

## Our Impact Areas

Here at your United Way of Gaston County, we believe that if we all work together we can advance the common good by focusing on the three building blocks for a good life – Education, Income and Health. These are the priority areas of the programs that we fund. Listed below are the goals and funding areas:

### 1. **EDUCATION - Helping Children and Youth Succeed:**

***COMMUNITY IMPACT GOAL: Children and youth in our community are prepared physically, mentally, emotionally, and educationally to be successful in life.***

- Programs designed to serve children and youth who are victims of child abuse and/or neglect, including not only physical abuse, but also emotional and mental abuse.
- Programs that provide children and youth with access to basic healthcare coverage, regular preventive health care, mental health treatment, or alcohol and drug abuse treatment/counseling.
- Programs that prevent youth from dropping out of school and help them make a successful transition from lower grades to high school to work life.
- Programs that address illiteracy.
- Programs that provide parental programs, role models and mentors to youth in danger of dropping out of school or who lack adequate parental support.
- After school programs that teach youth life skills, how to deal with negative peer pressure, the risks of teen pregnancy, the risks of sexually transmitted diseases and the risks of HIV/AIDS.
- Programs that provide alternatives to gangs and gang violence.

### 2. **INCOME - Improving Employability & Promoting Financial Stability:**

***COMMUNITY IMPACT GOAL: Every individual in our community has the skills, opportunities and support to achieve and sustain economic self-sufficiency to meet his or her basic needs.***

- Programs that provide adult literacy services.
- Programs that assist with transportation (on a temporary basis) for those individuals who are actively participating in a job skills training program or who are newly employed.
- Programs that assist low to moderate income individuals who are employed with affordable child care.
- Programs that provide the achievement of greater financial stability.

- Programs that help educate working families on how to increase their income, build savings and gain/sustain assets.

### **3. HEALTH - Promoting Health and Wellness:**

***COMMUNITY IMPACT GOAL: Individuals in Gaston County have access to healthcare and resources available to sustain a healthy lifestyle.***

- Programs providing basic needs such as nutritional food, adequate/safe housing and assistance with utilities for those in need including the elderly.
- Programs that promote good health and provide services and/or education related to obesity, nutritional education, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, diabetes or cancer.
- Programs that provide assistance with needed prescription medications to the uninsured, underinsured and elderly individuals who are unable to afford them.
- Programs that provide alcohol and drug abuse treatment and/or education.
- Programs that provide mental health treatment or counseling.
- Programs that provide services for the physically disabled, developmentally disabled, or the mentally retarded population and their families.
- Programs that provide services to those suffering from life threatening illnesses and to their families.
- Programs that assist elderly individuals who cannot afford/lack transportation to needed medical services; provide elderly adult day care or adult day health services and that provide services to elderly who are victims of abuse.

Our goal is to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. We invite everyone to be part of the change. Together, united, we can inspire hope and create opportunities for a better tomorrow.