

UPSTATE Emerging Leaders NEWSLETTER



This year has brought powerful moments of leadership, connection, and community impact.

Whether you're new to Upstate Emerging Leaders United (ELU) or continuing the journey, thank you for bringing your energy and talents.

With many powerful moments already behind us- and more ahead- we're just getting started!

Here's a glimpse at what we've accomplished together so far:

- 👥 34 members (new & returning)
- 👏 19 volunteer events completed
- 📅 11 future volunteer events scheduled
- 👉 16 volunteer events coordinated by Upstate ELU members
- ➡️ 8 upcoming events still to coordinate
- 🎉 7 social events attended
- 💬 1 future social event scheduled
- 📚 4 professional development sessions attended
- 🎓 2 upcoming professional development events scheduled
- 📦 2 collection drives coordinated

In this newsletter you can expect:

Recent Events

Recurring & Upcoming Events

Upstate ELU Membership

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2025

September 2024



Upstate Emerging Leaders United Kick-Off Meeting

The 2024-2025 membership year began with 34 members, including 18 returning members and 16 new members, 11 of which received a full membership scholarship.



United Way ELU Presents: Good for CNY- the \$10K Nonprofit Pitch



Upstate ELU attended this United Way event where 5 local nonprofits pitched their ideas for projects that support youth in the areas of literacy, STEM, and the arts. A panel of judges selected one project to receive \$10,000 and the audience picked a "fan favorite" to win \$1,000!



Upstate ELU member Matt Capogreco was one of the moderators for the event.

November 2024



Baldwin Annual Fund Gala

Upstate ELU Members Christina Dickerson and Tara Pinkerton had the opportunity to attend the Baldwin Gala with Zanette Howe, Upstate's Director of Community Relations and Events.



Samaritan Center "My Place Box" Donations

Upstate ELU assisted with a collection for both basic needs supplies and for a "My Place Box" which provides housewares for individuals transitioning into their own apartments.

December 2024



United Way of CNY Care Package Assembly

As part of the United Way's Annual CNY Care Package Project, Upstate ELU members assisted with sorting and packing the donated personal care items into over 1000 care packages that would be given to families in need.



United Way Book Distribution at Salvation Army Christmas Bureau

Upstate ELU members volunteered with at the United Way book distribution tables, where every family that came was able to pick out a new book for each child in their household.

January 2025



United Way MLK Day of Service: Winter Clothing Drive

Following the United Way of CNY's Share the Warmth Winter Coat and Accessories Drive, Upstate ELU members assisted with sorting and packing the donated items that would be given to people in need.

February 2025



Hugs for Hope Foundation: Valentine's Day Card Writing Party

Upstate ELU members were invited to participate in a card writing event to send cards to the 300+ individuals that have received gift boxes. Hugs for Hope sends gift boxes to those who are courageously on the road to a cure for their specific cancer, letting them know they're not alone.

FROM FIRST >> TO NEXT

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | SKY ARMORY | 7:30 - 9:00 AM

SPONSORED BY: Community Bank ONEGROUP

United Way Presents: From First to Next

A professional development event where Upstate ELU members heard from a panel of people who have achieved significant firsts in our community, their reflections on their personal journey to reaching a first milestone, and what it will take to help the next generation to continue to blaze new trails in Central New York and beyond.

Panelists included:

- Rebecca Bennett, Senior Brewmaster, Anheuser-Busch
- Na'Donte Jones, Owner, NJ Jones Plumbing LLC
- Jackie Robinson, Former Anchor, WSTM-TV



United Way ELU: Cards and Conversations

At a networking event exclusively for Emerging Leaders United members, participants spent an evening filled with fun and connection as they crafted Valentine's or Galantine's cards, challenged one another to games like cornhole, pool and foosball, and enjoyed light refreshments.

Upstate ELU member Veronica Farrell assisted with the organization of this event.

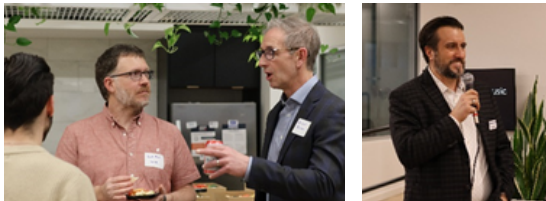


March 2025



United Way ELU: Pints & Principles

An exclusive speed networking event for ELU members to hear how accomplished professionals in CNY define their principles to live by for a successful career. Participants had access to several prominent leaders (and United Way of CNY Board Members) for small group networking.



Heart Walk Volunteer: Support Human for Upstate Mascot Hero

Upstate Emerging Leader Bronte Hilgenberg helped guide Upstate mascot Hero around the American Heart Association Heart Walk.



April 2025



Upstate ELU Lunch & Learn: Leadership Matters

Upstate Emerging Leaders participated in a Leadership Matters seminar presented by Upstate's Renae Rokicki, Senior Leadership and Development Coordinator.

Upstate ELU member Veronica Farrell organized this event.



United for Moms Collection Drive

In honor of Mother's Day, Upstate Emerging Leaders United and Team Upstate hosted a United for Mom's drive in partnership with the United Way of CNY. Personal and self-care items were collected for the United Way to give to women in need at local programs and shelters.

Upstate ELU Planning Committee:
Veronica Farrell, Tara Pinkerton, Sarah Trapani, Natalia Valenzuela Faccini, Ashley Volles, Zanette Howe, & Rebecca Pesci

For more details, click [here](#).

Recurring Monthly Events



Upstate ELU: Sarah's Guest House Dinner Service

Upstate ELU member Jackie Pilon has made arrangements for Upstate ELU to make dinner at Sarah's Guest House on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Sarah's Guest House is Central New York's only adult healthcare hospitality house for patients and families traveling to Syracuse for Medical Care.

For more information & to participate, contact Jackie Pilon (pilonj@upstate.edu)



Upstate ELU: Samaritan Center Breakfast Service

Upstate ELU member Scott Neal has made arrangements for Upstate ELU, as well as other interested Upstate staff and students, to serve breakfast at Samaritan Center on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The Samaritan Center mission is No One Goes Hungry.

For more information & to participate, contact Scott Neal (neals@upstate.edu)

Upcoming Events

May 15, 2025 @ 5:00PM



PRESENTED BY EMPOWER

Event Details

5:00 – 7:15PM – Pre-Show Event

Parthenon Books, 333 South Salina St,
Downtown Syracuse
Show tickets will be provided at pre-show
check-in

7:30 – Showtime

Landmark Theatre,
across from Parthenon Books

United Way of CNY: Broadway for United

United Way of CNY is excited to announce Broadway for United Way.

Theatre lovers will have an opportunity to enjoy the hit Broadway musical Beetlejuice at the Landmark Theatre and a special pre-show reception with food and drinks at Parthenon Books, hosted by Oh My Darling.



You can save \$25 with code "earlybird"
through April 30th.

May 20, 2025 @ 5:00PM**Event Details**

Salt City Market Community Room
484 S Salina Street, Syracuse

Event Begins at 5:00 pm
Program Begins at 6:00 pm

Light refreshments provided

United Way ELU: Leading with Compassion

Join Emerging Leaders United for "Leading With Compassion" featuring Brooke Fraser, MSN, FNP-C, CPHON on Tuesday May 20, 2025 at Salt City Market, presented by Upstate Medical University.

Emerging Leaders United members and one guest are welcome to attend for free; Additional non-member tickets can be purchased for \$25.

>>> [Click Here to Register](#)

June 2, 2025 @ 11:45AM - 1:00PM**Upstate ELU Lunch & Learn: Leadership Panel**

Upstate Emerging Leaders will have an opportunity to hear from Upstate's leadership on being a leader at Upstate and in the Central New York community.

