

Did you know ...

United Way of Miami-Dade creates lasting change in people's lives by supporting 120 programs in 58 agencies in three key priority areas – education, financial stability and health. These programs are selected for their ability to deliver lasting, measurable results in people's lives.

EDUCATION - Helping children and youth achieve their potential

Key challenges in our community:

- More than 15,000 children are on a waiting list to enter a high-quality early care and education program
- One-third of students, or 30%, will not graduate high school
- 70% of tenth graders are reading below grade level
- 1 in 4 youth remain unsupervised following schools hours
- Florida's teen birth rate increased for the first time in 15 years and is 3% higher than the national average

What you should know about education: A good education is the foundation for a child's success in work and life – and a good education starts early. Research shows 85 percent of core brain structure is formed in the first three years of life yet only 5% of all public investments go towards serving young children during those critical years. A student's performance by the end of third grade can reasonably predict whether he/she graduates from high school.

Services United Way of Miami-Dade makes possible: High quality early care and education * Training for early education providers * Afterschool tutoring * Academic improvement * Mentoring * Afterschool enrichment activities * Pregnancy prevention courses * Substance abuse prevention activities * Crime prevention services

Lives we have changed together:

- More than 4,350 preschoolers and their families were provided high-quality early care and education through 18 United Way-funded programs
- More than 5,000 adults and 80,000 children benefit annually from training provided by the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education
- Last year, over 13,000 elementary, middle and high school students received support services to help them improve their math, science and literacy skills
- 85% of students that participated in an afterschool tutoring program at the Overtown Youth Center improved their overall GPA
- 1,100 girls from low-income housing were provided with pregnancy prevention strategies at a United Way-funded program at the Girls Scouts
- Last year, we focused on funding programs that engaged more than 30,000 youth in positive afterschool and summer activities to help them avoid gangs and risky behavior between 3-6 pm, known by educators as the "danger zone" hours, when one in four teens are unsupervised

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FINANCIAL STABILITY – Paving a path to financial independence

Key challenges in our community:

- Miami-Dade County's poverty rate is higher than the national average
- In January 2010, there were a total of nearly 4,000 homeless individuals/families
- Miami-Dade's unemployment rate for June stood at 13.9 percent with more than 180,000 workers unemployed
- Miami-Dade foreclosure filings from January to June total more than 25,000, which account for half of all statewide filings

How education impacts financial stability: Education is the single most important factor in the determination of a person's poverty status. An individual without a high school education is two times more likely to be living in poverty than one with a high school diploma and almost seven times more likely to be in poverty than a college graduate. As many as one-third of working families do not earn enough money to meet their needs, living paycheck to paycheck and in debt. Young people from poor families are more than three times more likely to be out of school and unemployed than those living above the poverty line.

Services United Way of Miami-Dade makes possible: Basic needs assistance * Job training and placement * Financial education * Free tax preparation * Credit counseling and debt management * foreclosure prevention * First time home buyer training * Financial counseling and coaching

Lives we have changed together:

- 6,626 individuals received financial education and counseling on basic budgeting, credit card management, first-home purchasing assistance and foreclosure prevention; up 53% from the previous year
- 1,300 individuals/families received housing assistance with rent, mortgage, utilities, and food vouchers in order to help them prevent homelessness
- Nearly 1,900 individuals attended 62 trainings at the United Way Center for Financial Stability
- More than 2,500 individuals and families have benefited from the services provided at United Way Center for Financial Stability
- More than 1,400 individuals were provided with debt management plans to help them get their house back in order; 444 other individuals became debt free
- Over 1,200 new entrants were provided employment and other services to assist them in becoming self-sufficient
- Last year, more than 4,200 individuals with disabilities received job training through a United Way-funded program at Goodwill Industries; 84% of those individuals were placed in competitive jobs throughout our community

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HEALTH – Improving people's health

Key challenges in our community:

- Nearly 600,000 individuals in Miami-Dade uninsured; more than 100,000 of those are children
- Florida ranks 47th in the nation when it comes to children's access to health care
- Cancer is the leading cause of death in the country; an estimated 2,700 women will die from breast cancer this year in Florida
- Nearly 30% of Florida residents are obese, leading to health issues like heart disease, diabetes and high blood pressure
- Miami-Dade County leads in the state with the largest population of older adults (60+ years old), more than 470,000 or 19% of the county's total population
- Almost 18% of older adults in Florida live below the poverty guidelines according to a statewide report
- More than 2,000 older adults are on a waiting list to access personal care, homemaker, day care, respite and other services
- More than 10,000 domestic violence offenses were reported in Miami-Dade County last year
- Miami has the highest rate of AIDS cases per 100,000 in the country

How education impacts health: Life expectancy varies greatly by education, gender and ethnicity. Individuals who acquire education beyond high school have an average life expectancy seven years longer than those who do not graduate high school and those who do not acquire education beyond a high school diploma or its equivalent. While obesity is on the increase among all Americans, the more educated and affluent are less likely to be overweight or obese. Less-educated individuals tend to have fewer resources to negotiate the health care system and pay for health care, tend to live in more stressful environments, and have less access to knowledge regarding healthy behaviors and practices. Low income and poor older adults are at a higher risk of having inadequate resources for food.

Services United Way of Miami-Dade makes possible: Access to the health care system * Preventive health screenings * HIV/AIDS education and testing * Help with daily living and nutritious meals for older adults * Caregiver respite and support * Counseling for families * Parent education * Child abuse and neglect prevention * Support for children in foster care * Services for domestic violence victims

Lives we have changed together:

- More than 7,300 individuals received breast and cervical cancer education; of that number, more than 2,000 women received life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings
- Nearly 2,400 individuals received cardiovascular screening; of that number, more than half were referred to a physician for treatment
- Through the United Way/FamilyWise partnership, Miami-Dade residents saved more than \$1 million on prescription medication since the program's launch
- 3,200 older adults took part in social, education and recreational activities as well as fitness and nutrition classes to maintain an active mind and body
- 9,000 seniors were provided with community-based home care services, personal care, emergency and basic care services
- Last year, nearly 10,500 seniors regularly received hot, nutritious meals
- 95% of individuals who received domestic violence counseling, reported they are free from verbal, sexual and physical abuse
- 3,800 individuals were screened for HIV/AIDS by a United Way-funded program at Empower U