-l-i-c-e-report/)

### Valley Hunger Study:

[www.valleyunitedway.org/index.php/valley-hunger-study-2/](http://www.valleyunitedway.org/index.php/valley-hunger-study-2/)

### Indicator Report:

[www.valleyfoundation.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Reports/2016ValleyCommunityIndex\\_Web.pdf](http://www.valleyfoundation.org/Portals/0/Uploads/Documents/Reports/2016ValleyCommunityIndex_Web.pdf)





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & BOARD CHAIR



It is our pleasure to issue this annual report for 2017-2018.

We were excited to roll-out a new community fundraiser "Communitini" this year! What an event...the restaurants were so supportive and generous, incredible music to fit the night and so many attendees that we were shoulder to shoulder. We can't wait for the 2nd Annual "Communitini". Developing resources to support our valley community is our highest calling.

United Way resources go beyond single-issue solutions and temporary fixes. Our investment in the community is broad; we provide support for low-cost child care so parents can work, afterschool care with academic support, health programs for seniors, mental health counseling, safety net services, and much more.

Excellence requires sacrifice, and we thank you for sacrificing your money, time and talents to support your neighbors through the Valley United Way. To all our partners, donors and volunteers, thank you for everything you do. We couldn't do it without you.

*Sharon Gibson-Ellis*  
PRESIDENT

*Jennifer Bill*  
BOARD CHAIR



## STAFF

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## 2017-2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Jennifer Bull**  
Board Chair\*  
Dworken, Hillman,  
LaMorte &  
Sterczala, P.C.



**Joe Pagliaro Jr.**  
Vice Chair\*  
Riverview &  
Adzima Funeral  
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**Eileen Lopez-Cordone**  
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**Dominick Thomas**  
Cohen & Thomas

**Michael Wilson**  
Seymour Board of  
Education



\*Executive Committee

# MESSAGE FROM THE ALLOCATION CHAIRS

The Allocations Committee is charged with the responsibility of investing in community services that have the biggest impact in the community. A dedicated group of volunteers reviews proposals and visits agencies and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors for final approval.

With limited resources the volunteers have a difficult job. We thank them for their tireless efforts and the gift of their time and talent. The investments made for 2017-2018 are ported in impact area format. We are proud of the programs and agencies that are funded.

*Ron Villani & Ned Miller*

ALLOCATIONS CO-CHAIRS



## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: EDUCATION

Valley United Way funds a variety of nonprofit programs in early childhood education and mentoring.

### EARLY CARE & EDUCATION

Derby Day Care Center  
Julia Day Nursey  
LNV Parent Child Resource Center  
Seymour Oxford Child care Association

### FAMILY ENGAGEMENT & POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southwestern CT  
Boys & Girls Club of the LNV  
Boy Scouts of America – Housatonic Council  
Recreation Camp  
Valley YMCA



## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT: BASIC NEEDS

We understand that people land on tough times  
and we offer a hand-up, not a hand-out.

### HEALTH & WELLBEING

Valley Indicator Project  
American Red Cross  
BHcare/Center for Domestic Violence Services  
Christian Counseling & Family Life Center  
Rape Crisis Center of Milford  
Catholic Charities  
Visiting Nurse Association of South Central CT

### HOUSING/FOOD

Spooner House  
TEAM/Meals on Wheels  
TEAM/Valley Family Resource Center

### VOLUNTEERISM/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth Leadership Grants  
Volunteer Services



## MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER

Valley United Way continues to be responsible with the donations and grants entrusted to us. We present the abbreviated audited financial statements in this report for your review.

As workplaces continue to right-size, downsize, and reorganize, Valley United Way is looking at other opportunities to assure we have adequate resources to care for our community. Thank you to our committed donors for your investment in the well-being of the Valley. Together we believe that we can make a difference.

