

**Morgan Leso**  
Campaign “Shazam” Award Recipient  
RSU9 W.G. Mallett Elementary School Guidance Counselor

“Please excuse the kids!” Laughs Morgan, as I walk through her office door to be met with a group of little boys engrossed in toy cars and trains. As I set up, I listened to her guiding each child to say please and thank you with such sweetness and run back and forth between offices to check on kids. “I love what I do,” says Morgan, “I love being a guidance counselor and I love my family. I also really enjoy fitness, so I often work with women to help them feel their best!” Her compassion for others is why the United Way is honoring Morgan Leso with the *Shazam* Award, which credits those who are standout cheerleaders for the United Way in the past year.

Morgan was involved with multiple events and programs with us in 2019. From involvement in our Special Events Committee, requesting items for our silent auction, bringing her family and many others to our annual COLOR ME UNITED 5K, speaking to groups for workplace campaigns, and most prominently helping to coordinate our Mother’s Day Roses event.

Morgan worked with youth in the area to teach them about volunteerism and to provide roses to senior citizens in Franklin County, as there is always something special about a child handing you a flower. “I support the United Way because they have provided so many resources to the kids here in this community; from clothes and food, to scholarships for summer camp. So, I find it necessary to do my part and get involved so that the kids here can continue to have those opportunities,” says Morgan.

I asked her how she felt to be recognized, as she tells me this is her first-year volunteering with us. “Well, it’s great! Thank you!” Laughs Morgan, “I don’t feel that it’s necessary to recognize people who are volunteering. It doesn’t take too much time or effort to go to meetings or to help out but thank you!” We look forward to seeing what Morgan will bring to the table in the coming years and hope she’s able to gather more people for an even bigger COLOR ME UNITED 5K team than last year!

Lastly, I asked Morgan how she would be able to encourage others to be more involved with the community and with what we do at United Way. “I think the best example I can give is that it’s a really wonderful role model for our children,” she says. “Without these kids, we can’t continue to do all these wonderful things in the future. I also teach my kids how good it feels to help others.”

The United Way of the Tri-Valley Area is proud to recognize Morgan Leso, for her kindness and compassion towards people of all ages and especially children. Her love of guidance counseling was clear the second I walked through her door, as her gentleness radiates towards anyone who is near. Thank you, Morgan, for advocating and teaching youth in our area to give back as well as to receive kindness.