



# UNITED FOR CHANGE

LIVE UNITED

*The mission of United Way of the Capital Region is to improve lives in Cumberland, Dauphin and Perry counties by identifying the most pressing community needs, finding solutions to those needs, and demonstrating how these solutions are making a difference.*

Now more than ever, we are living our mission by working with our community to address the root causes of issues. Our goal is to move the needle in the areas of health, education and income through “game-changing” initiatives. At the same time, our United Way remains committed to basic needs services to ensure people have a place to turn to in urgent situations.

In the pages that follow, you can read about this exciting new work along with the impressive programs we support every day. We’re proud to say more than 3,700 volunteers help lead every aspect of our work.

We are hand-raisers, fund-raisers, problem-solvers and community-supporters because this is what it takes to move an individual, a family and a community forward.

**We are united for change. We LIVE UNITED.**



United Way of  
the Capital Region



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# MOVING OUR COMMUNITY FORWARD

## LIVE UNITED

### PROGRAM PARTNERS

American Red Cross Serving Central Pennsylvania; The Arc of Cumberland and Perry Counties; The Arc of Dauphin County; Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Capital Region, Inc.; Boy Scouts of America – New Birth of Freedom Council; Boys & Girls Club of Harrisburg, Inc.; Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Harrisburg, PA, Inc.; Central Pennsylvania Food Bank; Christian Churches United of the Tri-County Area; CONTACT Helpline, Inc.; Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland and Perry Counties; Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania; Goodwill Keystone Area; Harrisburg Area YMCA; Hope Within Community Health Center; Hospice of Central Pennsylvania; International Service Center; Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.; Jewish Federation of Greater Harrisburg; Joshua Group; Keystone Autism Services; Keystone Service Systems, Inc.; Latino Hispanic American Community Center (LHACC); MidPenn Legal Services, Inc.; Neighborhood Center of the United Methodist Church, Inc.; New Hope Ministries, Inc.; Perry Human Services; Pressley Ridge; The PROGRAM “It’s About Change”; RSVP of the Capital Region, Inc.; The Salvation Army Harrisburg Capital City Region; The Salvation Army Harrisburg Service Extension Department; Shalom House; UCP Central PA; Upper Dauphin Human Services Center, Inc.; Vision Resources of Central Pennsylvania; YWCA Carlisle; and YWCA of Greater Harrisburg.

## Life in the Capital Region

Three years ago, United Way of the Capital Region embarked on a new strategic vision to create a stronger, more vibrant community. We started by studying the facts and identifying the most pressing needs in our region:

- Lack of access to health care.
- Disparities in school readiness and achievement.
- Increase in the number of children and families living in poverty.
- Rise in the number of families needing safety net services.

Moving the needle on these issues requires a “collective” approach to solving problems with new and different partnerships. Partners must share:

- Common goals.
- Methods to measure and report progress to the community.
- Resources.
- Strategies and ways of work.

Working with our community, our United Way has launched three new pilot projects in access to health care, school readiness and workforce development. All projects will be limited in scope initially, but will grow to serve people in rural, suburban and urban areas.

## United Way’s Role

United Way of the Capital Region will serve as the backbone organization for the pilot projects. In this role United Way will:

- Serve as convener of core solution partners to facilitate implementation of the project.
- Provide initial funding.
- Mobilize funding to support the project as it grows.
- Connect partners with wrap-around services.
- Guide vision, strategy and ways of work.
- Help develop common goals and methods to measure and report progress to the community.

At the same time we launch these projects, United Way continues to support the great work of our program partners. We remain a community fundraiser and a place where volunteers can connect with local opportunities.

*Learn more about this exciting work on Pages 3 and 4 of this report.*

# ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE



**Currently, nearly 38,000 people in our region are without medical insurance and thousands more are underinsured.**

## Community Pilot Project

The access to health care pilot project begins in the City of Harrisburg. The project helps the un- and underinsured navigate the health care system, overcome barriers to care and connect with a primary health provider.

The project employs four community health workers who connect people to care through a partner or a provider of one's choice. Often times, it's helping an individual overcome the barriers to care — like transportation or applying for insurance — that makes the difference between “staying on top” of an illness or using the emergency room when an illness gets out of control.

Research shows when people utilize a primary health provider they are healthier, and it's more cost effective for us all.

## Initial Core Solution Partners

### Primary/Lead Service Provider - Hamilton Health Center

- Employ, supervise and train four community health care workers at Hamilton Health and PinnacleHealth System's Kline Health Center.
- Provide case management services.
- Conduct community outreach and education efforts.

### Additional Partners

AmeriHealth Caritas, Beacon Clinic, Community Check-Up Center, Dauphin County Human Services, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Gateway Health, Geisinger Holy Spirit Medical Outreach at Christ Lutheran Church, Highmark Blue Shield and LionCare.

# SCHOOL READINESS

**Research shows high-quality pre-kindergarten programs increase a child's chances of succeeding in school. Currently, 75 percent of local families are unaware - or cannot afford - these types of programs.**



## Community Pilot Project

The school readiness pilot project focuses on moving the needle on education disparities in our region. The project employs early education liaisons. The focus of their work is through the lens of the school they work with to tailor approaches to help prepare children for kindergarten.

## Initial Core Solution Partners

### Primary Service Provider - Capital Area Intermediate Unit

- Employ, supervise and train three education liaisons.
- Provide case management services.
- Conduct community outreach and education efforts.

### Partner Schools

Foose Elementary School (Harrisburg School District), Kindergarten Academy (Mechanicsburg Area School District) and Newport Elementary School.

### Additional Partners

Capital Area Head Start, Child Care Network, Cumberland County Children and Youth, Dauphin County Children and Youth, The Foundation for Enhancing Communities, Messiah College, Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children, Perry County Literacy Council, and Office of Child Development and Early Learning.

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL LITERACY OPPORTUNITIES

## Community Pilot Project

The workforce development pilot project helps the un- and underemployed obtain jobs where they earn a living wage.

What makes this project unique is it's been developed through the lens of the employer and focuses on guiding an individual through the first year of work, as well as advancements in the workplace. The project includes financial literacy services to help individuals learn how to budget and save for the future.



**Currently, 26 percent of local workers earn poverty-level wages.**

## Initial Core Solution Partners

### Primary Service Provider - South Central PA Works

- Identify and screen potential participants.
- Secure training.
- Place participants with employers.
- House a mentor to help the participants navigate the barriers that often interfere with employment.
- Connect clients to wrap-around services.

### Employers

Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency and PinnacleHealth System.

### Additional Partners

Advantage Credit Counseling Services; The Foundation for Enhancing Communities; Goodwill Keystone Area; HACC, Central Pennsylvania's Community College; New Hope Ministries, Inc.; and Perry County Literacy Council.

## SUPPORTING THE CAPITAL REGION IN URGENT SITUATIONS

### United Way Support

Every community needs a support system for individuals and families to turn to in times of urgent and crisis situations. United Way continues to support programs and services to help vulnerable individuals and families. This encompasses homeless and domestic violence shelters, food bank services, emergency services and disaster preparedness, domestic violence legal assistance, help with heating and utility bills, and transportation to work to ensure individual can secure employment and remain employed.



**On average, 12 percent of area households lack access to food for all family members.**