United Way helps children succeed in school so they can graduate ready for a bright future. This includes a new pilot program, On Track 4 Success, which launched in the 2016-2017 school year and is helping young students stay on track to graduate from high school.

United Way Family Center
Since 2014, the United Way Family Center at Benjamin Franklin High School in South Baltimore has helped teen parents graduate by providing on-site daycare and educational programs for both parents and their children. The graduation rate is 100 percent for the Center’s teen parents who were high school seniors.

Since 2012, 1,515 school-age children (99.7%) enrolled in our Family Stability Programs have avoided a disruptive move in school.

On Track 4 Success is an innovative, data-driven program that works inside schools to help teachers and other professionals identify elementary and middle school students who need intervention now. It provides the extra support students, families and schools need to help stabilize the lives of at-risk youth so that they can graduate in the future.

No one can create change alone. That’s why we need you.
Building a Bright Future

Being a parent isn’t easy. Especially if you’re a teenager and just trying to make it through math class. “A lot of people drop out of school when they have children; they feel they don’t have the support,” said Brianna, a teen parent at Benjamin Franklin High School. “I want to go to college. I want to have a good job. Without the United Way Family Center, I don’t know how I would even come to school.”

Brianna is one of the teen parents benefiting from services provided by the United Way Family Center at Benjamin Franklin High School.
United Way’s The Way Home programs work to put families on the path to stability. We believe that safe, affordable housing is a basic human need, essential to keeping families intact, protected, healthy and self-sufficient. While the region’s shelter system provides critical services to the homeless, shelters should be used as a last resort – and as briefly as possible – by homeless families with young children.

Families are currently the fastest-growing homeless group. That’s why United Way uses a successful national model to prevent family homelessness and quickly divert those who lose their homes from shelters into housing.

377 families are currently enrolled in United Way’s The Way Home programs. 687 families have experienced a successful completion in the program.

And we won’t stop there. By providing families with the support and resources they need to build financial security, we continue to strengthen communities across central Maryland – one family at a time.

No one can create change alone. That’s why we need you.
“It put the light of hope back into us.”

Rebecca’s husband lost his job and soon after, they lost their home. When she picked up her kids from school that night, they had no place to go. But thanks to United Way’s generous supporters, they were not alone. Through United Way’s Homelessness Prevention program, this Baltimore County family had a place to stay that night, plus long-term help to get back on their feet.
Workforce development and financial education are pressing needs. The root cause for why many families are struggling is tied to lack of job skills and financial literacy. Employment programs provide people with opportunities to obtain or improve employment and income through job readiness training, GED instruction, employment skills training and career mentoring.

During fiscal year 2016, **432 people gained or improved jobs** as a result of employment services received.

**$12.16 is the average hourly wage** for individuals who secured jobs through United Way employment programs.

No one can create change alone. That’s why we need you.
From Underemployed to a Promising Career

Alan’s new full-time job with Southwest Airlines includes long hours, but he doesn’t mind. Just a few months ago, Alan, like so many in our region, counted himself fortunate to have a job at all, but couldn’t make ends meet from his part-time job. Adding to his stress were mounting health, legal and addiction challenges. Alan felt overwhelmed until he sought help from a United Way of Central Maryland partner in Anne Arundel County, where he received an individualized support plan that included addiction counseling and other services that helped him stabilize his life, secure a new full-time position with benefits, and find permanent housing that he can afford on his own. He’s proud to be able to lead a self-sufficient life thanks to United Way of Central Maryland supporters.

uwcm.org
United Way of Central Maryland **fights hunger by providing healthy food and access to healthcare** to our neighbors in need, while also addressing broader community health issues.

**17.9 million pounds of food** (14.9 million meals) distributed to low-income families since 2011.

Harvest Helper volunteers gleaned and harvested over **175,000 pounds** of produce from local farms for distribution in 2016.

Through United Way’s Harvest of Plenty program, **4,500 Thanksgiving meals** were distributed to low-income families in 2016.

**More than 125 volunteers** and **30 partner organizations** supported the program by handling phone calls, and packing and distributing meals.

*No one can create change alone. That's why we need you.*
Finding Health in a Food Desert

Franny walks with a spring in her step these days, but it hasn’t always been that way for this Baltimore City resident who relies on SNAP benefits (also known as food stamps). Franny’s neighborhood typifies a “food desert” – there are plenty of fast food joints and convenience stores, but no grocery store. Since United Way’s Access to Healthy Food Initiative partnered with the Farm Alliance of Baltimore City, Franny now buys fresh fruits and vegetables from urban farm stands in her neighborhood and receives “double dollars” on healthy purchases with her SNAP benefits. Many of her neighbors now frequent the farm stands as well, enjoying the boost they feel both physically and mentally from being able to buy fresh produce in their own neighborhood.
The 2-1-1 Maryland United Way Helpline provides individuals and families with one easy-to-remember phone number for help with housing, food, healthcare, utility assistance resources and more.

104,941 calls answered in fiscal year 2016 (33% increase since 2013).

14,855 calls for help with tax preparation; $15.4 million in refunds, including $4.5 million in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) refunds through the Baltimore CASH campaign and its coalition partners.

Top 5 Caller Needs in Fiscal Year 2016

- 23,815 Calls for Utility Assistance
- 21,878 Calls for Housing Assistance
- 19,603 Calls for Tax Preparation/Legal Assistance
- 14,780 Calls for Family and Individual Support Services
- 11,614 Calls for Food Assistance

A special thanks to our 2-1-1 sponsors:
With the Help of 2-1-1

Pregnant with her fourth child when she received an eviction notice last summer, Alicia didn’t know where to turn for help until she heard about the 2-1-1 Maryland United Way Helpline. Her call to 2-1-1 led to her acceptance into a United Way Homelessness Prevention program, where Alicia was paired with a case manager who worked with her to map out a plan for regaining stability in her life. First on the list: create and stick to a monthly budget. With a budget in place, the next step was to help Alicia find an affordable home for her growing family. Because things like a security deposit and moving costs can put new housing out of reach for many, United Way’s Homelessness Prevention program provided financial assistance to make a new apartment possible for the family. With the help of her program case manager, Alicia remains employed, stably housed, and her children are progressing academically and socially.

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