

# UNITED WAY INITIATIVES

DOING THE MOST GOOD THROUGH THE COMMUNITY ACTION FUND



*Creating opportunities for a good life for all by focusing on:*

Education

Helping children  
& youth achieve  
their potential

Income

Promoting  
financial stability  
& independence

Health

Improving  
people's health  
& wellness

## A MORE POWERFUL CHUNK OF CHANGE

Great things are rarely accomplished alone. When a marathon runner crosses the finish line, she thanks her coach and her supporters who helped her train. When a student proudly walks across the stage in his cap and gown to receive his diploma, he smiles back at his family and teachers who helped him get to that incredible moment. **It's no surprise that when people band together around a common goal, great things happen.**

When we look around at our community, we can see that some things need to change: poverty, childhood obesity, illiteracy, and the achievement gap (to name just a few). Changing these things hardly seems surmountable on our own, as individuals. **But the truth is, change starts here. It starts with you.** As with the marathon runner or the high school graduate, great change can happen when we come together and support a common cause; when we find a way to address the most important challenges facing our community.

***And the way for us to do that is through the United Way Community Action Fund.***

The Community Action Fund supports programs according to what our community needs now, like helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and independence, and improving people's health and wellness. When you support the Community Action Fund, your dollars - combined with the gifts of thousands of others - create a powerful chunk of change for our community.

Continued 

# Helping children and youth achieve their potential

## EDUCATION



### UNITED WAY INITIATIVES:

**Born Learning** - Birth to five campaign that promotes early learning and development

**Discovery Initiatives** - Initiative that supports increasing the quantity and quality of early childhood education

**Early Childhood Blueprint** - Bringing together multiple sectors of our community to ensure that every child is healthy and ready to learn by age five, and achieves developmental and school success by age nine

**Kids In The Middle** - Focuses on middle school aged children and their transition from childhood to young adulthood

**Youth Board** - Regional leadership and service program for high school students

Working with our Community Partners on: Early Childhood Education & Development, Parent Education & Involvement, Respite & Recreation, Youth Development

# Promoting financial stability and independence

## INCOME



### UNITED WAY INITIATIVES:

**Adopt-A-Child Program** - Back to school program that provides a backpack, school supplies and first day of school outfit for local children

**Financial Coaching** - Free program where clients are matched one-on-one with a coach to learn how to manage their income, spending, debt and savings

**Financial Education Classes** - Offering insights and knowledge about finances

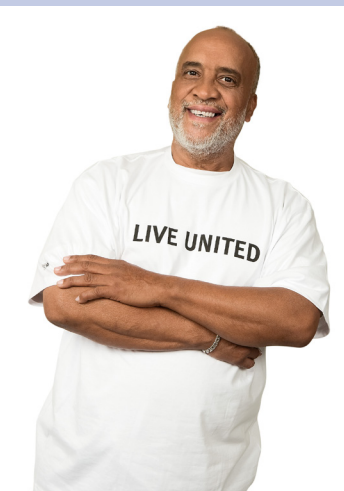
**Joy of Sharing Holiday Program** - Thanksgiving & Christmas program that provides food and gifts to families who are struggling

**Tax Preparation Services** - United Way runs a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that helps families get their taxes done for free while ensuring all tax credits are claimed

Working with our Community Partners on: Adult Literacy Tutoring, Civil Legal Aid, Food & Other Emergency Assistance, Supportive Housing & Homeless Shelters

# Improving people's health and wellness

## HEALTH



### UNITED WAY INITIATIVES:

**2-1-1** - A free and confidential way to locate hundreds of services available in our community. 24 hours a day. 365 days a year

**Community Health & Fitness** - We partner with other local organizations to support and promote health and wellness for individuals of all ages

**FamilyWise Prescription Program** - Through local pharmacies, we distribute discount cards to help families better afford prescription costs

**Senior Initiative** - A community-wide effort ensure seniors and their caregivers know what resources are available to them

**TRIAD Program** - Working with law enforcement to protect our seniors and ensure their safety

Working with our Community Partners on: Care & Support for the Elderly, Domestic Violence Outreach, Mental Health Programs, Sexual Abuse Helpline & Crisis Services

Visit us online for more information - [www.uwwestcentralct.org](http://www.uwwestcentralct.org) or follow us on Facebook & Twitter!