*Greg DeStefano*  
TREASURER

### VALLEY UNITED WAY, INC. STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of 6/30/16

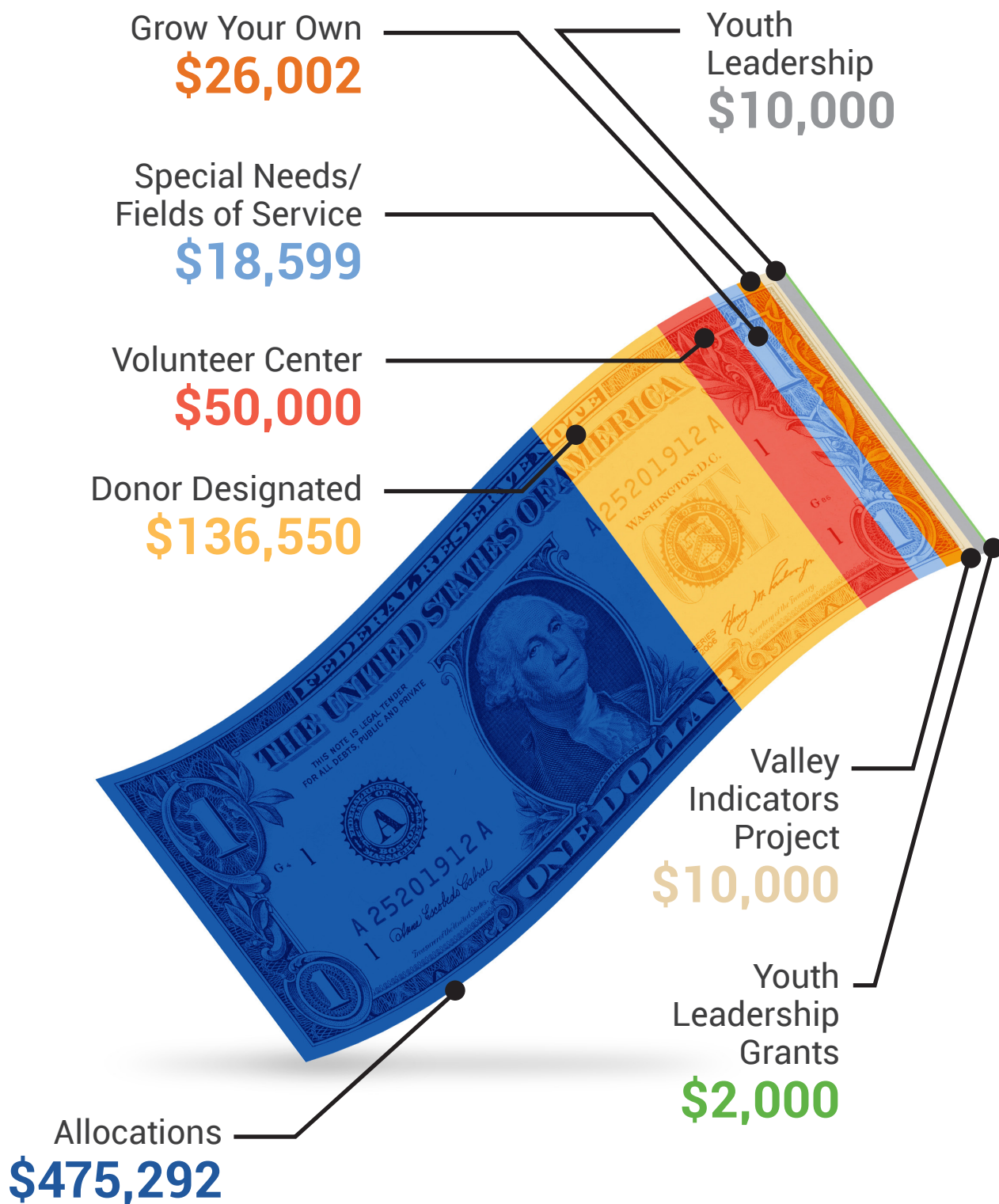
#### ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS	2017	2016
Cash and cash equivalents	\$486,702	\$417,386
Accounts receivable		\$3,540
Contributions receivable, less allowance for uncollectable amounts of \$97,667 and \$118,842	\$244,174	\$335,662
Grants receivable		\$20,009
Prepaid expenses	\$21,589	\$18,702
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>\$752,465</b>	<b>\$795,299</b>
Equipment less allowance for depreciation of \$146,723 and \$121,456	\$64,111	\$78,784
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$816,576</b>	<b>\$874,083</b>

#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2017	2016
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$11,635	\$12,601
Designations and allocations payable	\$82,844	\$115,200
Deferred revenue – grants	\$85,582	\$129,272
Deferred revenue – other	\$72,738	\$76,201
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$252,799</b>	<b>\$333,274</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	\$563,777	\$535,809
Temporarily restricted	0	\$5,000
	\$563,777	\$540,809
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$816,576</b>	<b>\$874,083</b>

# COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS CHART











# THANK YOU!

**YOUR SUPPORT ALLOWED  
VALLEY UNITED WAY &  
OUR PARTNERS TO HELP  
VALLEY RESIDENTS**

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Valley United Way