



**UNITED
WAY**

Photo: © MSD
United Way Vietnam

UNITED WAY INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

**YEAR IN
REVIEW 2025**



Photo: © United Way Turks and Caicos Islands – Yes I Can Read

Across more than 30 countries around the world, the United Way network is helping nearly 50 million people each year build healthier, stronger, and more resilient lives. As 2025 draws to a close, we are proud to share a snapshot of new programs, partnerships, and results from 2025. Throughout Africa, Asia, Canada, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, United Way is advancing health, expanding youth opportunity, strengthening financial security, and helping communities build resilience so all can thrive.

Thank you to all the partners, donors, and volunteers who make this work possible. We look forward to continuing our work together in 2026. **United is the Way** we can create a more thriving world for all.



YOUTH OPPORTUNITY

Photo: © United Way
Romania - Learn to
Be Healthy

Sparking a Reading Revolution in Australia:

With the support of the [United Way of Australia](#) and [Dolly Parton's Imagination Library](#), the Tamworth Local Government Area has become home to Australia's largest early literacy initiative. Through a place-based 'ecological' model, every child born in Tamworth receives one book each month from birth to age 5 to inspire a lifelong love of reading. The program has created a reading revolution. A recent [research study](#) found that children in the Tamworth region are read to more often, for longer, and have more books in the home than the average Australian child. The study also found that these routines were maintained and associated with improved emerging literacy skills in children by age 3.

Closing the Literacy Gap in Turks and Caicos:

Despite its reputation as a vacation oasis, the Turks and Caicos Education Ministry reports that 89% of students in the school system read below grade level, with 30% reading more than three grade levels below. Recognizing the strong correlation between reading and health and employment outcomes, [United Way of the Turks and Caicos Islands](#) has prioritized literacy in its programs. From providing parents with books to read to their newborns before they even leave the hospital, to afterschool and summer programs, United Way Turks and Caicos is making [measurable improvements](#) to children's literacy.



Partnering with the National Football League to Support Youth:

In September, [United Way of Greater Nigeria](#) partnered with the Baltimore Ravens football team for Caw to Action, the Ravens’ annual day of service, where volunteers come together to give back to their communities through meaningful activities. In [Lagos, Nigeria](#), students at Olusun Primary School participated in interactive reading sessions, art workshops and educational games, and even received a fully stocked reading corner.

Photo: © United Way Brasil- GOYN
#Convening2025

Improving Youth Economic Opportunity:

[United Way Brasil](#) is proud to serve as an anchor partner to the [Global Opportunity Youth Network \(GOYN\)](#), a global program hosted by the Aspen Institute working in nine countries to improve economic outcomes for “Opportunity Youth” – young people ages 15 to 35 who are out of school, unemployed, or working in informal, often precarious jobs. In October, more than 300 GOYN youth leaders, community partners, and global cross-sector allies from across the world traveled to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to participate in the sixth Annual GOYN Global Convening. Over the course of a full week, the participants joined workshops and site visits to share, learn, and brainstorm, all with a goal of improving youth economic opportunity.

Promoting Positive Parenting in Latin America:

With generous support from the [FEMSA](#) Foundation, United Way in Latin America and the Caribbean launched the Creciendo Juntos (Growing Together) project in June, in partnership with United Ways in Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil. Over the next two years, the project will complement existing early childhood policies by introducing a positive parenting methodology that uses innovative and proven technologies to change family members’ behavior and improve the developmental conditions of highly vulnerable children ages 0 to 6. The project will build alliances with 10 municipalities, train teachers, support the training of 9,800 families, develop community plans to improve play areas for young children, and capture and share learnings and best practices.



FINANCIAL SECURITY

Photo: © United Way
Chennai - Livehoods
Banana Fiber based

Providing Housing in Nova Scotia:

Housing prices, and the “missing middle”, are problems that plague many communities around the world. In Nova Scotia, Canada, [United Way Maritimes](#), The River Philip Foundation, and The Shaw Group recently partnered on a new housing community called [The Groves at Hillsdale](#). The development is a clustered residential community of compact, well-built homes for rent and sale that are designed to fill growing gaps in the missing middle of housing options, where homeownership opportunities for working families with modest, stable incomes are in extremely short supply.



Creating Job Opportunities for Women in India

Through its Thulir (Livelihoods) project, [United Way of Chennai](#) implements eight initiatives to promote job creation, particularly for women, persons with disabilities, and youth. From job training and skills development to internships, these initiatives help thousands of community members build the skills necessary to find meaningful employment. In one initiative, 250 young women from marginalized communities graduated this summer from a two-month intensive training that equipped them with essential nursing and caregiving skills, opening doors to employment in the health care sector.

Nurturing Nigeria's Emerging Leaders

In Nigeria, entrepreneurial spirit is everywhere, but opportunity is not always equally distributed. That's why [United Way Greater Nigeria](#) partnered with the ASTRA Fellowship Productivity Accelerator to equip young business owners with the leadership, strategy, and confidence to grow their businesses and support Nigeria's economic development. The ASTRA Fellowship supports early-stage entrepreneurs through a rigorous program of leadership development, business training, and mentorship. This year, with United Way's backing, 50 young Nigerians joined the [accelerator's second cohort](#), representing industries from agriculture to health care to finance. As one entrepreneur exclaimed, "This opportunity allowed me to develop as a leader and take my business to the next level. The mentorship access was everything."

