

# United Way in Madison County

United Way programs and opportunities that are of direct benefit to individuals, families and children throughout ALL of Madison County

## **The THRIVE Network - Helping those facing poverty despite working hard.**

At a time when so many are facing poverty despite working hard, United Way has stepped up to keep them out of crisis and help them become self-sufficient. United Way's THRIVE Network has completed its first year in serving families in our community who are living on the edge of poverty. The THRIVE Network's simple solution of personal coaches in employment, finances, and family supports along with connection to vital resources like childcare, food and transportation to turn financial futures around has proven successful for clients.

## **Community Access Network - Ensuring those in need can quickly get connected to help**

United Way partners with agencies across all of Madison County to make sure families get connected to help quickly and easily. This is happening through 2-1-1, a 24/7 Information & Referral line, the network's shared tools and access to shared funding pools for utility assistance and exceptional needs.

## **Covering Kids and Families - Improving health of families through access to affordable healthcare**

Lack of healthcare is one of the biggest obstacles to being financially stable. Locally, United Way is leading this vital coalition that assists individuals in securing and maintaining affordable health insurance and access to health care for their families. Free enrollment assistance is a primary offering for this effort.

## **Born Learning - Working to improve early childhood learning and school readiness**

Children who start kindergarten ready to learn are more successful in school and in life. Through United Way's outreach to families, childcare providers and caregivers along with state-level advocacy for Pre-K expansion for struggling families, children are receiving more early learning opportunities.

## **Targeted Volunteer programs that are serving schools, children and families in need**

**Operation Weatherization** – Weatherizing homes for families that struggle to pay utility bills. This helps struggling families. We have also had students from various schools systems form volunteer teams for this volunteer effort

**MyFreeTaxes** – Free tax federal and state tax filing for families making under \$52,000. This program allows struggling families to keep more of their hard-earned money and empowers them to take control of doing their own taxes. It also ensures that they take advantage of the Earned Tax credit for families.

**Pre-K Buddies** – This program places senior volunteers (age 55+) in partnership with local schools to help teachers with their Pre-K classrooms. Volunteers work with the children as directed by the teacher to aid in early learning.