

United Way focuses on **INCOME, EDUCATION** and **HEALTH**— the foundation of stable families.

INCOME

- In August 2009, the unemployment rate in Illinois reached 10%, up from 6.7% in 2008. In response, United Way teamed with The Chicago Community Trust to provide a special \$1 million dollar fund to help families facing crisis.
- Because of United Way funding, 9,400 low-income individuals received assistance with their tax returns last year, securing more than \$15.5 million in refunds.
- One quarter of the workforce (more than 28 million people) earn less than \$19,000 a year. United Way funds a network of programs to help working families with services like food pantries, rent and utility assistance, quality childcare, after-school programs and health clinics.
- Credit problems and lack of budgeting and banking skills are barriers that can prevent home ownership. United Way funds programs to help families navigate these barriers and build long-term equity and stability. In addition, United Way funds programs to help working families find affordable housing and subsidized apartments, and legal and financial aid for people who are at risk of losing their homes.

EDUCATION

- One third of Illinois first graders are not ready to learn when they start school. United Way funds programs that provide daycare and early childhood education to prepare children for lifelong learning, early intervention programs for children with special needs, and tutoring/mentoring programs that help youth stay on track to graduate.
- Between 3-7 pm, youth are more likely to experiment with alcohol or drugs, become victims of violence or commit crime. Youth who take part in after-school programs avoid these pitfalls and perform better academically than classmates who do not. United Way funds quality after-school programs across Chicagoland so youth and teens can achieve their full potential.

- Only 53% of Latino students in Illinois who enter high school in ninth grade graduate four years later, compared to 84% of white students. United Way created the *Latino Initiative* to ensure that young Latinos stay in school, create self-identities that bridge their two cultures and take on healthy family and social roles.
- Across Chicago, African American youth face significant challenges. In Englewood, only one in five graduate high school, and in Lawndale, only 2% of high school juniors meet state math standards. United Way created the *African American Initiative* to help youth in five communities stay on track to graduation, understand employment options, and assume healthy family and social roles. More than 95% of participants in the *African American Initiative* are staying in school, and 76% are improving their grades and attendance.

HEALTH

- One in six people in Illinois is uninsured, and 80% are from working families. United Way funds programs committed to providing affordable healthcare.
- The average cost of nursing care is \$150,000 over three years—a cost 73% of Chicagoland seniors can't afford. United Way funds outreach programs that help older residents remain as independent as possible. In many cases, assistance with housekeeping and grocery shopping can prevent or delay nursing home placement.
- When United Way discovered that children in Chicago's Austin neighborhood were at risk of getting sick from preventable disease, United Way created the *Immunization Initiative*, increasing vaccination rates by 60% and becoming a nationally recognized program model.
- United Way funds agencies across Chicagoland that provide comprehensive emergency services, including counseling, safe houses and legal support for survivors of domestic violence; food and shelter for homeless individuals and displaced victims of disasters; and rent/food assistance for struggling families and individuals. Last year, United Way directed nearly \$7 million in federal funding to emergency food and shelter programs.

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