

EDUCATION INITIATIVES

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR POTENTIAL



THE CHALLENGE:

- 4 of 5 students who do not pass 9th grade eventually drop out of high school.
- Approximately 6,000 young people in our region drop out every year.
- The dropout crisis is not just an urban problem – statewide, 1 of 8 youth in suburban districts fails to graduate.
- The lifetime earnings of dropouts are often only half of what high school graduates make.

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.

EDUCATION: GRADUATION FOR ALL

OUR GOAL: United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania helps youth graduate from high school and acquire the skills necessary for college or vocational credentials.

OUR STRATEGIES:

- Improve the quality of learning and developmental opportunities for youth at risk of dropping out of high school.
- Sustain the quality of learning and developmental opportunities for youth at risk of dropping out of high school.
- Enhance the ability of families to support their children's education, learning and healthy development.
- Sustain the availability of intervention and prevention wrap around and social services that address barriers to learning and development.
- Mobilize community stakeholders and volunteers to enlist public support for high quality systems of learning and development for older youth.



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OUR IMPACT:

- Participation in our professional development programs has helped more than 2,000 youth workers and volunteers improve their skills, resulting in positive outcomes for more than 25,000 youth.
- More than 125 out-of-school time programs that use United Way's program quality assessment tool have shown improved ratings in management and infrastructure, results measurement, program design and youth participation and engagement.
- Our "Data-Driven Program Quality Improvement Project" was successfully piloted with 25 high school programs and close to 400 youth throughout the state resulting in program staff having greater capacity and systems in place to measure youth outcomes and inform sustainable program quality.
- Nearly 400 volunteers were recruited and referred to mentor programs that build caring relationships between youth and adults and help improve youth outcomes.

OUR WORK

GOALS FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS:

- Through our quality improvement and professional development services with 300 youth programs, more than 25,000 students will show improved academic success, learning and development.
- At least 1,500 program professionals and volunteers will gain the knowledge and skills they need to work with youth and their families.
- At least 1,500 parents will participate in our programs and improve their skills and engagement in the education, learning and development of their children.
- Multiple stakeholder groups will be mobilized to advocate for public support of quality educational opportunities for children through young adulthood.



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United Way
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