

# IMPACT UPDATE 2023

STRONGER TOGETHER.



## FY23 HIGHLIGHTS

- **766,254** individuals served across the Bay Area
- **3,352** community members engaged in volunteering with UWBA
- **7.9M+** pounds of food served
- **106,722** referrals to basic needs and community resources
- **\$45M+** in tax refunds filed for community members
- **\$5.13M** in grant funding provided to nonprofit partners

For over 100 years, United Way Bay Area (UWBA) has been committed to building a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. We have become a trusted partner in the Bay Area bringing together our network of volunteers, donors, policy makers, labor partners, community partners and corporate partners.

Over our most recent completed fiscal year, July 2022 to June 2023, our region continued its recovery from the fallout of a global pandemic and faced an uphill battle with the rising costs of living. This year also saw many of the pandemic-era government support programs come to an end including rental relief, the eviction moratorium, expanded college student access to Cal Fresh, and the increase in pay for essential workers. In 2022, we saw cost of living rates jump to their highest level since 1981, almost doubling that of 2021. As a result, we saw many more neighbors across our eight-county region grappling with poverty.

United Way's Real Cost Measure analysis estimates the amount of income required to make ends meet (including food, housing, health care, child care, transportation and other basic needs), and it showed 28% of households in the Bay Area have incomes that fall below the real cost measure (\$122,663), up 3% from the previous report two years ago. While the wealthiest across our region continue to increase in net worth, those with lower incomes saw their financial standing remain stagnant.

Nearly 600,000 households within our region are struggling to make ends meet, needing assistance from food, housing, and employment support. As government support ended, needs grew among Bay Area residents and UWBA answered the call, stepping up efforts to support our neighbors.



## BASIC NEEDS

- UWBA and partner agencies helped 4,763 households access \$4,159,780 in direct cash assistance to support their basic needs and rental assistance
- **Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP)** partners provided 191,167 shelter bed nights
- **Emergency Assistance Network**, EFSP, Labor Community Services, and community partners provided 6,625,342 food distributions
- Our **211** program received 45,969 calls and texts from the community, resulting in 104,282 referrals to health and human services
  - We provided 2,087 referrals for labor union members and 353 referrals through SparkPoint centers

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

- **Free Tax Help** program mobilized 55 partner agencies and 1,383 volunteers at 90 locations to prepare 31,924 tax returns
  - 39% of these refunds came from Earned Income Tax Credits totaling \$9,992,902 for low-income, working families and Child Tax Credits totaling \$7,556,502 for households with children 16 and under.
- 22,070 individuals were served through SparkPoint centers, with 2,846 individuals receiving free financial coaching (among whom 65% made progress towards their financial goals)
- **SparkPoint** helped 638 individuals and families get out of a financial crisis

## EMPLOYMENT AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- 190 youth attended UWBA-led events and workshops to explore career paths or increase their career readiness through **Youth Opportunity Pathways**
- 479 job placements, including 223 youth placed in jobs
- 62 Trades Introduction Program Graduates
- 2,700 individuals reached through **Labor** outreach and education

## HOUSING JUSTICE

- \$880,000 granted to **Housing Justice** partners
- 1,814 households received housing services
- 5 affordable housing policies advocated for and passed
- 68 new affordable housing units supported by Housing Justice grants

## PUBLIC POLICY & ADVOCACY

**Policy and Advocacy** work we advocated for:

- SB132: passage of a bi-partisan bill to provide state funding for the 211 resource line
- AB 1128: Expand Young Child Tax Credit eligibility
- AB 1498: Increase the CalEITC minimum credit to \$300
- AB 653: Increase Housing Voucher Utilization Program
- SB 352: Creates a statewide Living Wage Formula to showcase true cost of living in state
- AB 590: Ensures non-profit organizations secure up to 25% of contracted funds in advanced payments from the state

