

December2022 Newsletter

Staff Spotlight: Linda Paugh Receives Award For Eviction Mediation Work

HERSHEY, PA – A unique program at Pocono Mountains United Way (PMUW) received statewide recognition earlier this month from the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania. Linda Paugh was presented with the Eviction Prevention and Diversion Award on December 7 in Hershey for implementing an innovative program in response to the pandemic that stabilizes families who would otherwise be displaced by eviction.

[Continue Reading About Linda's Award](#)



**New program geared to support
future first-generation college**

students

A new program at Pocono Mountain West High School is preparing first-generation college students for life after high school not just academically and financially but also emotionally and socially.

"We just want them to be passionate and really want to work towards building their future with the added support of creating these networks in these spaces where ... it's okay to be in the unknown, but we'll help you get through that," said Timera Toppin, coordinator of Generation Next.

[Read the WVIA's full article about it!](#)



Still want to help out other agencies in Monroe County? Visit www.VolunteerMonroe.org to see available volunteer opportunities.

2022 Report To The Community

Pocono Mountains United Way hosted the annual Report to the Community in December. The weather prevented us from getting together in person, but we had over 85 people join to learn about the work that was accomplished in 2022. If you missed the meeting, don't worry! We have uploaded a video of the entire presentation.



PPL Foundation Donates \$25,000 to Generation Next Program

We're excited to share that Pocono Mountains United Way has received a

\$25,000 grant from the PPL Foundation. These funds will support the Generation Next program to address disparities in education through college readiness, access, and completion initiatives.

"This grant from the PPL Foundation will allow the Generation Next program to provide students with the resources they need to prepare for tests like the SAT, visit potential schools, and develop the habits they will need to carry with them after high school to complete a four-year college degree," said Pocono Mountains United Way President/CEO Michael Tukeva.



VITA Program Back In 2023

Pocono Mountains United Way is excited to announce that the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is available again this year. This program provides free tax return help, and to be eligible for the program a person needs to make less than \$60,000 per year and be a US Citizen.

[Child care facilities interested in bringing screenings to their facilities should contact Roxanne Powell at 570-517-3958](#)

2022 Campaign



Pocono Mountains United Way launched its 80th Campaign on September 7th. The Campaign is led by Chris Barrett, President/CEO of Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, and Michael Tukeva, President/CEO of Pocono Mountains United Way. Our Be the Reason Campaign encourages people to give United and *be the reason...*

- that no family struggles to make ends meet.
- individuals are working to improve their financial stability.
- children are prepared to succeed in school and beyond.
- people in our community won't go hungry.

Ready to make a difference? Visit our [website](#) to learn how to participate through a workplace campaign or to donate with an individual pledge.

Other United Way Programs

HELP IS AVAILABLE
Connecting with community services is easy.

PoconoInfo is a free one-stop information and referral service for Monroe County that provides easy access to human services in our community.

☎ 570-517-3954
✉ info@PoconoUnitedWay.org

PoconoInfo will help eliminate guessing, confusion, and helplessness.

Services and resources we can help you find:

- Substance Abuse
- Foodbanking
- Rental/utility assistance
- Transportation
- Legal advice information
- Case intervention services
- Where to donate food
- Childcare
- Legal counselor
- Credit counseling
- Public assistance programs
- Substance Abuse & more
- Aging parent assistance
- Support groups
- And more

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM




Monroe County Pennsylvania ERAP
Help with past-due rent and utility payments.

Who can qualify for the ERAP program?

- ERAP provides assistance for Monroe County renters who are behind on their rent or utilities.
- Household income must be equal to or less than the following totals for household members 18 years and older:

# of household members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Annual household income	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$9,000	\$10,000	\$12,000	\$13,000	\$14,000	\$16,000

Go to MonroeERAP.com to apply online.
Monroe ERAP Information Line: 870-562-8887

Approved funding this program includes:   

LANDLORD-TENANT EVICTION MEDIATION
A Free Service for Monroe County Landlords and Tenants



Helping Our Community Resolve Eviction Disputes

- Are you a tenant who lives in Monroe County? Are you worried about being evicted?
- Are you a landlord who rents property in Monroe County? Are you experiencing a landlord-tenant dispute regarding rent?
- Do you want the help of a neutral third party in resolving this problem?
- Are you interested in exploring mediation as the primary path, and if that process does not work, to go to court?

The mediation services offered by Pocono Mountains United Way can help.

What is Mediation?
Mediation is a voluntary and confidential process that brings both sides together to resolve conflicts. The mediator does not make a decision, but rather helps both sides come to an agreement.

Pocono Mountains United Way
Together, We Can Thrive

Pocono Mountains United Way is a non-profit organization devoted to improving the health, education and financial stability of Monroe County families through community volunteerism, fundraising and advocacy.

PoconoInfo Helpline
570-517-3954

Emergency Rental Assistance Program
www.MonroeERAP.com
570-243-6677

Eviction Mediation Program
570-261-8023

80 Years United

Pocono Mountains United Way
301 McConnell Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-517-3953 **www.PoconoUnitedWay.org**

