



2021 IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friend,

We are working to create communities that are free from generational poverty, and where every person has a safe, stable home, every child has access to a high-quality education, and where every person has the opportunity to succeed.

As you have no doubt seen and felt, the pandemic deepened and magnified the equity gaps in communities across L.A. The wealthiest Angelenos were able to maintain their stability and safety while many Black and Brown families disproportionately lost livelihoods and, tragically, lives. We have to do more to prevent our most vulnerable neighbors from falling further behind. This is an unprecedented moment that requires all of us to step up.

As you'll see in this report, our team is working with partners across L.A. to fix our broken systems and directly support our neighbors. You'll read about a selection of the work we helped to lead, and some of the people we were able to help over the last year.

On behalf of our team and our community partners, thank you to our supporters who helped power our work forward—and we look forward to connecting in 2022, which will be the Centennial Year for the United Way of Greater L.A.!

With Gratitude,

Elise Buik | President & CEO, United Way of Greater L.A.

ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Opening the door to those formerly locked out

In L.A. County, 60% of Black households and over 70% of Latinx households reported experiencing “serious financial problems” during the pandemic. To help families stabilize and stay in their homes, United Way continues to provide free tax prep services as well as direct relief through rental and utilities assistance.

Ana, a tax client with Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF), usually receives under \$150 from her state tax return. This year, after a change in California tax law that we helped advocate for, she qualified for the first time for the CalEITC and the Young Child Tax Credit. Ana received more than \$1,000 back in her state refund.

485

HOURS OF TAX PREP PROVIDED BY VITA VOLUNTEERS

17 VITA volunteers performed 485 hours of tax prep services in partnership with 7 organizations.

\$1.78M

DOLLARS RECLAIMED IN TAX REFUNDS FOR FAMILIES

Approximately 970 tax returns were filed with an average return of \$1,842 to clients with a roughly \$1.78 million in refunds claimed overall.

EDUCATION

Guiding the hardest-hit students and their families through the pandemic

The pandemic exacerbated existing challenges for low-income students and their families. On average, Black and Latinx students in LAUSD schools were less active in online classes with 67% of Black and Latinx middle schoolers active in online schooling compared to 88-89% of their white and Asian peers.

Gilda and her 4 school-age children dealt with many challenges during the pandemic: job loss, temporary housing displacement, loss of possessions, and the devastating loss of a family member due to COVID-19. Through United Way’s partner Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA), Gilda’s family received both emotional and economic support through grocery gift cards, essential items, rental advocacy, mental health support, and, most importantly, a caring relationship with HOLA staff.

40,000

PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH TRANSFORMED GRANTEES

TransformED grantees worked directly with over 40,000 students, families, and teachers to address the unique challenges faced during the pandemic.

250

STUDENTS ASSISTED THROUGH LEARNING PODS

Learning pods provided more than 250 Wilmington students with safe spaces to learn where students could connect to online learning, receive tutoring, and enjoy hot meals.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Providing all of our neighbors a path home

United Way is turning the lessons of the pandemic crisis into bold programs that help our neighbors experiencing homelessness and light the path out of the housing crisis for all.

Key efforts include a comprehensive plan to address unsheltered homelessness through the Street Strategy for L.A. County, immediate and long-term healthcare through the Health Pathways Expansion grants, and a special focus on ending homelessness among seniors and older adults.

Victor, who is in his early 50s, got tested for COVID-19 at a Project Roomkey site by our Health Pathways partner St. John’s, and was found to have extremely high blood pressure. Medical staff took him straight to the hospital. “They told us he was about to have a stroke. We saved him from a stroke,” said Jim Mangia, President and CEO of St. John’s.

2,864

PATIENTS ASSISTED THROUGH PROJECT ROOMKEY

The Health Pathways Expansion provided healthcare services to 23 Project Roomkey sites, serving over 2,864 patients.

3,492

CARE CONTACTS IN QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS

The project also supported more than 3,492 care contacts through 16 Federally Qualified Health Center grantees throughout the County.

“FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER LOS ANGELES HAS BEEN AN ESSENTIAL PARTNER IN THE COLLECTIVE WORK WE ARE DOING TO BRING SYSTEMIC CHANGE TO LOW-INCOME YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY.”

Loren Rubin | Senior Director of Programs, HOLA



THANK YOU

Thank you to the individuals, foundations, and corporations who have fueled our work to support communities from July 2020 to June 2021 and continue to build long-term solutions to end homelessness and poverty.

**SUSANNAH BLINKOFF &
JORDAN CORNGOLD**



**SALLYANN &
EUGENE F. FAMA**



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