



UNITED, WE'RE LEADING THE WAY FOR CENTRAL OHIO'S CHILDREN.



Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed in school and in life. That's why United Way of Central Ohio mobilizes the caring power of our community to lead transformational change for families and students here in central Ohio.

With the help of our donors and volunteers, we're working toward a community where every child begins the school day feeling healthy, well fed and safe, with the resources and opportunities necessary to learn, develop and succeed. To accomplish that, we are helping families thrive so more children are able to succeed in school.

— In 2023 —

Your support helped us invest over \$7.6 million to strengthen families and open up more opportunities for their children to succeed.



423,850 neighbors with food insecurity received nutritious meals



19,237 families experiencing a housing crisis received stable housing



12,300+ students received support and resources

THE SUCCESS BY THIRD GRADE MOVEMENT

Our community is at a critical crossroads.

Too many children are being left behind, unable to read proficiently when they leave third grade. This milestone is important because reading proficiently by third grade is a key predictor of a child's future success in school and in life.

- In Franklin County, eight school districts report that **less than 75%** of their third graders are reading proficiently.
- In two of those districts, **less than 50%** of third grade students are reading at proficient levels.
- Students who are not able to read proficiently by the end of third grade are **4x more likely to drop out** of high school.

Success by Third Grade brings together individuals, schools, nonprofits and community partners to address the barriers holding our children back. We're not focusing on classrooms. We're working to ensure all children have stable homes, nutritious meals, equitable opportunities and the support they need to succeed.

Your gift to our Community Response Fund supports Success by Third Grade and puts more students on a pathway to success by the time they leave third grade.



To build a strong future for our community, all children must have equitable opportunities and resources to succeed. Through Success by Third Grade, United Way of Central Ohio has joined forces with corporations, school districts, nonprofits, government entities, and individual donors and volunteers to ensure every child in Franklin County is on a pathway to success by the time they leave third grade.



[Watch the Success by Third Grade video.](#)

ETSS Tewahedo Social Services



Genesis was in first grade when she won the annual ETSS Tewahedo Social Services' spelling bee by spelling the word "went." According to ETSS staff, she practiced her words every day and gained a great deal of self-confidence by participating in and winning the spelling bee. Genesis says she loves learning and spelling, and really loves ETSS.

United Way partners with ETSS to support out-of-school programs serving over 1,300 refugee and immigrant children at 14 locations throughout our community. These programs offer a safe, inclusive space where children like Genesis are celebrated, have fun while learning and can truly be themselves.



[Watch the ETSS video.](#)

Five-year-old Jaxon loves math and loves to show how high he can count. His mom, Nakisha, is excited for him to start kindergarten and knows he is more prepared now, thanks to Action for Children's SPARK program.

Nakisha was not sure what skills Jaxon needed for kindergarten, or which concepts were important for him to know, so she turned to SPARK for support and resources. The free kindergarten readiness home-visiting program provides parents with tips and activities to be their child's first and best teacher, ensuring their child has the reading, math and social skills necessary to be ready for kindergarten.



[Watch the SPARK video.](#)

Action for Children's SPARK Program



UNITED, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER, MORE EQUITABLE CENTRAL OHIO.



Give to our Community Response Fund

through your workplace giving campaign or online at liveunitedcentralohio.org/donate.

See the impact of your gift by texting **CONNECTED** to **50503** and following us on social media.

Get involved and meet others who share your passion for a more equitable community.

Learn more at liveunitedcentralohio.org/leadership/leadersunited.

We can create a better future for our community's children.

\$3 PER WEEK

supports two local children by providing them with a furnished bedroom for a restful night's sleep and safe place to call home.

\$5 PER WEEK

provides a child with six weeks of after-school tutoring.

\$10 PER WEEK

covers summer programming fees for five children.

\$20 PER WEEK

provides a year of classroom supplies for two preschool classrooms.

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