

United Way- Thomas Jefferson Area: Who We Are and What We Do

“United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area serves community members with the greatest need, or at the greatest risk, in ways that make our entire community a better place to live for the long term.”

This is the mission of United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area, and it is the improved lives in our community that matter.

Community needs are more complicated and pervasive than one program, one agency, one sector can solve. It takes more than just money to change communities and get real results. Our focus is not to serve more people with a particular need - it is about reducing or eliminating that need.

United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area brings together community leaders, nonprofit organizations, volunteers and businesses to focus on the most pressing needs in our community and provides the resources – volunteers, leadership, and funding - to attack the root causes of these needs.

United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area is uniquely positioned because its partnerships, community knowledge, business relationships and money are all resources that can be brought to bear on our community's needs. The result is that the United Way can help direct lasting change in our community that improves people's lives.

United Way-Thomas Jefferson Area's Community Impact focus is on four areas:

- **Successful Kids in Strong Families**
- **Achieving Self-Sufficiency**
- **Health & Wellness**
- **Strengthening Community**

Depending on the situation - bringing the community together around an issue, facilitating action among partners, issue awareness, measuring results, lending our expertise, leveraging our relationships, investing funds that will create a breakthrough - we will do whatever it takes to get the results our community needs.

Impact Areas

■ Successful Kids in Strong Families

Helping Kids Succeed in School and Life while Helping Families Thrive

- A child who comes to school hungry, or whose home life is unstable, or is a victim of child abuse, has a hard time achieving his or her potential.
- Parents need information and support to raise healthy and happy kids.
- Both children and their families benefit from mentoring and counseling programs, affordable child care and after school programs that provide homework assistance and life skills.
- Funded Programs and Initiatives:
 - After School Tutoring— *Charlottesville Abundant Life Ministries*
 - Child Care Scholarships— *United Way*
 - Educational Equity — *Urban Vision*
 - Family Connections — *CYFS*
 - Home Visiting Collaborative— *Arc of the Piedmont, CYFS, CHIP*
 - Parks Edge After-School Program — *Piedmont Family YMCA*
 - Piedmont CASA — *Piedmont Court Appointed Special Advocates*
 - Play Partners— *CYFS*
 - Runaway Emergency Services— *CYFS*
 - Smart Beginnings— *Charlottesville/Albemarle Partnership for Children*
 - TEENSIGHT REA•CH Teen Pregnancy Prevention— *FOCUS*
 - Victims of Child Abuse— *CYFS*
 - Youth Development— *Boys & Girls Club*

■ Achieving Self-Sufficiency:

Increasing Independence and Dignity

- Job skills training can lift a person out of poverty.
- Providing opportunities for the disabled can increase their independence.
- Transitional or emergency housing coupled with access to other resources can be the starting place to change a life.
- Some families need legal help to navigate medical or disability issues.
- An unforeseen financial or medical crisis may result in a need for utility payment assistance.
- United Way partner programs work together providing the help, training and ongoing oversight people need to learn to live independently and with dignity.
- Funded Programs and Initiatives:
 - Adult Activity Center—*Arc of the Piedmont*
 - CARES—*MACAA*
 - Central Virginia Restorative Justice— *OAR/Jefferson Area Community Corrections*
 - Community Placement Services—*WorkSource*
 - Crisis Care Client Services—*AIDS/HIV Services Group*
 - Day Support Services—*WorkSource*
 - Emergency Shelter/Transitional Housing— *Salvation Army*
 - Hope House—*MACAA*
 - Literacy Volunteers—*Literacy Volunteers*
 - Off-Site Vocational Services—*WorkSource*
 - On-Site Vocational Services—*WorkSource*
 - Legal Education & Assistance for Families—*Legal Aid Justice Center*
 - Re-entry Services—*OAR/Jefferson Area Community Corrections*

■ Access to Health and Wellness

Keeping Physical and Mental Health within Reach

- Mental and physical health are two things we take for granted. An illness can affect individuals and families, not only physically, but emotionally and financially.
- Local programs provide:
 - counseling services,
 - adult day and health care
 - domestic violence prevention and sexual assault services
 - education and advocacy with medical assistance
 - outreach to rural residents to access care
- Funded Programs and Initiatives:
 - Adult Day Care—*JABA*
 - Client Services—*SARA*
 - Health Services— *JABA*
 - Medical Assistance—*Salvation Army*
 - Rural Health Outreach (Wellness Passport) – *Blue Ridge Medical Center*
 - Rural Health Outreach (Latino Outreach) – *Blue Ridge Medical Center*

■ Strengthening Community

Providing Leadership, Volunteer Connections, Resources for Nonprofits, and Community Disaster Response

- The most important resource we have is people – it takes a whole community to get the kind of results we need to improve lives.
- United Way supported programs:
 - promote volunteerism,
 - maintain current information on local resources,
 - deliver community disaster response,
 - organize forums and education to strengthen the nonprofit community, and
 - facilitate cooperation, partnerships and collaboration with other community organizations.
- Funded Programs and Initiatives:
 - Awards of Excellence- *United Way*
 - Community Profile—*United Way*
 - Community Leadership Breakfasts—*Darden School of Business & United Way*
 - Disaster Services—*American Red Cross*
 - Information & Referral—*United Way*
 - Initiative for Effective Nonprofits—*United Way*
 - Laurence E. Richardson Day of Caring—*United Way*
 - Leadership Charlottesville- *Chamber of Commerce, United Way*
 - National Letter Carriers Food Drive—*United Way & NALC*
 - Santa Fund—*The Daily Progress, WINA & United Way*
 - Student Service Awards- *United Way*
 - Volunteer Center—*United Way*
 - Women United in Philanthropy—*United Way*