

United Way of Greater Stark County is a catalyst for proactive and lasting change at the root causes of challenges facing the community. As a convener, partner, advocate and issue educator partnering with education institutions, government, foundations, key funders and community leaders on county-wide agendas, United Way of Greater Stark County works to address the urgent needs facing our community by helping fund programs in health, education and financial stability.

SOME OF THE NEEDS IN OUR COMMUNITY

- More Stark County babies die before their first birthday than state and national averages and the local African-American community is affected disproportionately. In Stark County, for every one white baby that dies before its first birthday, three African-American babies die.
- Many families in our community do not have access to quality, affordable child care programs. We know without an early start to education, children fall behind in social, emotional, language and literacy development.
- For many working families and individuals, the cycle of negative income creates a sense of futility about work and finances. Many struggle with access to transportation, educational attainment, and mental health care, which create barriers to self-sufficiency.

HEALTH

Stark Walks creates urban walking routes, combining resources to increase the number of pedestrian paths available to the public throughout the county. Urban pathways - or green streets - are a free, easy way for local residents to participate in physical activity. These pathways encourage people to explore their community, exercise and enjoy the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *Stark County Health Department*
- *Live Well Stark County*

EDUCATION

CARE Team is comprised of teachers, administrators and staff from multiple community agencies, including law enforcement, mental health, and other social services. The team works together in a school-based environment to address challenges facing the at-risk student population. Non-academic barriers facing students and their families are identified and the team serves as a liaison between students and community resources. This helps break down the barriers that interfere with student progression and students begin to successfully learn in school, increasing their potential through education.

- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery*
- *Stark County Family Council*
- *Stark County Educational Service Center*
- *Stark Education Partnership*
- *Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities*
- *Stark County Family Court*
- *Stark County Job & Family Services*

Teen Court is an adult-led, teen-driven program in which teen volunteers recommend sentences and act as jurors, bailiffs, defense attorneys and prosecutors with an adult serving as judge. United Way of Greater Stark County continues to support and fund Teen Court in recognition of its effectiveness, low recidivism for defendants and on-going benefit for student volunteers.

Get Connected gives high school Career Tech juniors and seniors an opportunity to visit workplaces, learn about careers in their field of interest and build relationships with employees in the organization. An optional ongoing mentoring component includes follow-up visits and communication between students and the professionals with whom they networked during the program.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Financial Prosperity Center was developed to help local residents become financially stable by focusing on three primary areas: employment counseling and placement, financial education and coaching, and public benefits access. It provides an array of financial literacy services to customers, allowing individuals and families access to build long-term, economic independence.

- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board*
- *OhioMeansJobs*

Financial Prosperity Center Services

- **Volunteer Income Tax Services (VITA)** helps low-to-moderate income taxpayers meet basic needs and build financial assets as they continue to achieve long-term financial independence. Trained volunteers help individuals file taxes for free, looking for all possible credits.
- **WIA Youth Workforce Development Financial Literacy Program** provides services to low-income youth, ages 14-24, who face barriers to employment. Youth participate in classes, are placed in jobs or education and complete certifications or degrees. This program increases opportunities for low-income youth to obtain the skills and credentials to secure and advance employment. Services are offered to youth who are deficient in basic literacy skills, homeless, school drop-outs, ex-offenders, runaways, foster children, pregnant or parenting, or need help as an English language learner.

- **MyBudgetCoach™** is a proven budget coaching program that matches participants with a professional coach for 12 months of financial coaching - at no cost. It gives individuals the tools to take control of their financial life, establishing good budgeting skills and financial habits.
- **2-1-1 Auto Repair Program** helps local families get back on the road by providing financial assistance for costly vehicle repairs that the family cannot afford.
- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *Stark County Job & Family Services*

2-1-1 Information and Referral is a free help line available by phone 24/7 or via online chat 9AM-5PM at www.211oh.org. It connects families and individuals in need to current resources in Greater Stark County.

Homeless & Recovery ID Programs provide birth certificates and photo IDs to homeless individuals and families living in a Continuum of Care shelter and photo IDs to those wanting to enter addiction recovery programs.

- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *Ohio BMV*
- *Stark County Health Department*
- *CommQuest Services, Inc.*
- *Crisis Intervention & Recovery Center*
- *Phoenix Rising Behavioral Healthcare and Recovery, Inc.*

Bridges Out of Poverty workshops help organizations understand the causes of poverty, the hidden rules of each economic class, mental models of economic class, language barriers, family structure and more. It provides a framework for understanding poverty and appreciating economic diversity.

Emergency Assistance Collaborative provides streamlined and client-centered emergency assistance services to Greater Stark County residents who are at risk of a crisis and are seeking temporary assistance for rent or utilities.

- *United Way of Greater Stark County*
- *The Salvation Army (Alliance, Canton & Massillon)*
- *CommQuest Services, Inc.*
- *Catholic Charities Serving Portage & Stark Counties*

Project Blueprint Leadership development requires continuous learning, a willingness explore the unfamiliar, and an openness to new experiences. Project Blueprint incorporates peer circles, small peer groups of nonprofit executives that meet monthly to network and to share issues, to receive and give feedback on issues presented by the members. This program is designed to prepare emerging and current leaders in our multicultural community for leadership roles on nonprofit and public sector boards and committees. We are looking for candidates representing diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds who have completed their education, are working professionals, and who have demonstrated their interest in community engagement.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteer Resource Center Whether you're an individual seeking to volunteer your time, a business seeking to engage employees, or a nonprofit agency that needs some extra help, this program makes it easy for you to make the right connections. The online volunteer matching tool is available anytime, day or night at www.uwstark.org/volunteer.