



Dear Teamsters 773 and Members,

On behalf of United Way, we sincerely thank you for your generous support of the [Critical Support Fund](#). Launched in late October with the Lehigh Valley Community Foundation, the Critical Support Fund formed to address immediate needs in the community, beginning with emergency food access.

With more than 40% of Greater Lehigh Valley residents living paycheck to paycheck and funding pauses to programs like SNAP, food insecurity is rising. Currently, just over **106,000** people receive SNAP benefits in the region. At the same time, many of our region's social service providers are struggling to keep up with the need and have not been able to access funding that typically supports food access programs.

United Way and the labor movement go way back, with a partnership that continues to build stronger communities. Our long history together is based on a shared belief that when one of us raises our hands, we can do some, but when we all raise our hands, we can do a lot more. In an example of this, Teamsters 773 stepped up with a **\$20,000** donation in support of the Critical Support Fund, which was able to provide rapid relief for families and food providers across the region.



John Werkheiser, United Way Labor Liaison, accepting check from Dennis Hower

Thanks to the generosity of Teamsters 773 and more than 75 other businesses, organizations and individual donors, bulk order of produce, dry goods, rice, beans and other shelf-stable items have been placed through Second Harvest Food Bank and are being distributed to more than 100 food pantries across Carbon, Lehigh, Northampton and Monroe Counties. Additionally, fresh proteins have been secured through local farmers and regional suppliers to help meet the need for proteins.

Your partnership with us is strengthened by the fact that the support comes from the top. Dennis Hower, President of Teamsters 773, is a long-time champion of United Way, having served on our Board of Directors and works to sustain a culture of philanthropy and commitment to community at Teamsters 773. Together, our partnership is making a difference in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you, Teamsters 773!

Sincerely,

Marci Lesko
President and Chief Executive Officer
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley