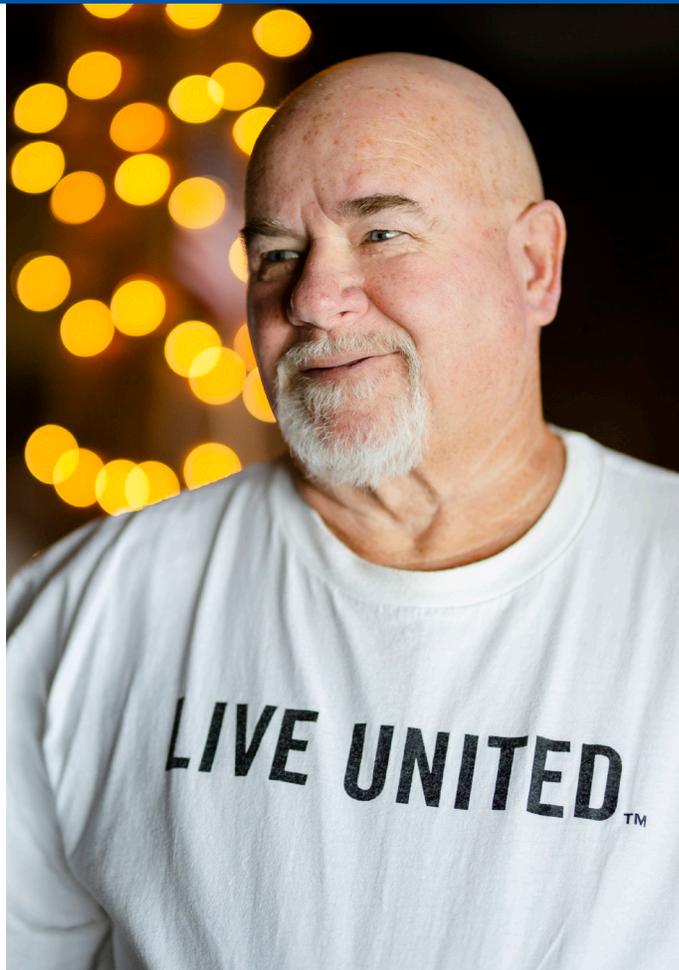


# Partnership works to improve lives of working class

by OUR YORK MEDIA



Clark Ruppert Jr., the past president of the York-Adams County Central Labor Council, almost always points people who need help in the same direction: United Way of York County. United Way of York County and the York-Adams County Central Labor Council have worked together to help blue-collar families “not just in the workplace but in their standard of living.”

Clark Ruppert Jr. is a proud life-long union guy. For the past 40 years, he’s been a champion for fellow members of the working class, fighting for everything from better wages and benefits to increased safety and job-site education.

Outside of work, he’s personally helped many people who came to him with issues. Maybe it’s not workers themselves who need help, he says. Maybe it’s a family member, friend, or a neighbor.

Either way, the past president of the York-Adams County Central Labor Council has been a beacon for those who don’t know where to go for guidance on things like health and financial issues, and he almost always points them in the same direction: United Way of York County, which helps by connecting individuals to 211, a 24/7 health and human services helpline that connects people in need to the best program that can best help them.

“When people are down on their luck or have some problems,” he says, “United Way is there to help people get on their feet again.”

Since forming their partnership in 1960s, the labor council and United Way have worked together to better the

lives of working-class people, Clark says, “not just in the workplace but in their standard of living.”

United Way’s 35 Partner Agencies – including the American Red Cross, SpiriTrust Lutheran, and MidPenn Legal Services – have guided union and non-union members through tough times. Over the years, Clark has seen and heard of many members who have been helped through the various United Way agencies to get them and their families through some tough times.

“It’s a community effort, and we see the good that they do,” Clark says. “United Way works with these agencies and provides oversight.”

United Way is all about helping people when they have a need for it, Clark says. Gifts to the United Way of York County Community Fund support 66 programs in Education, Health and Financial Stability, the building blocks for a quality life. It’s why Clark has never hesitated to give through payroll deductions. He knows many others feel and do the same.

“We support the United Way of York County because we see the good that they do for the community and the good of York County.”