

EDUCATION

Helping children and youth achieve their potential



Programs supported by United Way's Community Action Fund

Agency Name	Program	Description
Big Brothers Big Sisters	<i>Youth and Teen Programs</i>	Big Brothers Big Sisters recruits, screens, trains, and supports adult volunteers who are then matched with children in need of one-to-one mentoring relationships with caring, committed, positive role models. During “match” meetings, volunteers and children do activities designed to strengthen the Little Brother’s or Sister’s internal assets. These assets are defined through input from the child, his or her parents, and a counselor or teacher when appropriate, and are agreed upon by the volunteer and child at the onset of the match. Match plans and activities may be as simple as learning to build a birdhouse or as complex as designing a summer project to keep the Little Brother or Sister focused and away from surrounding negative influences. Most importantly, the volunteer and child work on becoming life-long friends.
Boy Scouts	<i>Scoutreach</i>	Scoutreach provides the additional resources necessary to deliver high quality Scouting programs in low-income neighborhoods. With positive, adult role models, the program serves neighborhood youth in a fun, safe, and structured environment. The program promotes experiential learning, bonding, competency building, character development, public recognition for positive behavior, resiliency, community building activities, and development of self-identity.
Boys and Girls Clubs Metro Richmond	<i>Youth and Teen Programs</i>	The Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond provides a comprehensive program strategy designed to engage youth, stimulate their interests, realize their full potential, and provide them with skills essential for a successful transition into adulthood. Youth ranging from 6 to 18 years of age participate in activities that focus on character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skill development, drug/alcohol prevention, the arts, and sports, fitness, and recreation.

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Central Virginia Legal Aid Services	<i>Domestic Violence Victim Advocacy Project</i>	<p>The Project provides free legal advice and representation to low-income victims of domestic violence in order to increase the health and safety of victims and their children. New clients are accepted five days a week. Prospective clients are screened for income eligibility over the telephone and, if eligible, referred to either a staff or pro bono attorney for services. Most of the cases handled involve protective orders, custody, and child and/or spousal support. By helping victims obtain protective orders against their abusers, custody of their children, and financial support, the program enables them to protect themselves and their children from future physical and mental harm.</p>
Children’s Home Society	<i>Adoption</i>	<p>The adoption program works to ensure that children eligible for adoption are placed in safe, permanent homes. As some children cannot stay with their birth families, alternative placements must be found. The program identifies the needs of these children through social, medical, and psychological assessments. Once a child’s needs have been identified, the program locates the most appropriate family to meet those needs. After careful review, placements are made and supervisory home visits are conducted to ensure the child’s needs are being met appropriately.</p>
	<i>Foster Care</i>	<p>The Foster Care program provides children with safe, nurturing homes while their birth parents prepare for their return or adoption plans are developed. While children are in foster care, the program works to meet their physical and emotional needs through an extensive network of resources. Caseworker visits are conducted at least once every thirty days and at least every other visit takes place in the foster home. Direct services are provided to foster parents, birth parents, and extended family as well as to children who are old enough to benefit from counseling. Clothing, formula, transportation, and medical care may also be provided through the program. Whether a return home or an adoption is in a child’s future, this program works to ensure that a smooth transition is planned and executed.</p>
	<i>Pregnancy Counseling and Birth Parent Services</i>	<p>The Children’s Home Society provides impartial, non-directive counseling to enable clients to make the best possible decisions for themselves and their children. A team of experienced counselors help clients explore all of their options. It is common for staff to work with extended family members and birth fathers as well as birth mothers. This often helps individuals develop communication and problem-solving skills as they make decisions for the future. In addition, the program uses an extensive network of referral sources to assist women in applying for benefits, locating housing, obtaining employment, and accessing other needed services. For those parents who believe their children will be able to rejoin them following a foster care placement, the program uses social workers and foster parents to help prepare them for parenthood through teaching and modeling.</p>

