#### IN THIS TIME OF INCREASED NEED,

the essential work of the UCS and its community school directors and social workers is keeping kids fed, connected and engaged at school.





32

COMMUNITY DIRECTORS ENSURING FAMILIES HAVE WHAT THEY NEED

## 1.500+

VIRTUAL COUNSELING AND WELLNESS CHECK-INS WITH KIDS AND CAREGIVERS

# 20,000+

KIDS AND FAMILIES SUPPORTED BY UCS **6,000**+

### We are finding new ways to support our school communities.

#### UCS has always provided

- Community schools directors who coordinate all UCS services
- Academic supports and programs
- ✓ Food and nutrition to families in need
- Vital mental health and medical services for students
- Job training and employment opportunities for families and community members

#### UCS is now also providing

- Robust remote academic programs
- Access to WiFi, laptops, tablets and more
- Attendance monitoring and check-ins
- Virtual counseling sessions
- Virtual check-ins with parents and caregivers
- ✓ Online teaching strategies to assist our staff

## Our focus has sharpened.

**Feeding kids and families** through a strong network of community partners.

**Closing the technology gap** with free WiFi hotspots, laptops and tablets.

**Supporting mental health** through virtual counseling, check-ins and support.

#### Fostering professional development with focus on stress management, trauma & more.



## **Pandemic Support Highlights**

Virtual and telephone tutoring and academic support	WiFi hotspots, laptops and tablets	Check-in calls to students with attendance changes or chronic absenteeism	Remote library and reading materials
Pop-up food banks and nutrition support	Remote 1:1 counseling sessions with kids in need	Coordinating eye exams and dental services	Online support groups and workshops for parents and caregivers
Guided videos on yoga, karate, chess and more	Online resources for Social and Emotional Learning	Learning materials and workshops on grief, trauma and coping methods	Coaching teachers encountering difficulties with students
Daily alerts to families and staff with resources for learning, nutrition and family activities	Weekly phone calls with parents and students for emotional support and resource sharing	Remote ELS and High School Equivalency classes for adults	

### Our communities need us now more than ever.

The pandemic has intensified the challenges the UCS has been addressing for nearly a decade: food insecurity, technology gaps, access to health services and academic support. We cannot cut this lifeline for these communities.



## Priorities for 2021 and beyond

- Continuing to feed and support families in need
- Increasing access to critical mental health services
- Providing online access and devices to families in need
- Adding more UCS social workers to more schools
- Using technology to reach more kids, families and educators with more targeted support
- Continuing the positive outcomes UCS has been achieving since 2012





For more information on United Community Schools and its immense impact on New York's public school communities, visit unitedcommunityschools.org