



## CENTRAL COAST COMMUNITY ENERGY - WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN

### PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY

United Way Monterey County (UWMC) needs your support. Nearly one in three Monterey County households do not earn sufficient income to pay for their basic needs, including housing, childcare, food, or transportation. This current socio-economic state requires all of us to come together to support our community. Through your workplace giving campaign, you have the opportunity to support your community and UWMC's work through the convenience of automatic payroll deductions or a one-time donation.

### WHO WE ARE

**UWMC's mission is to engage the community and focus resources to improve lives in Monterey County.** We partner with local communities to create solutions to people's most pressing challenges. We take a comprehensive approach, listening and responding to local needs. With our community partners, we create pathways to better healthcare, education, and job opportunities.

Our collective work centers around four impact areas that support our ambitious goal of ensuring all can thrive. These are: Healthy Community, Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency. **We have brought our partners together and proudly served Monterey County for nearly 25 years.**

### Investing in our Youth

UWMC is dedicated to investing in our community by providing for our youth. Creating opportunities for families to prosper now and in the future depends on the services provided to children. From childcare to education, our programs ensure children have the resources they need to feel confident. Investing in our youth is investing in the future.




This year, UWMC's 211 information and referral helpline received nearly **13,040 calls and texts** from Monterey County residents seeking help with housing, emergency food and shelter, income support, and healthcare. From those contacts, **18,349 referrals** were made (some callers received multiple referrals.)

### HOUSING STABILITY

The Housing Stability Program provides housing navigation assistance, case management, and financial support for obtaining permanent housing. 1,352 individuals or families have received case management assistance, **361 individuals or families** have been helped in obtaining or maintaining housing, and **\$189,731** has been distributed in deposit assistance.



 **Donate Today!**



## Stuff the Bus

Under the McKinney-Vento Act, children experiencing homelessness are considered to be individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. In 2023, there were **12,959 children** in the county experiencing homelessness.

United Way and the Monterey County Office of Education hosted United Way's 12th annual **Stuff the Bus** program to provide **4,500 backpacks** with new school supplies for students experiencing homelessness.

Backpacks are filled with grade-appropriate school supplies, helping children feel prepared and confident for school while easing the financial burden on families.

## Monterey County Preschool Service Corps

UWMC launched the Monterey County Preschool Service Corps program in August 2020. The goal of this early learning initiative is to help children reach age level literacy and support kindergarten readiness. Members are recruited and trained to integrate creative tutoring techniques into children's regular school day. Reading, music, and normal play activities are focused on language and literacy development, so children can have a positive relationship with learning and school.

Members are also given the opportunity to develop work experience in classrooms and working with children. The program recruits AmeriCorps members to provide individualized opportunities for preschoolers. **In the 2023 academic year, the program served 104 children with 11 members.**



## Family, Friends, and Neighbors Program (FFN)

There is a large gap between the number of children ages 0-5 and the number of licensed childcare providers. This implies that a significant portion of children are receiving care from non-licensed caregivers, usually embodied by their Families, Friends, and Neighbors.

This program focuses on providing these caregivers with the resources and training necessary to provide children with an engaging and safe environment that stimulates development and encourages readiness for school.

This year, FFN providers served **185 children and hosted 143 playgroups, workshops, and reflective groups.** 78% of the providers improved their knowledge, skills, and abilities to support early childhood development.



## Financial Literacy Workshops

UWMC provides Financial Literacy Education workshops in Spanish and English to teach participants who live below the poverty line how to set financial and career goals, manage a budget, understand and repair credit, and inform them of different childcare and subsidy programs. We offered **65 Financial Literacy Workshops** for **628 participants.**

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)



VITA supports low-to-mid-income families by filing their CA State and Federal taxes for free and identifying the credits and refunds they are eligible for. This year, VITA program filed **1,621 tax returns** and individuals who used VITA's services received **\$2,150,494 in refunds.**

**This year, UWMC served over 29,260 beneficiaries in Monterey County.**