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ChildSavers	<i>Counseling</i>	ChildSavers is the only community-based, nonprofit mental health program in Richmond that focuses exclusively on the evaluation and treatment of children with emotional and behavioral disorders. The program's Master-level clinicians and Board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist work with children between the ages of 2 and 17 using a proven child guidance model that comprises elements of psychiatry, psychology, and social work. Therapeutic techniques vary depending on the diagnosis and child, but might include cognitive/behavioral therapy, art therapy, and/or client-led play therapy, through which children act out their feelings and depict their experiences using toys and/or a sand tray. Play therapy allows children to process their experiences and gain some measure of closure. Staff also work with the child's family and other support systems to determine how to best meet each child's needs. This combination of psychiatric services, therapeutic services, and parental education and consultation is instrumental in effectively meeting the needs of these vulnerable children and their families. The program has been providing mental health services in Richmond since 1924 and has never turned a client away because of an inability to pay.
Commonwealth Catholic Charities	<i>Seton Center</i>	The Seton Center program provides pregnancy counseling and support services to women, links them to community resources, and helps them develop safe and permanent plans for their babies. Staff members assess clients' needs, offer referrals to community services, and provide counseling as the client decides on the future plans for her child. Support services and referrals are offered to assist clients in parenting their children. If this is not possible, the potential for placing the child with a relative is explored. If the client/couple choose an adoption plan, there are waiting families who are studied and approved by the adoption staff. The client/couple can select and meet potential adoptive families, and birth and adoptive parents have an opportunity to share their hopes and dreams for the child. After the baby is born, if the birth family still wants to proceed with the adoption plan, the baby is placed with the adoptive family. Letters and photos are exchanged through the agency for as long as the birth family chooses.
	<i>Refugee Resettlement</i>	This program resettles refugees and assists immigrants, empowering them to build new lives in a welcoming community. Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State, Refugee Resettlement commits to resettling 100-170 refugees each year from dangerous situations in repressive or warring countries. Services include airport pickup, housing assistance (Refugee Resettlement pays deposits and furnishes appropriate housing for each refugee family), and provision of food, clothing, and other necessities. The program also provides an orientation in the newcomer's native language, helps clients to secure a Social Security card, apply for Medicaid and food stamps, obtain health screenings and provides transportation and interpretation for medical visits. Staff members assess clients' needs and provide case management and supportive services including assistance with school enrollment, employment assessment and job placement, and English instruction.
	<i>School Liaison for Refugee and Immigrant Children</i>	Refugee and immigrant children often arrive in the U.S. with educational gaps (due to upheaval, languishing in refugee camps, and lack of opportunity), little or no knowledge of English, and a lack of familiarity with our educational system. Parents are ill prepared for supporting their children's education, as some never attended school in their home countries. In addition, area schools do not understand the culture and experiences of their new students and do not have appropriate strategies for teaching and integrating new populations. This program works with students, families, and schools to help refugee and immigrant youth succeed in school. The school liaison targets new arrivals, as well as those here longer, who have non-English speaking parents and are experiencing difficulties. School liaisons orient parents to the U.S. educational system and the opportunities provided by education. They bring the family to the school and assist with registration and placement. Parents are also taught to ask their children about the school day, make time for homework, examine book

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		bags, and look for notes. The program orients schools to the new students, facilitates parent-teacher interaction, and recruits, screens, trains, and places tutors to reinforce the concepts learned in school and English comprehension. Children are enrolled in extra-curricular activities to increase interaction with American children.
Communities in Schools of Richmond, Inc.	<i>Youth and Teen Programs</i>	Communities in Schools provides children with the resources they need to successfully learn and stay in school. Program staff complete needs and assets assessments of partner schools and surrounding communities and pull together local service providers to form a Student Assistance Team. The team, which consists of a staff person, key school staff, social workers, specialized counselors, and personnel from public and nonprofit partner agencies, delivers needed supports and resources directly in the schools. By bringing resources into schools, families no longer have to negotiate through a maze of public and private agencies that may be located in many different places. Students are connected with many different types of services, including one-on-one mentoring, before/after school programs, career development and employment training, gang and substance abuse prevention, health screenings and education, literacy and tutoring, and community service projects.
Fan Free Clinic	<i>Women and Children's Health Initiative</i>	The initiative addresses the physical health of uninsured and underinsured women and children in a safe and supportive environment. The medical clinic relies on volunteer medical professionals (medical doctors, nurse practitioners, and pediatric residents) to provide services. The program provides pediatric visits and access to family planning with a medical provider at no charge. Community Health Outreach Workers continue to refer women of childbearing age for services in the clinic, providing education and medical referrals to the most at-risk population.
Family Lifeline	<i>CHIP Family Case Management</i>	CHIP works with parents to improve the health and wellbeing of their children. The program uses teams that visit families in their homes and develop relationships by building on the positive and not focusing on the negative. Each team consists of an Outreach Worker, Registered Nurse, and Mental Health Clinician. The Outreach Worker instructs and models life and parenting skills, assists parents in learning how to use community resources, and helps parents learn ways to solve life's problems. The RN provides critical health and developmental assessments, health education, and coordinates the family's health care. In addition, the Mental Health Clinician provides a social-emotional assessment of the family and a mental health assessment of the primary care giver. If the assessment indicates a need for mental health treatment, the clinician can provide this service in the parent's home or refer the family to a community provider when necessary.
	<i>Healthy Families Henrico County/ North Richmond</i>	This program works to ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn when they reach school age. Services are designed to strengthen families, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and promote optimal child development. The program also seeks to increase positive parenting knowledge and behavior and prevent child abuse and neglect. Virtually all services are provided in the families' homes. Home visitors help families learn positive health behaviors during pregnancy, promote infant and child health, and provide helpful information about child development. Parents also learn to interact with their children in positive ways, foster child development and school readiness, and locate community resources.

