



United Way of the Capital Region is an organization with aspirations to improve life in the Capital Region AND we have a plan to get us there.

The mission of United Way of the Capital Region is to improve lives in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties by identifying the most pressing community needs, finding solutions to those needs, and demonstrating how these solutions are making a difference.

We are moving our mission forward through a thoughtful and strategic vision. Our goal is to tackle critical issues facing our community in the areas of **health, education, income** and **basic needs** by focusing on the root causes of these problems.

To do this, our United Way is transitioning to a **collective impact approach to solving problems.**

This organizational shift comes after two years of studying the needs of our community and listening to residents about the issues they care about most.

In the pages that follow, you can read more about collective impact, the next steps in our strategic vision, along with examples of the many impressive programs and services we support every day. We're proud to say that more than 3,500 volunteers help lead every aspect of our work.

ALL of our work is possible
because of YOU.
THANK YOU!

LIVE UNITED

United Way of
the Capital Region

United
Way



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HEALTH

STARTING POINT

In “*Life in the Capital Region: 2014 Assessment of Our Community*,” we learned that **significant health disparities exist within Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties, and more than 43,000 local residents lack health insurance.** Based on this information, United Way of the Capital Region identified lack of access to health care as a priority issue in 2015 and began working with the community to address this complex issue.



HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE WORK:

2015 WORK IN ACTION

- **\$1,006,239 dollars saved on the cost of prescriptions** by 10,927 local residents since 2006 through free prescription savings cards.
- **963 local youth received mental health support** to help them get back on track for success.
- **8,008 area children received eye safety education or screenings** to help identify vision problems and prevent injuries.

PARTNERS IN HEALTH

The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties; The Arc of Dauphin County; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc.; Goodwill Keystone Area; Hope Within Community Health Center; Hospice of Central Pennsylvania; Keystone Autism Services; Keystone Service Systems, Inc.; Perry Human Services; Pressley Ridge; UCP Central PA; Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania; and Visiting Nurse Association of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.

FUTURE WORK

Over the past nine months, United Way has convened an expert community task force to help create potential solutions and strategies around access to health care. Task force members are nonbiased experts with working knowledge of proven “best practices” that address the root causes of issues.

In the coming months, United Way of the Capital Region’s Board of Directors will determine the organization’s role in health, education and income. Our role in each area could be different: convener, mobilizer, aligner, backbone organization, etc. We are committed to being a funder of these focus areas, but in some cases we might do more. Our first step is to help fund pilot projects beginning in 2017 and bring together the right partners to support these community initiatives, because this new work belongs to all of us and not just our United Way.

From our work, we’ve heard our community wants to **improve access to health care for individuals and families by helping them:**

- Navigate the health care system.
- Obtain basic medical, dental and mental health services.
- Establish relationships with primary care providers or a medical home.
- Practice preventative care.





EDUCATION

STARTING POINT

Education plays a major role in individual success and provides a foundation for a community to grow in a positive direction. Earning a high school diploma is an essential step, yet far too many youth are dropping out. The path to graduation begins early in a child's life. In fact, students who do not read proficiently by third grade are four times more likely not to graduate high school.

United Way identified disparities in school readiness and school achievement as a priority issue in 2015 and began working with the community around this problem.

Students not proficient in reading:

- 20% in Cumberland County
- 33% in Dauphin County
- 28% in Perry County

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE WORK:

2015 WORK IN ACTION

- **12,954 kids** participated in after-school, mentoring or youth development programs.
- **531 men and women participated in parenting classes** to strengthen the parent-child relationships.
- **450 children under the age of three received early intervention services** to help with developmental delays like speech and fine motor skills.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties; Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, Inc.; Boy Scouts of America – New Birth of Freedom Council; Boys & Girls Club of Harrisburg, Inc.; Family Support of Central PA; Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania; Harrisburg Area YMCA; Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg; Joshua Group; Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church, Inc.; New Hope Ministries, Inc.; Pressley Ridge; The PROGRAM “It’s About Change”; RSVP of the Capital Region, Inc.; The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region; and the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg.

