



Pocono Mountains
UNITED WAY

January 2026 Newsletter



OVER \$61K RAISED FOR FOOD CRISIS FUND

Pocono Mountains United Way and the Community Foundation of Monroe County moved quickly in November to put community generosity into action through the Food Crisis Fund, created to ensure families across the

region have the food they need. The community's response was amazing, contributing \$61,085 in a matter of weeks!

"We are deeply grateful for this outpouring of support from every person, business, and organization that stepped forward to help feed our neighbors," said Michael Tukeva, President/CEO of Pocono Mountains United Way.

To make the greatest impact, the Food Crisis Fund was distributed across Monroe County's food access network...[Read more on our website.](#)

This is what community looks like when we work together!



GENERATION NEXT COLLEGE TOURS

Generation Next students toured 5 colleges in the fall including Penn State, East Stroudsburg University, Centenary University, Bloomsburg University, and Kings College. These campus tours give students the opportunity to expand their horizons and visit campuses that they may not have considered without the program.

Generation Next, offered in partnership with Community Action Lehigh Valley, is designed to equip students with practical skills and knowledge for their transition to higher education and beyond.

Aside from inspiring students to dream big with college tours, seniors also had the chance to take part in a workshop with a representative from Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) to learn more about FAFSA and other helpful insights on applying for student aid.

The program currently has 85 students from Pocono Mountain West High School enrolled for the 2025/2026 school year including 21 Seniors, 43 Juniors, and 21 Sophomores.

We're looking forward to another fulfilling semester with this amazing group of students!

For more information on the Generation Next Program, contact Lexi@PoconoUnitedWay.org.



Local non-profits are now applying for the FY 2026/2027 Resource Investment Process, which means we are again looking for volunteers to review applications! Since our resource investment process is a community effort, we rely on volunteers like you to help us evaluate agency applications.

Who can participate? Anyone 18 years and over who lives, works, worships, or attends school in Monroe County can evaluate applications from our community partners as a Finance Panelist or Program Panelist.

Evaluations are conducted online and on your own time! Panels begin meeting in February. If you are interested in participating in this year's process, fill out the [online registration form](#).

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact Maria@PoconoUnitedWay.org.

UNITED IN STRENGTH

Together, we can write the next chapter of resilience in the Poconos!



Scan the QR Code to Donate
or visit PoconoUnitedWay.org/donate

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 Helpline
570-517-3954
[Email](mailto:info@PoconoUnitedWay.org)

Pocono Mountains UNITED WAY
2024-2025 ANNUAL REPORT
UNITED IN STRENGTH

PMUW 2024/2025 Annual Report

SMILE :)
In-Home Mentoring

- Is your child on a PreK waiting list or unable to attend PreK?
- Is your child having trouble regulating their emotions and behaviors?
- Is your child having trouble learning preschool skills?
- Has your child experienced trauma that could affect their socialization?

Benefits of the SMILE Program?
Every moment in a child's life is a chance to learn, and parents are the first teachers. What life experiences all things can really help or hold back their learning and growth. It's very important for schools, parents, and the community to work together during those early years. This framework gives parents a chance to help plan for their kids' education.

SMILE Mentoring Program
[Email](mailto:info@PoconoUnitedWay.org)

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