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Friends Association for Children	<i>Pre-School Child Day Care</i>	Friends Association for Children provides a low-cost preschool and childcare program designed to stimulate and support early childhood growth and development. The program utilizes the Creative Curriculum, which places a strong emphasis on preparing children for kindergarten and incorporates learning activities in four areas of development: social/emotional, physical, cognitive, and language. Friends strives to create an environment that meets the social, emotional, physical, and nutritional needs of children and allows children to make choices, solve problems, and work at their own pace.
Friends Association for Children	<i>Family Development Service</i>	Friends' Family Development Service offers support, education, and appropriate interventions to children and families experiencing difficulties in the home. The program assists parents who have children enrolled in preschool and school age childcare programs. Staff work with these families to ensure that stable family units are developed and maintained, encourage a wholesome family life that supports the childcare program service objectives for children, and assist parents with their parenting and vocational skills. Services include supportive counseling, vocational coaching, and referrals to GED/literacy training. Additionally, all parents are members of the Parent Advisory Council, which meets monthly to discuss agency programs and provide parent education sessions.
	<i>School-Age Child Care</i>	This curriculum-based program is for children 5 to 12 years of age. It promotes physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development and strives to help children succeed in school. In addition, the program helps children to better understand themselves, develop self-confidence, understand the needs and desires of other children, constructively manage their emotions, and increase their knowledge and understanding of the world. Participants are primarily children of working parents who attend schools in neighborhoods adjacent to each of the three Friends facilities in the metropolitan Richmond area.
Girl Scouts	<i>Youth and Teen Programs</i>	Girl Scouting encourages girls to develop their full potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and decisions; and contribute to the improvement of society. Program activities are carried out in small groups with volunteer adult leadership and provide a wide range of activities to meet the needs and interests of girls ages 5 through 17. Activities are designed for girls to learn and practice making strong decisions, care for and be considerate of others, accept the consequences of their actions, show responsibility, set and follow through with goals, resolve conflict, manage and organize resources, and carry out their roles as a member of a team.
Greater Richmond ARC	<i>Camp Baker</i>	Camp Baker meets the respite needs of families by offering flexible, year-round programs seven days a week. The program allows families to get a break from the daily and demanding care of family members, while campers enjoy therapeutic recreation, socialization, and learning in a fun and safe environment. Programs include nine, one-week residential summer camp sessions, a 48-hour weekend respite program, an emergency respite program, after-school care for school-aged children, and adult day support. Most campers, many of whom have complex disabilities and associated medical and behavioral problems, need very structured programs and a high level of staff support. Therefore, the program maintains a 1 to 3 staff-to-participant ratio to assure their health and safety.

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Greater Richmond Arc	<i>Industrial Services Employment Program</i>	<p>The ARC Industrial Services program helps adults with mental retardation and other disabilities obtain and retain employment. Some adults who are unable to work in a competitive community environment are employed through the ARC Industrial Services production facility and mobile road crew. Other adults work as short-term employees during a brief assessment and training period or they are placed in community businesses, where they receive the support of employment specialists and are paid by their employers. In addition, the program contracts with federal and state government sites and places some participants in these work locations. By providing a variety of employment programs, participants have opportunities to work at levels that are appropriate for their individual strengths, needs, and preferences. The program allows individuals with disabilities to learn the meaning, value, and demands of work and to improve their work and social skills. Barriers to employment, such as transportation, medication, and behavior management needs, are routinely addressed in order to increase the potential for successful employment.</p>
	<i>Infant and Child Development Services</i>	<p>This program offers more than medical rehabilitation for children with developmental disabilities and delays. A multidisciplinary team -- which includes the family, occupational, physical, and speech therapists, early childhood educators and/or social workers -- develops a plan of care that is best suited for the entire family. Flexible services are offered in settings that meet the needs of both the child and family; close to 90% of visits are in homes, daycare facilities, shelters or community sites where children typically play and learn. Settings and services build on child and family strengths and address needs that affect a child's ability to develop functional skills for successful family participation, school learning, community inclusion, and improved quality of life. In addition to therapy services, groups allow children to develop skills through play, most often with non-disabled peers in transitional or inclusionary community settings. Transportation services are available to assure that every child and family can participate to the level that is best suited to their needs. Services are designed to help families address their immediate concerns and feel hopeful about the future.</p>
Hanover Arc	<i>Community Integration and Independence</i>	<p>This program addresses the respite, education, recreation, adaptive equipment, and advocacy needs of children and adults with mental retardation and their families. Program services include outreach, transportation, supervision, and financial aid enabling adults to participate in community recreational events. Due to individual needs, services are designed to allow self-determination and choice. Staff also advocate for and facilitate the development of programs by other agencies, thereby leveraging limited funds.</p>
Jewish Family Services	<i>Family Counseling</i>	<p>The Family Counseling program provides subsidized individual, marital, family, and group counseling for mental health problems ranging from temporary life-adjustment difficulties to life-threatening depression. Many of those served are poor, working poor, and uninsured. Counseling services are provided by experienced licensed clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors, and psychologists. Counseling services for homebound elderly and disabled persons are offered in their own homes. The program also provides psychological evaluations for low-income, uninsured children and adolescents for disorders related to behavior and learning, mental retardation, maladaptive relational patterns, and attention-deficit.</p>

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Jewish Family Services and Weinstein Jewish Community Center Special Needs Collaborative	<i>Children & Adults with Special Needs</i>	<p>This effort between Jewish Family Services and the Weinstein Jewish Community Center serves individuals with developmental disabilities who lack social, educational, and recreational opportunities. Program services include case management, counseling, support groups, inclusive preschool, childcare, and camp programs, drama programs, recreational and social skills activities, adaptive physical education, and transportation for group activities. The program also offers advocacy and empowerment opportunities, training and referral for caregivers, parent education workshops, and teacher training. Programming takes place at both the Weinstein Jewish Community Center and at Jewish Family Services.</p>
Quin Rivers	<i>Charles City/New Kent Healthy Families</i>	<p>This program provides a community system of support to strengthen families, promote health, increase safety, and enhance the development of children from before they are born through age 5. Healthy Families provides identification and early intervention for parents and children who are at risk of child maltreatment, poor health, and/or delayed development. The program works to improve physical and emotional health outcomes of children and family members, increase parents' knowledge and skills in parenting, home management, stress management, and safety, and promote community awareness, education, resource development, and advocacy.</p>
Richmond Goodwill	<i>Extended Employment</i>	<p>Extended Employment provides employment and case management for people with disabilities who have demonstrated motivation to work but are unable to meet the demands of working in competitive industry. These individuals may be unable to consistently produce at competitive levels due to slow work speed, difficulty handling stress, severe physical limitations, difficulty handling multiple tasks, or other factors. Participants are placed in different work areas depending on their skills, interests, abilities, and work availability. Most are paid commensurate wages based on productivity.</p>
Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club	<i>Youth and Teen Programs</i>	<p>This Club has served the Church Hill community since 1920. It provides a safe, nurturing environment for youth, with quality programming designed to develop each youth physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Activities are offered in six areas, including character and leadership development, educational and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness, and recreation, and morality and values. The Club provides a wide range of activities to meet the diverse needs and interests of youth between the ages of 6 and 18. Core programs engage young people in activities with adults, peers, and family members and enable them to develop self-esteem and reach their full potentials.</p>

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Southside Child Development Center	<i>Pre-School Day Care</i>	Southside Child Development Center has over 75 years of experience and a strong foundation in child development. The Center offers innovative programs that provide children between 2 and 5 years of age from low-income families with the academic, physical, and emotional support they need to make positive and responsible choices throughout their lives. The preschool program utilizes the HighScope Curriculum, which fosters children's natural curiosity and interests and opens doors to new learning opportunities.
William Byrd Community House	<i>Pre-School and Child Care</i>	This low-cost preschool and childcare program is for children between 3 and 5½ years of age from families with low incomes. Parents are involved in their child's education and taught learning styles and parenting skills. They also participate in quarterly home visits, teacher conferences, parenting groups, classroom volunteerism, and family social activities. The preschool utilizes nationally recognized, standardized curricula including the HighScope Curriculum, which focuses on developing literacy, mathematics, science, creativity, and social competency; Al's Pals curriculum, which enhances resiliency skills such as conflict resolution, problem solving, decision-making, and substance abuse avoidance; and the Building Language through Literacy Curriculum, which promotes language/literacy skills.
	<i>School-Age Child Care</i>	This licensed, affordable after-school day care program is for inner city children ages 5 to 12 years old. The program fosters development of language, social, conflict resolution, gross and fine motor skills, and encourages self-expression. Children participate in group discussions, games, science experiments, soccer, drama, music, cooking, and creative arts activities.
YMCA	<i>Early Childhood Care</i>	The YMCA provides early childhood development programs for children between 2½ and 5 years of age at the North Richmond YMCA Community Center and Downtown YMCA. The YMCA is committed to providing affordable, high-quality childcare for families regardless of their ability to pay. The program allows children to grow socially and academically in a safe, stimulating environment under the watchful eyes of caring adults. Many of these children would not be able to attend these programs without financial assistance. The early childhood education curriculum is based on a combination of the HighScope and Creative Curriculum models. The Creative Curriculum focuses on experiential learning and looks for social and cognitive growth. Programs are developed based on the belief that children learn best by pursuing personal interests and goals.
	<i>School-Age Child Care</i>	The YMCA of Greater Richmond provides high-quality, licensed childcare for families regardless of their ability to pay. Programs operate year-round, providing reliable childcare before and after school and during the summer months for children between ages 5 and 14. The program incorporates the Search Institute's 40 Developmental Assets, which are building blocks of healthy development that help young people grow up to be caring, competent, and responsible. The curriculum complements and enhances formal education and provides learning opportunities that build relationships, develop character, inspire discovery, and foster academic success.

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YMCA	<i>Teen Program at North Richmond YMCA</i>	This program, which serves youth ages 13 to 18, engages teens in positive and productive activities that help them grow into caring, capable, and contributing citizens. The program focuses on building character, enhancing developmental assets, and promoting educational opportunities through role modeling, dialogue, and after school and weekend activities. The Teen Center includes a learning/computer center, quiet study areas, media room, game room, meeting space, and a full size kitchen. Teens are also encouraged to participate in the Teen Leaders' Club, which requires commitments to academic achievement, physical fitness, community services, and the development of leadership skills.
YWCA	<i>Child Development Center</i>	The YWCA Child Development Center provides affordable, year-round pre-school services for children between 3 and 5 years of age. The program focuses on enhancing the academic and social skills of the children with an emphasis on school readiness. Teachers use the HighScope Curriculum to create a stimulating environment where self-mastery and discovery are nurtured. The Center's philosophy is that all children deserve a high quality preschool education. The majority of enrolled children are at-risk because of poverty or homelessness. Parents pay fees based on a sliding scale.
	<i>Counseling Programs</i>	The YWCA operates a sexual assault crisis center offering free comprehensive crisis services for victims of sexual assault (over 12 years of age) and their families. The YWCA's Sexual Assault Program is the only certified sexual assault program serving the Greater Richmond area. The program provides individual and group counseling, access to a 24-hour hotline, 24-hour hospital accompaniment, court accompaniment, emergency shelter, and referrals to other services. It also serves as a catalyst in the community by bringing together diverse entities, such as representatives from the law enforcement, legal, medical, education, civic, and business communities, to develop collaborative partnerships to end sexual assault.