

# EDUCATION: SCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN

You help children and youth achieve their potential through United Way



Each year in our region, almost 1,100 students who enter ninth grade fail to graduate with their peers four years later because they drop out of school.

**T**he future of our region lies in the hands of our children. We all want to see our children grow into adults who are accomplished members of our workforce and strong leaders of our community. Now is the time to invest in our youth and positively influence the future.

When the school bell rings at the end of the day, many of our youth go home to empty houses or hang out without supervision. The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are the peak time for juvenile crime and experimentation with risky activities. Youth need support and adult role models to help them stay on track and graduate from high school.

Youth who attend quality programs while they are not in school also receive help and support to deal with difficult situations at home. That kind of support can make all the difference in helping children remain in school and become productive members of our community.

That's why, with your help, United Way supports quality after-school and prevention programs. Research shows that these programs are our best opportunities to help youth reduce risky behaviors and improve their academic and social skills.

United Way support and services encompass:

- **Giving school-age children and youth positive places to be outside of school.**

When kids have access to programs that help them develop socially, academically and emotionally, they have the opportunity to become better students and stronger members of our community. These programs are critical to ensuring that children stay in school and join the workforce as adults.

- **Helping kids stay in school by overcoming barriers to learning.**

Children who are struggling academically may be dealing with issues in their lives outside the classroom, or they may be coping with emotional challenges or learning disabilities. They need help to solve those problems to have the opportunity to become better students. United Way supports programs that bring services into the schools to help children and programs that work with the entire family.

- **Providing opportunities for youth to find role models and learn to make healthy choices.**

Having a mentor can make all the difference for children and teens who are learning to find their way in the world. Teens in particular may need help to navigate the changing landscape of adolescence. United Way is committed to supporting programs that connect youth with adult role models and with the information they need to make responsible decisions.

# YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES



After nine years of attending the Petersburg Boys & Girls Club, 16-year-old Rashella knows that she can make her dreams come true. The club offers Rashella and 100 more Petersburg-area children a safe place to go after school, where adults serve as positive role models and teach them how to reach their goals. During her time at the club, Rashella has conquered bad habits, improved her attitude and matured into a leader who guides the club's elementary school students to make good choices. The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond are supported by United Way's **Community Action Fund**, and your investment is changing the lives of hundreds of children like Rashella.



## YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT

Your contribution of **\$2 per week** provides more than one week of activities for a child in a quality program outside of school. This safe, nurturing environment gives that child a positive alternative to risky activities.

Your gift of **\$10 per week** provides a child with 6 months of mentoring with a big brother or big sister. Having a mentor makes all the difference for youth who are learning to find their way in the world.

Your Leadership donation of **\$20 per week** gives six children from low-income families the opportunity to participate in one year of weekly group activities lead by scouting organizations. You are giving these children the chance to learn skills and have experiences that wouldn't be available otherwise.

### GIVE.

Make an investment in our community. Through the Community Action Fund, our gifts, whether \$2 a week or \$20 a week, are pooled together and invested to make lasting change.

### ADVOCATE.

Champion the cause and speak out. Everyone in our community needs to know the importance of quality after-school care.

### VOLUNTEER.

Give the gift of you. To find ways to get involved, visit our website at [www.yourunitedway.org](http://www.yourunitedway.org) or call 2-1-1.