

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.



**United Way
of Central Ohio**



A blue silhouette of the Columbus skyline, featuring various skyscrapers and buildings of different heights and shapes, set against a light blue background.

Columbus is one of the fastest growing cities in the United States.

Everywhere you look, new developments are being built.

The economy is booming.

Our unemployment rate remains low.

Cbus pride is at an all-time high.

A dark silhouette of a city skyline with various building shapes and heights against a dark grey background.

Yet, too many families and neighborhoods are struggling.

More than 400,000 people in Franklin County lack the income to meet basic needs—equivalent to filling Ohio Stadium close to 4x.

Only three of the 10 most common jobs in Ohio pay enough for workers to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment.

Disparities between our neighborhoods continue to grow at alarming rates.



Together, we can fight poverty.

We mobilize people, innovation, passion and the hard work needed to tackle our community's challenges at their roots.

Because change doesn't happen alone. It takes all of us, working together, to transform lives and our community.

Your gift to United Way's Community Impact Fund:

- is the most effective way to fight poverty in our community
- supports a network of more than 80 local nonprofits
- creates opportunity for people who need it the most

AND your gift to United Way's Community Impact Fund helps thousands of children and families in four critical areas:



Basic Needs

Ensuring people in crisis get food, shelter and assistance.



Student Success

Helping children succeed from cradle to career.



Good Jobs

Teaching people the skills they need to get and keep a job.



Strong Neighborhoods

Engaging residents, businesses and government in revitalization efforts.

For a full list of partner organizations, visit liveunitedcentralohio.org/what-we-do.

BASIC NEEDS



Ensuring people in crisis get food, shelter and assistance.



DONNA'S STORY

Donna faced enormous challenges when she decided to raise her late sister's children in addition to her own. A single mom who had just launched her own catering business, she had unlimited determination and love, but limited resources. With support from several United Way nonprofit partners, Donna could focus on providing care and consistency for her family. Today her business is growing, and her children have the stability they need to succeed in school and life.

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFTS ACHIEVE RESULTS:



485,236 NIGHTS

of shelter provided to
homeless or displaced people



88% of at-risk mothers served
delivered healthy babies



1,958,701 MEALS

served by food pantries and
hunger-fighting organizations

DID YOU KNOW?

According to a study by The Ohio State University, 32.2% of Franklin County residents have experienced food insecurity and more than 16% have had very low food security, meaning they were skipping meals and at risk for health issues.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

STUDENT SUCCESS

Helping children succeed
from cradle to career.



BRAYLON'S STORY

Jim and Molly have opened their hearts and home to numerous children. Four of their six kids have joined the family through adoption, including Braylon. At 16 months, Braylon didn't make eye contact, pull up, crawl or speak. After three years of preschool at The Childhood League Center, a United Way nonprofit partner, he runs, plays with other kids and is starting to write his name. His parents have watched him thrive and grow, and are optimistic about his future.

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFTS ACHIEVE RESULTS:



92% OF CHILDREN

from birth to age 5 reached
developmental milestones

National rate is 77%



95% OF CHILDREN

assessed are ready
for kindergarten

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 21,000 children under age 5 in Franklin County live in poverty—equivalent to 840 classrooms—which dramatically reduces their ability to be ready to learn in kindergarten.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

STUDENT SUCCESS

Helping children succeed
from cradle to career.



ALPHONSO'S STORY

Alphonso couldn't imagine a future beyond the drugs and violence in his neighborhood. He was angry with everyone and everything, and was regularly suspended from school. His mom almost gave up on him. Then the Boys & Girls Club of Columbus, a United Way nonprofit partner, became Alphonso's world. The staff and other members became a second family. The support and respect he found there changed his attitude and behavior. Today, he helps out at the Club, earns As and Bs and wants to give back to his community.

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFTS ACHIEVE RESULTS:



15,679 STUDENTS

participated in community-based after-school programs and received individualized support



77%

of middle and high school students served developed skills crucial to graduating and getting good jobs

DID YOU KNOW?

There are multiple local high schools with 4-year graduation rates under 70%. Teens who don't graduate high school are almost **TWICE** as likely to live in poverty as those who do graduate.

GOOD JOBS



Teaching people the skills
they need to get and keep a job.



APRIL'S STORY

April is a survivor. She battled and overcame poverty, addiction and human trafficking. After years on the streets and time in jail, she went through recovery and enrolled in college. She wanted to “be a member of society, not a menace to society.” But April was honest about her past and no employers wanted to give her a chance—until she found Freedom a la Cart, a United Way nonprofit partner. Now employed at Freedom, she helps other survivors, offering opportunity and hope as they build new lives.

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFTS ACHIEVE RESULTS:



63%

of individuals served gained employment—a higher placement rate than the national average



4,344 PEOPLE

received job skills training

\$17.8 MILLION

in refunds returned to our community through free tax preparation services

DID YOU KNOW?

In Franklin County, more than 30% of workers are not earning enough to meet basic needs.

STRONG NEIGHBORHOODS

Engaging residents, businesses and
government in revitalization efforts.



JHUMA AND MIKE'S STORIES

Jhuma and Mike share a strong desire to connect with their neighbors. Jhuma is an advocate for immigrant and refugee rights who spent 19 years in a refugee camp before coming to this country in 2011. Mike grew up in central Ohio, and lives on the South Side where he leads Southside STAY, a volunteer group supporting neighborhood schools and families. The two met in United Way's Neighborhood Leadership Academy, where they found resources and connections to be effective champions for their neighborhoods.

DID YOU KNOW?

The ZIP code you are born in or live in can determine your destiny. Concentrated poverty affects many Franklin County neighborhoods and the families who live in them. Residents have fewer opportunities and less access to resources, and life expectancy can be 20 years lower than in nearby neighborhoods.

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFTS ACHIEVE RESULTS:



\$6 RETURNED

on every \$1 invested in neighborhood revitalization



3,510 PEOPLE

trained and mobilized to improve their own neighborhoods

\$1.44 MILLION

in grants given to revitalize neighborhoods and help people stay in their homes

JOIN THE FIGHT. GIVE TODAY.

\$2 PER WEEK
provides 62 hungry people with a hot meal.

\$7 PER WEEK
provides 1 month of job training for 3 people.

\$10 PER WEEK
provides tutoring to increase the reading and math skills of an elementary student.

\$20 PER WEEK
provides intervention services that keep a family from becoming homeless.

United Way's payroll deduction makes it easy for YOU to be a powerful force for good in central Ohio!

Want to join forces with others in central Ohio? Explore United Way's giving groups at liveunitedcentralohio.org/how-you-can-help.

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614.227.2700 fightpovertybus.org [#fightpovertybus](https://twitter.com/fightpovertybus)



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