

It's All About Filling the Gaps.



United Way of
Greater Union County

The Time Is Now

WHY:

It's the right thing to do,
because if we don't...

HOW:

Convene talent, proven best practices,
data and financial resources.

WHAT:

Allow all Union County children
and families to prosper from
cradle to career.

The Stark Reality

Situation in Union County

- The poverty rate is now 10%, compared to 6% in 2011.
- One in eleven households in the metro areas can't afford healthy, nutritious meals.
- Fifty-one percent of households spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- With over 21,000 children under the age of three, there are just over 2,900 licensed child care slots available.
- In Plainfield, NJ, an alarming 36.3% of those ages 18-24 do not have a high school diploma, while in Elizabeth, that number is 19%. This compares to 12.2% who failed to graduate across the 10-county Northern New Jersey region.
- Among residents over age 25, 14.6% do not have a high school diploma, and only 33% have a bachelor's degree.
- Among youth aged 16 - 19, the unemployment rate is 27%, with 36% of males and 18% of females out of work.
- Almost 26% of mothers do not receive early prenatal care.

Our Solution

Filling the Gaps

The United Way of Greater Union County funds a multitude of programs and projects to fill the sizable gaps that prevent families and children from progressing and achieving their potential to thrive. Following are six significant gaps:

Gap 1: Unexpected Hardships:

Lack of savings to handle medical emergencies, death in the family, vehicle repair, job loss, etc.

Gap 2: Food Insecurity:

Hunger, food deserts, and lack of access to healthy food.

Gap 3: Housing Crisis:

Lack of affordable housing, substandard housing, and homelessness.

Gap 4: Education Gap:

Lack of Access to early childhood education, educational resource and support deficit.

Gap 5: Jobs/Skill shortage:

Need for training, networking, apprenticeship, and job placement programs

Gap 6: Healthcare gap:

Lack of access to health education, insurance, preventative and dental care and prescription medicine.

Impact

Proven Programs That Have Filled the Gaps and Transformed Lives

Family Success Centers,

in 2017, provided 580 adults with employment services; 250 families with life-skills training; 970 families with mental health services; and over 900 families with crisis intervention services.

Emergency Housing and Utility Assistance program,

in 2017, provided 899 families with rent; 176 families with utility bills; and 14,640 shelter nights.

Food on the Table programs,

in 2017, provided 1,355 families with emergency food support and distributed over 27,000 meals through food pantries and soup kitchens.

Nurse Family Partnership,

in 2017, deployed registered nurses to 160 low-income, first-time moms, to provide care for healthy pregnancy outcomes.

Youth Employment Pathways Program,

between 2017-2018, provided 242 youth career and workforce services.

The Impactful Initiatives

To be Funded over 3 Years

- 1) Family Success Centers: \$1,000,000
- 2) Emergency Housing and Utility Assistance: \$300,000
- 3) Food on the Table: \$100,000
- 4) Nurse Family Partnership: \$100,000
- 5) Youth Employment Pathways Program: \$1,000,000
- 6) Early Learning and Care Program: \$100,000

Your Opportunity

We invite you to make an impactful investment in the future of families and children in Union County. Your contribution will allow us to fill the gaps and provide people the chance to thrive and achieve self-sufficiency. If you pull just one child or family out of poverty and its downward spiral, you are creating a legacy with a ripple effect that will last generations.

These Children Become
YOUR Legacy

Return on Investment

“The social-emotional skills developed in early learning settings are a top priority for the nation’s employers.”
- *Richard Anderson, CEO and Chairman of Delta Airlines*

“The pipeline to a successful workforce depends on children of all backgrounds having the academic and social emotional skills that are vital to the economy.”
- *Jack Brennan, Chairman Emeritus, Vanguard*

“Ninety-two percent of 300 business executives agreed that children’s experience in the first five years of life affect the development of the social-emotional skills later in life.”
- *Zogby Analytics national survey*

“Ninety-three percent of 900 business leaders said that character skills were as important or more important than technical skills. Eighty-nine percent reported difficulties in finding employees with these abilities.”
- *Wall Street Journal survey*

The Gaps:

- The difference between the Federal poverty level (\$30k) and the reality of survival (\$60k) to pay for basic necessities such as shelter, food, gas and more.
- Universal pre-K and kindergarten not being available to all in Union County.
- School meal programs using the \$30k annual family income as the cut-off for qualification.
- Large percentages of immigrants (important to our local economy) with language and documentation challenges.
- Union County Schools losing its Title I funding because parents are afraid to apply.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Attention to filling these gaps will reduce the cost burden of society later: health care cost, better workforce and stronger communities.*