

# Advancing the Common Good: Education for Children

## Did you know — juvenile crime peaks between 3 PM and 8 PM?

The building blocks of a good life start with a quality education. However, all too often negative influences cause students to drop out of school and participate in unhealthy lifestyles. By partnering with organizations throughout our region to provide safe, stimulating, and enriching afterschool programs United Way is keeping kids safe, off the streets, and out of trouble.

**The Center for Youth Development** at United Way improves the quality of more than 500 out-of-school time programs each year through customized staff training and targeted, practical assistance. United Way's Center for Youth Development provides help with homework, supervised sports, positive role models, and opportunities to engage in activities.

When kids are involved in afterschool programs, they do better in school and have a better chance to become successful, self-sufficient adults. By reaching out a hand, our youth will avoid risky behaviors that can lead to compromised futures.

## Staying on track to a brighter tomorrow

Thousands of children in Philadelphia enter Kindergarten each year unprepared –they don't have the language, social, or cognitive skills needed for school success - and many of them never catch up. Research shows that a rich educational environment, including reading, talking, and playing has an extraordinary impact on a child's future school readiness and success.

**Success by Six:** A United Way initiative that provides support and technical assistance to preschool programs throughout the region in the areas of curriculum, child development, literacy, teacher accreditation, and business operations. Through a focus on strengthening the delivery of early care and education programs, encouraging the healthy development of children, and providing parental support, **Success by Six** is addressing the crisis of achieving school readiness for young children.

By giving, advocating and volunteering you can help United Way improve early childhood education throughout the region and ensure that **Success by Six** becomes success for life.

## Where would you be today if you didn't have positive role models while you were growing up?

Today, Kyle is a confident young college student but eight years ago his guidance counselor feared for his future. Rarely seeing his father and reeling from the deaths of two medically-fragile foster siblings, the socially awkward sixth grader was struggling both in and out of school.

Seeing that he needed an extra helping hand, the counselor referred Kyle to a mentoring program participating in United Way's **Campaign for Mentors**. Soon Kyle was matched with a retired software designer named Richard, a mentor trained by United Way. The pair hit it off immediately and when Richard discovered that Kyle enjoyed music he urged him to sign up for the school marching band. Heartened by his success in the band, Kyle grew more outgoing and befriended several of his band-mates. He looked out from the stage at every band competition to see Richard applauding in the audience.

Each year, United Way funds quality mentoring programs that serve nearly 5,000 children annually and United Way's Campaign for Mentors advises hundreds of mentoring programs, coaches program staff, and trains mentors like Richard – to LIVE UNITED by making a difference in the lives of children like Kyle.