

Advancing the Common Good: Income for Families

Saving for a Brighter Future

Having enough income to support a family through retirement is a building block for a good life. Families move toward long term independence when they are not only meeting their basic needs but also building savings. Unfortunately, tens of thousands of individuals and families in our region lack the practical money management skills and knowledge needed to manage their debt and avoid financial arrangements and products that erode their hard earned gains.

Research shows that families with assets, such as a home, are more likely to overcome financial crisis, plan for the future, and enjoy improved social and psychological well-being.

By putting dollars in the hands of working families, helping them to make their savings grow and providing effective financial education, United Way is making it possible for more workers to obtain assets. Whether their dream is to own a home, obtain a college degree, or start a small business, United Way is helping individuals and families succeed.

Providing a path to success.

In southeastern Pennsylvania, more than 70,000 young people between the ages of 16 and 24 are neither in school nor employed. Many of them lack the skills they need to obtain a job and without a clear path to opportunity or an education, many of them languish and resort to government assistance.

United Way is committed to reversing this trend by helping young people, along with adults and families, equip themselves with the education, skills and supports they need to achieve household financial stability and take the next steps toward long-term independence.

By partnering with the business community, United Way is working to develop apprenticeships or similar opportunities in fields likely to offer future employment with growth potential.

United Way is also providing practical assistance to help adults considering a return to college understand their options and overcome financial, transportation, childcare, and other obstacles to completing their degrees.

By reaching out a hand to one, United Way is opening a path to success which will improve the condition of all. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED.

From Homeless to Homeowner

Charlene is a single mother. 10 years ago Charlene was living on the street until she was referred to a United Way funded agency that operates a self-sufficiency program.

At the agency, Charlene received services to help her get off drugs and alcohol and into transitional housing. From there, with determination and support, she benefited from counseling and enrolled her child into a United Way supported pre-school where her daughter received high quality early childhood education.

Because of United Way's child care support, Charlene was then able to attend job training sessions and learn important computer skills. She soon found a job and was able to move into permanent housing. Today, Charlene looks forward to owning her own home and providing a stable life for her daughter.

Because of United Way's support, Charlene is now a contributing member of our economy, with a bright future for herself and her daughter.