



United Way  
of Buffalo & Erie County



BANKING | INSURANCE | INVESTMENTS  
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **United Way of Buffalo & Erie County and Evans Bank Launch Work/Life Solutions**

*Innovative new program will bring services, financial education, and loans to workplaces*

**November 5, 2018, Buffalo, NY---** United Way of Buffalo & Erie County (UWBEC) and Evans Bank have announced a partnership to bring a new workplace program to Erie County.

Work/Life Solutions is dedicated to improving workplace productivity, retention, attendance, financial stability and well-being for employees. Based on a proven program model, it seeks to help remediate non-work related issues attributed to decreased job performance and workplace attrition through an innovative set of on-site solutions. This is accomplished through three main elements: an on-site resource coordinator, an income advance loan and savings program, and financial education classes.

The resource coordinator will spend time on-site each week at participating companies and work directly with employees to connect them with the appropriate resources throughout Erie County that address their personal needs.

Employees who have been on the job for at least one year and are in good standing will have access to a loan up to \$1,000 which will be paid back monthly via payroll deduction. Each month, a portion of the repayment will remain in a savings account to assist the employee in building up an emergency fund. The employee's repayment of the loan will also be reported in order to help raise their credit score.

As part of their participation, the companies also agree to support quarterly financial education training provided by Belmont Housing Resources in a concentrated effort to improve employees' financial literacy, credit scores and financial standings.

Work/Life Solutions is patterned after successful programs in Vermont and Ohio that have seen success in increased employee retention, attention, and attendance. Employers in these areas reported 64% of supervisors spent less time on non-work issues and 75% reported improved retention, attendance, and productivity.

“Work/Life Solutions will enable employees to perform their best at work by offering supports to help them in their personal lives,” said Michael Weiner, President & CEO United Way of Buffalo & Erie County. “We know that many people may face challenges outside of the workplace that could put their employment at risk and this program offers employers the chance to be a resource for their employees while also increasing productivity and retention.”

“As a result of our growth and performance and a desire to be a catalyst for progress in the community, Evans Bank has been seeking to make a significant community investment for some time,” said Dave Nasca, President and CEO of Evans Bank. “We wanted any project to have impact, to involve our employees, to have a connection to financial services and to be sustainable. Work/Life Solutions was the perfect fit for us.”

A \$200,000 grant from Evan’s Bank made it possible for UWBECC to launch this program in Erie County. This grant will cover the cost of the project director and the initial resource coordinator. After the pilot is complete, the program largely sustains itself as companies begin to pay to have the program at their workplace.

To learn more about Work/Life Solutions visit, [www.uwbec.org/worklife](http://www.uwbec.org/worklife)

## **MORE ABOUT THE UNITED WAY**

For 100 years, the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County works to unite the whole community to improve the health, education & financial stability of every person in Erie County. United Way of Buffalo & Erie County mobilizes thousands of people every year to give, advocate, and volunteer to help children reach their full potential, families achieve financial stability, and the whole community attain and maintain good health and wellness. For more information, visit [www.uwbec.org](http://www.uwbec.org).

## **About Evans Bancorp, Inc.**

Evans Bancorp, Inc. is a financial holding company and the parent company of Evans Bank, N.A., a commercial bank with \$1.4 billion in assets and \$1.2 billion in deposits at September 30, 2018. Evans is a full-service community bank, with 15 financial centers providing comprehensive financial services to consumer, business and municipal customers throughout Western New York. Evans Bancorp’s wholly owned insurance subsidiary, The Evans Agency, LLC, provides life insurance, employee benefits, and property and casualty insurance through 10 insurance offices in the Western New York region. Evans Investment Services provides non-deposit investment products, such as annuities and mutual funds.