FUTURE WORK

United Way has engaged an expert community task force around **school readiness and school achievement**. Like the steps outlined in the health section of this report, we will help fund pilot projects beginning in 2017 and serve as a convener to support school readiness and school achievement community initiatives.



From our work, we've heard our community wants to help more kids reach graduation. Some first steps to this goal include:

- Focusing on school readiness to help children receive a base of support to enter school ready to learn.
- Engaging families, early learning centers and neighborhood childcare providers to support early learning.

NEW WAY OF WORK

We believe that no one organization can solve the issues facing our community, but together we can make a difference. That's why we've adopted a new way of work. Collective impact requires that everyone work together in partnership – businesses, schools, places of worship, foundations, government, nonprofit organizations and YOU to find new and different ways to address challenges and develop lasting solutions.

AT ALL STAGES, UNITED WAY WILL BE A COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER AND A PLACE WHERE VOLUNTEERS CAN CONNECT WITH LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES. WE WILL BE TRANSPARENT AND OPEN WITH OUR WORK.

JOIN US...

We invite you to share your insight as we work together for our community. We aspire great things for the Capital Region because that's what it means to LIVE UNITED. For more information, contact United Way at 732.0700 or visit us online at uwcr.org.



To get help, call 211.



INCOME



STARTING POINT

The whole community benefits when more working individuals and families are able to find stability. Currently, nine percent of residents in Cumberland County, 11 percent in Perry County and 14 percent of residents in Dauphin County live below the poverty line. United Way identified children and families living in poverty as a priority issue in 2015 and began working with the community around this topic.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CURRENT AND FUTURE WORK:

PARTNERS IN INCOME

Belco Community Credit Union; Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Dickinson College; Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties; Employment Skills Center; First Christian Church of Lemoyne; Goodwill Keystone Area; HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College; Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church; Market Square Presbyterian Church; Messiah College; Middletown Public Library; New Hope Ministries, Inc.; Northern Dauphin Human Services Center; Penn National Insurance; Penn State Dickinson School of Law; Perry County Literacy Council; PNC; Shalom House; Shippensburg University; Tri County Community Action; United Way of Carlisle and Cumberland County; United Way of Mifflin-Juniata; US Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service; Widener University Commonwealth Law School and the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg.

2015 WORK IN ACTION:

- **\$5.1 million was returned to local families** during the 2015 tax season through the Money In Your Pocket (MIYP) program, a community partnership which helps low- to moderate-income working families better utilize state and federal tax credits. United Way serves as the lead agency.
 - **The average return was \$1,146.** Clients use the money for bills and to save for the future.
 - **Individuals and families increased their income** by an average of six percent through the program.
 - **5,332 returns were filed** by 260 local volunteers.

FUTURE WORK

United Way of the Capital Region has engaged an expert community task force to increase **workforce development and financial literacy opportunities**. Like the steps outlined in the health section of this report, United Way will help fund pilot projects beginning in 2017 and serve as a convener to support these community initiatives.

From our work, we've heard our community wants to help individuals:

- Receive training to help them secure employment.
- Have access to transportation to get to work.
- Access health care and child care.



BASIC NEEDS



We understand that crisis situations can happen to anyone. That's why United Way of the Capital Region is — and will remain — committed to supporting local individuals and families with food, shelter and clothing in urgent situations.

2015 WORK IN ACTION

- **29,440 area people received meals.**
- **10,135 individuals received emergency assistance** after they were displaced by a fire, were unable to purchase medicine or fuel oil, or needed transportation to start a new job.
- **1,733 men, women and children** found shelter or housing.
- **29,094 area residents** received violence awareness and prevention education or intervention services.

PARTNERS IN BASIC NEEDS

American Red Cross Serving Central Pennsylvania; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc.; Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area; CONTACT Helpline, Inc.; Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties; International Service Center; Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.; Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHACC); MidPenn Legal Services, Inc.; Perry Human Services; The PROGRAM "It's About Change"; RSVP of the Capital Region, Inc.; The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region; The Salvation Army Harrisburg Service Extension Department; Shalom House; Upper Dauphin Human Services Center, Inc.; YWCA Carlisle; and the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg.