The path to prosperity begins at birth. Children must be born into safe homes with families who are socially, emotionally and financially prepared to care for them.

Parents know that keeping a child safe and healthy is no small task and doing so begins well before birth. A child's healthy beginning depends on quality prenatal care. It continues after birth with pediatric care and a safe and healthy home environment with families that are prepared to support young children. Keeping our youngest children healthy is particularly important for the economic stability of lower-income families.

If we are going to build a stronger community, we must start at the very beginning of people's lives.

**By the Numbers**

**KEY INDICATOR**

**BIRTH WEIGHT (2018)**

1,204 (8.8%) BABIES BORN WITH LOW BIRTH WEIGHT (BELOW 5.5 LBS)

THE PERCENTAGE OF LOW-WEIGHT BIRTHS HAS DECLINED SLIGHTLY FROM 10% IN 2005 TO 8.8% IN 2018

Source: Virginia Department of Health

**RELATED INDICATOR**

**PRENATAL CARE (2018)**

11% (1,508) OF WOMEN ARE NOT RECEIVING PRENATAL CARE DURING FIRST 13 WEEKS OF PREGNANCY

Source: Virginia Department of Health

**RELATED INDICATOR**

**BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH LESS THAN A 12TH GRADE EDUCATION (2018)**

1,319 (9.6%)

Source: Virginia Department of Health

**RELATED INDICATOR**

**TEEN PREGNANCIES AGES 10-17 (2018)**

486 JAN 2010

209 JAN 2018

Source: Virginia Department of Health

United Way's online indicators section features more data on these issues in our region. View year-over-year trends, compare localities and more at YourUnitedWay.org/data.
United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg funds programs that support mothers, families and children. We support home visitation and parenting education programs that ensure children are living in safe and healthy homes. Simultaneously, we work with school districts, local government agencies and the general public to address the issue from all sides.

We work directly with the Petersburg Department of Health to implement a program to address teen pregnancy in the city. By working with students in schools as well as families, we have successfully reduced teen pregnancies (ages 10-17) in Petersburg by 74 percent since 2010.

United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg is proud to support the following programs:

- Early Childhood Development Initiative: Specialty Medical Care for the Uninsured
- Thrive Virginia: New Kent/Charles City Healthy Families Program

What We Do

Supported Programs

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- Early Childhood Development Initiative: Specialty Medical Care for the Uninsured
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Spotlight

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How to Help

DONATE Make a gift designated to United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. Let us know you want your gift to help ensure that babies are born healthy.

VOLUNTEER Give your time to an initiative that supports these efforts. Email Volunteer@YourUnitedWay.org and we will help match you with the right opportunity.

CONNECT Visit YourUnitedWay.org to learn more about our work and how we’re addressing the community’s most pressing needs.

Thank you for supporting your United Way.