

BASIC NEEDS INITIATIVES

ACCESS TO NEEDED SERVICES IN TIMES OF CRISIS



THE CHALLENGE:

- Tremendous job loss has caused more families in urban and suburban counties to either become homeless, struggle to maintain their housing, or face termination of essential utility services.
- In 2009, more than 316,000 residents in the Philadelphia area received help from a food pantry. The number of people who need food help is growing in our region, yet nearly half of food pantries turn people away because they run out of food.
- According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, interpersonal violence is a safety and health issue that affects its victims medically, emotionally, personally, economically, and professionally. In Pennsylvania last year, local agencies serviced close to 3,000 victims of domestic violence.
- People in our community need the assistance and skills to prevent, prepare for and recover from disasters. Last year alone, the American Red Cross SEPA and the Salvation Army provided disaster and emergency relief services to more than 50,000 people, most of them victims of fires.

United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania improves people's lives by mobilizing the caring power of donors, volunteers, and communities. Our focus is on Education, Income, and Health because these are the building blocks for a good quality of life.

BASIC NEEDS:

OUR GOAL: United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania ensures that individuals will have access to needed services in times of crisis to help them recover and get back on track.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Support disaster response services and emergency preparedness activities through partnerships with key providers.
- Lead the effort in establishing a centralized 2-1-1 system that helps residents of Southeastern PA connect to health and human service information and assistance.
- Support personal safety services to victims of domestic violence, child abuse and sexual assault.
- Support and build the capacity of emergency food, shelter, rent, mortgage and utility assistance providers in Philadelphia, Montgomery, and Delaware Counties.



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OUR IMPACT:

- Through our role as the sole administrator of the Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) in Philadelphia County for the past 28 years, United Way is a leader in supporting emergency shelter, food, and rent, mortgage and utility assistance programs and services.
- While the primary focus of our Community Impact Agenda is a preventive one that helps keep people on track at critical transitions in life, United Way recognizes that unexpected crises can also take individuals, children and families off the track for success. As a result of our support of basic needs programs and services in our community in 2009:
 - 30,062 individuals or families received food, clothing, and/or cash assistance.
 - 24,115 individuals or families received domestic violence, crime victims, or child abuse prevention and intervention services.
 - 5,532 individuals or families received mental and/or behavioral health services.
 - 1,411,043 individuals received disaster relief services and/or emergency preparedness training.

OUR WORK

GOALS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

- Partner with NJ 2-1-1 to expand current call center and online portal (www.211sepa.org) services to the five counties in Southeastern Pennsylvania.
- Increase the organizational capacity of Emergency Food and Shelter Program (EFSP) agencies in our region to access diverse funding opportunities for their programs.
- Individuals in need will receive improved emergency housing and housing support services, food assistance services, personal safety services and disaster recovery services.
- Create a more robust, coordinated regional disaster response system that clearly identifies United Way as a key partner and stakeholder.

