As we head toward the midpoint of 2020, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support of United Way of York County. This is my 30th year with the organization and later this month I will leave my position as President & CEO. Some say to retire; I prefer to say “Off to new adventures!” I would be remiss to leave without thanking you for believing in the power of United Way to raise resources that improve lives every day.

Who knew when the year started that the COVID-19 pandemic would overtake our lives and businesses, creating a historic level of need for so many members of our community? In March, we created the York County COVID-19 Relief Fund. Thanks to the generosity of many, we have distributed an additional $174,000 to organizations providing food, housing supports and mental health services to those facing new challenges during this time.

On July 1st, Brian Petrovek will become the new President & CEO at United Way of York County. He brings a deep background in business management and United Way volunteerism. I know you will enjoy getting to know him (see story below). Should you have any questions or just wish to connect before the end of June, please feel free to email me at bwentworth@buildcommunity.org or call my direct line at 604-5631.

With immense gratitude for your support,

— Barb Wentworth, President & CEO
The 2019 Annual Report is now available on our website! Highlights of the year’s programs and (unaudited) financials are featured: https://www.buildcommunity.org/annual-reports.

COVID Grants Distribute $169,750

United Way of York County’s York County COVID-19 Relief Fund has granted more than $169,750 to local nonprofits that provide food, housing/emergency shelter, and youth engagement/teen mental health assistance to York County residents. The first four rounds of funding were distributed from mid-April through early June.

The grants are due to the incredible generosity of donors who have given directly to UWYC’s COVID-19 Relief Fund, as well as those donors who took part in the Maine United telethon on NewsCenter Maine in early April. Locally, the York County COVID-19 Relief Fund has raised over $174,000 to date. Those wishing to donate can text COVIDMAINE to 41444 to contribute to the fund, or go to our website. No fees will be taken from donations — 100 percent of the resources raised will go to nonprofits helping with food, housing and emergency shelter, and youth engagement/teen mental health in York County. Checks can be mailed to: United Way of York County, P.O. Box 727, Kennebunk, ME 04043 with “COVID Relief” in the memo area.

UWYC is also making connections in the community to help those in need due to the pandemic. This includes connecting Tom’s of Maine with several organizations that were able to include the local company’s hygiene products in community support efforts.

UWYC has also facilitated weekly donations of Starbucks’ coffee to healthcare workers at Southern Maine Health Care. Funky Bow Brewery in Lyman held a food drive that United Way staff delivered to the YCSP Food Pantry in Alfred. UWYC also worked with Arundel Ford to help Youth Full Maine with a van to deliver food to its clients. We also are working with Hyperlite Mountain Gear and Portsmouth Naval Shipyard to distribute donated masks and PPE to York County residents in need.

New board members elected

United Way of York County’s Annual Meeting was held virtually on May 28th. The business portion of the meeting featured the election of three new board members: Erich Fogg of York Hospital, Thomas Hussey of Hussey Seating Co., and Robert MacKenzie of Kennebunk Police Department.

Outgoing board members Jon Hussey of Hussey Seating Co. and Andy Orazio of Sanford-Springvale YMCA were celebrated for their six years of service on the board. Incoming board officers for 2020-2021 are: Todd Cesca of Charter Oak Capital Management, Chair; Paige Streeter of BerryDunn, Vice Chair; Brian Ballute of Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, Treasurer; Ben LaBelle of Hannaford, Secretary; and Lynn Brandsma of University of New England, Ethics Officer.

N.Y. Petrovek was managing owner of the Portland Pirates from 2000 to 2014. Petrovek brings a wealth of United Way volunteer experience to the position, having served as a board member at the United Way of San Joaquin County in Stockton, Calif., Tri-County United Way in Glen Falls, N.Y., and United Way of Greater Portland. Petrovek served as the initial president of 211 Maine when it was launched in 2006.

“I’m grateful to the Selection Committee and Board of Directors for the opportunity, under the United Way brand, to collaborate and work with staff, stakeholders, agency partners, community leaders, donors, and volunteers throughout York County, and the State of Maine, to create solutions that will make our local community a better place to live, work and play, particularly during these unprecedented and challenging times.”

Petrovek will begin on July 1.