Photo: © United Way Greater Nigeria - Astra Fellowship



Photo: © United Way Alliance pour l'éducation - John Deere

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Supporting Communities Through Employee Engagement

Employee volunteerism and engagement is a cornerstone of United Way's collaboration with its corporate partners. In June, the United Way launched a new project with [Grundfos](#) in France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom, and Hungary. Across these eight countries, more than 600 Grundfos volunteers will support vulnerable groups including youth, families, refugees, and seniors. Activities include environmental education workshops, school support for disadvantaged children, integration support for refugees, and food provision for vulnerable families, ultimately benefiting more than 5,500 individuals.

Strengthening Food Security in Europe and the Middle East

Thanks to a multi-year grant from [John Deere](#), and the participation of more than 4,000 John Deere volunteers, the United Ways in France, Germany, Spain, the U.K., and Israel have been providing much-needed meals to families and food banks across the five countries. From 2024 to 2025, the program distributed more than 2.5 million meals, feeding nearly 40,000 people in need.

New Partnership with the Starbucks Foundation

The United Ways in Honduras and Guatemala received two grants from the [Starbucks Foundation](#) this fall to strengthen food security and nutrition. With the support of the Foundation, this partnership will provide critical support to numerous communities, especially children living in high poverty areas.



Photo: © United Way
Hyderabad - Cleanup
Koltha Kunta Lake

COMMUNITY RESILIENCY

Promoting Safe and Supportive Learning Environments:

Through its Happy School project, [MSD United Way Vietnam](#) has impacted more than 10,000 students in disadvantaged areas of Vietnam by improving school infrastructure, providing scholarships, and promoting creative education reforms. Over the summer, MSD United Way Vietnam, with the support of Jeung Park, David Hanjun Park, Taejun Park, esteemed CCK Honor Society donors from the Republic of Korea and the [Community Chest of Korea](#), renovated two schools in rural Quang Tri province, providing 1,000 ethnic minority students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Classrooms were equipped with computers, playgrounds improved, and other facility upgrades were made. Learn more in the [project video](#).

Conserving Water and Restoring Lakes in India

Bengaluru, the third largest city in India, struggles with groundwater depletion, which often requires expensive efforts to pump water across great distances. As part of its [One Billion](#)

[Drops campaign](#), [United Way of Bengaluru](#) is building 10,000 percolation wells to capture and conserve water that would otherwise be wasted. By March 2025, 8,470 percolation wells were built in more than 500 parks and public campuses in Bengaluru, creating rainwater storage for 1.08 billion liters of water per year. Together with its “Wake the Lake” program, which is rejuvenating abandoned water bodies in urban and rural areas, United Way of Bengaluru’s work is saving water, reducing energy needs, alleviating flooding, promoting biodiversity, and strengthening community resiliency.

Responding to Natural Disasters in Japan

For nearly 80 years, the [Central Community Chest of Japan \(CCJ\)](#) has worked closely with communities throughout the country to support youth, end homelessness, care for the elderly, and help communities prepare for and respond to disasters. When [a typhoon struck the Shizuoka Prefecture in September](#), bringing tornadoes and heavy rain, CCCJ quickly launched a fundraising campaign that raised and distributed much-needed resources to local organizations to clean and repair damaged houses and provide physical and mental care for residents.

OTHER NEWS

Together we Thrive

In June, more than 1,200 staff and volunteers across United Way's global network (including all 50 states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and 26 countries) gathered in Orlando, Florida for the Together We Thrive conference, a weeklong convening that featured dozens of educational sessions, workshops, and learning opportunities.

Partnership with Arizona State University

Partnerships are critical to United Way's work. In August, we formalized a partnership with Arizona State University (ASU), one of the largest public research institutions in the U.S. ASU has also been consistently ranked as [the most innovative university](#) in the United States. Our partnership will cover areas including technology for social good and nonprofit leadership development. Stay tuned for exciting updates in the coming months.

UWW President and CEO at Davos

Artificial intelligence (AI) has immense power for innovation and for potential harm, and it is critical that stakeholders work together to ensure that the development and use of these technologies include and consider all people and communities. AI was a key theme of this year's World Economic Forum annual meeting in Davos in January, which UWW's President and CEO Angela F. Williams attended. UWW is pleased to be part of critical conversations at the highest levels of global governance, business, and philanthropy. As a global network, we can assume the role as cornerstone civil society partner by driving forward a wide range of initiatives and ensuring the inputs and outcomes are deeply rooted in local communities.

New Website and Global Brochure

We launched updated international pages on United Way's website this fall, which provide the public with more robust and comprehensive information about our global work. We will be adding individual country pages soon. We also developed an updated [global brochure](#), which introduces readers to United Way's work across the world. Visit our new regional sections here:

[Africa](#)

[Asia and the Pacific](#)

[Europe and the Middle East](#)

[Latin America and the Caribbean](#)



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