

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TOGETHER



Welcome to our 2022-2023 Community Impact Report. The pages that follow highlight the important, life-changing work of the past year – progress and momentum that simply would not be possible without your commitment to and support of our mission.

While our work is far from done, I recently have been reflecting on my first five years leading United Way of Rhode Island, and I am beyond proud of what we have accomplished together.

Walking into 50 Valley Street for the first time as president and CEO in September 2018, I could not imagine we would soon face a global health crisis, considerable racial justice protests, and politically charged civil unrest.

When I arrived, we were already focused on the critical issues of housing, childhood literacy, out-of-school time learning, and workforce development. Those needs would skyrocket to unprecedented levels amid the pandemic and its fallout. There was no road map. But we not only persevered, we set in motion a movement creating real, lasting change.

Together, we are building stronger families and more resilient nonprofits, which in turn lead to healthier, vibrant communities and a thriving Rhode Island for all. And here are some of the ways we've been doing it.

From an idea we were told “wouldn't work,” 401Gives has become the state's largest

philanthropic effort in support of nonprofits, raising more than \$10 million since 2020.

In 2021, we launched our LIVE UNITED 2025 strategic plan with the goal to build racial equity and opportunities for all Rhode Islanders and a commitment to invest \$100 million over five years to support that work. Less than three years in, our investments already exceed \$70 million, including \$10 million in grants announced this past spring.

We have weathered leadership transitions within our state to elevate Rhode Island's housing crisis, realizing landmark legislation and investments to create more safe, affordable homes. And we remain an active voice on the need to put those investments to work and get shovels into the ground.

In July, we hired the inaugural director of what is the state's new Alliance for Nonprofit Impact, culminating years of work and research to create a singular entity to serve our entire nonprofit sector.

I've always considered myself unafraid to dream big and do even bigger. That's because I believe in people, and I believe in what Rhode Island can be. There is much, much more we need to do. But with you by our side, I cannot wait to see what the future will bring.

Cortney Nicolato, President and CEO