

EDUCATION

HELPING CHILDREN AND YOUTH ATTAIN THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

United Way is working to ensure that people in Greater Kansas City have all the building blocks for a good life: education, income and health. How do we do it? We advance community change strategies, invest in programs at partner agencies, and partner in community initiatives. Here's an overview of United Way of Greater Kansas City's work in the Education impact area:

CHANGE STRATEGY

Parents have always looked for out-of-school programs that are safe. But, research shows that quality out-of-school programs are also linked to better school attendance and performance, less disciplinary action and higher educational aspirations.

That's why Quality Matters, an effort to champion quality out-of-school time, was launched in November 2009 with 10 organizations and 24 sites. In the pilot program, program managers not only found the process effective and worthwhile, but they reported a more supportive environment for students, better interaction between staff and youth, and more engaged students who had a better sense of belonging.

The program more than doubled in Fall 2010 to include 22 organizations and 43 sites, including new partners like the Johnson County Park and Recreation District and Kansas City Parks and Recreation. The initiative has also been expanded to include all elementary school grade levels.

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE)

Sixth-grader Josh Tripp thinks some adults might be surprised to discover what goes on after school at Whatsoever Community Center. Creating an active center of learning is at the heart of Quality Matters, United Way's community change strategy to improve the quality of out-of-school time programs for children. At Whatsoever, that could mean building a rocket to launch at a nearby park or putting on a fashion show of the youth's own designs. In addition, staff members are given coaching and technical assistance to help better engage students.



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THE FACTS

- In the Kansas City region, three out of four school age children live in households where all parents are in the labor force.
- In Missouri and Kansas, the percentage of children responsible for taking care of themselves after school is 32% and 35%, respectively.

PARTNER AGENCY GRANTS

In 2011, United Way of Greater Kansas City is investing in 74 programs at area nonprofits that assist children and youth attain their full potential. Below is a breakdown of funding by type of service:

Type of Program	Number of Programs	Total Funding
Education	5	\$202,241
Family Violence Prevention and Parent Education	15	\$268,638
Quality Out-of-School Time Opportunities	13	\$1,076,465
Quality Early Learning Opportunities	20	\$1,758,459
Services for At-Risk Youth	8	\$171,877
Youth Development	13	\$1,283,213

Return on Investment:

- Treatment and advocacy for 4,006 victims of child abuse and neglect
- Shelter and support for 3,401 victims of domestic violence
- Early education for 2,501 pre-school age children
- After school programming for 11,086 youth
- Alternative education for 1,133 students
- Mentoring and other youth development programming for 117,866 children

SUCCESS BY 6

Eleven United Way Success by 6 resource centers are aimed at helping children enter school ready to learn. The centers offer educational training, materials and technology stations for anyone who cares for children, from parents and grandparents to child care providers. Working with local schools and organizations, these centers provide creative and fun ways to learn by lending educational toys and books appropriate for children birth to age 8. Last year, the centers served nearly 4,200 children, reaching more than 4,000 households in the Greater Kansas City area.



TRI-COUNTY SMART START COALITION

Tri-County Smart Start works to increase the number of quality early learning programs in Johnson, Leavenworth and Wyandotte counties by providing financial assistance, training and coaching to 20 early learning programs. The program is primarily funded through a grant by the Kansas Children's Cabinet with matching funds from United Way of Greater Kansas City.

United Way of Greater Kansas City

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