Upstate ELU Planning Committee:

Laytinya Brooks, Christina Dickerson, Tara Pinkerton, Sarah Trapani, Zanette Howe, & Rebecca Pesci

Upstate ELU Members**Action Required by April 30:**

To prepare for the luncheon and panel discussion, please use the following link to RSVP and answer a few of questions:

[June 2 Upstate ELU Lunch & Learn: RSVP & Questionnaire](#)

SAVE THE DATE

More info to come



August 7, 2025
United Way of CNY:
Day of Caring



Membership Year 2024 - 2025

Returning Members

- **David Auerbach**, Pharmacology
- **Matthew Capogreco**, Standardized Patient Program
- **Andrea Cifonelli**, Graduate Studies
- **Paul Corsi**, Sustainability
- **Veronica Farrell**, Outpatient Pharmacy
- **Kenneth Graniero**, Nutrition Services
- **Nitch Jones**, Medicine
- **Stacey Keefe**, Hospital Administration
- **Bobie Jo Massena**, Utilization Management
- **Scott Neal**, Neuroscience and Physiology
- **Jacqueline Pilon**, Upstate Connect Care Center
- **Tara Pinkerton**, Medicine Subspecialties Clinic
- **Michelle Stine**, Upstate Connect Call Center
- **Shannon Summers**, Simulation Center
- **Robert Taylor**, IMT - Decision Support
- **Dylan Tripodi**, Transitional Care
- **Sarah Trapani**, Office of the President
- **Ashley Volles**, APS Administration

New Members

- **Beth Blunt**, Outpatient Pharmacy
- **Karen Boschen**, Neuroscience and Physiology
- **Cassie Breen**, IMT - Moonshot
- **Danielle Bright**, Upstate Foundation
- **Laytinya Brooks**, Employee/Student Health
- **Collyn Conrad**, Cell and Developmental Biology
- **Christina Dickerson**, College of Health Professions
- **Debra Emerson**, Clinical Nurse Education
- **Bronte Hilgenberg**, Financial Services - Patient
- **Sienna Lee**, HemOnc Cancer Center
- **William Lewis**, Neuroscience and Physiology
- **Stephanie Mack**, Volunteer Services
- **Neal Patel**, Neurology
- **Mary Terrinoni**, College of Health Professions
- **Natalia Valenzuela**, College of Graduate Studies, Class of 2029, Pharmacology
- **Melissia Wheeler**, Advanced Practice

About Emerging Leaders United

Emerging Leaders, a group of the United Way of CNY, promotes and encourages the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism among emerging leaders in the Central New York Community.

As an Emerging Leader and representative of Upstate Medical University, you can attend leadership and community education programs and volunteer events, and network with other leaders from companies across the greater Syracuse area.

Becoming A Member

There is a \$250 donation to United Way to join Emerging Leaders United, which can be given through the annual Upstate Community Giving Campaign.

Upstate Medical University offers a limited number of scholarships to employees for one year of membership as an Emerging Leader. The scholarship application is available in late summer.

For More Information

Visit our Upstate [ELU website](#) or email us at elu@upstate.edu.

2024-2025 Upstate ELU Scholarship Recipients

- **David Auerbach**
- **Beth Blunt**
- **Laytinya Brooks**
- **Christina Dickerson**
- **Debra Emerson**
- **Sienna Lee**
- **William Lewis**
- **Neal Patel**
- **Mary Terrioni**
- **Natalia Valenzuela**
- **Melissia Wheeler**

WE HAVE THE
GIVING GENE

UPSTATE
Community Giving
Campaign
Workplace Givers for United Way and SEFA

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY IS PART OF UPSTATE'S MISSION

It's easy, rewarding, and fun to join your co-workers to give time, talent and/or financial support to our community.

The Community Giving Campaign is held each fall. It's an easy way to give to any of the hundreds of United Way, Upstate Foundation and SEFA funds.

The graphic features a blue background with a network of white dots and lines. A large heart shape is formed by two overlapping DNA double helix structures, one in dark blue and one in light blue.