

# DIRECT SERVICES, COLLABORATIONS & INITIATIVES



## VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

VITA free services help 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 looking for all possible credits.

## HOMELESS ID PROGRAM

United Way of Greater Stark County collaborates with the BMV and Health Department to provide birth certificates and photo IDs to homeless individuals and families living in a Continuum of Care shelter.



GET CONNECTED gives high school 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 mentoring component includes follow-up visits and communication between students and the professionals with whom they networked during the program.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE COLLABORATIVE

The **Emergency Assistance Collaborative** provides streamlined and client centered emergency assistance services to Greater Stark County residents who are at risk of a crisis and seeking temporary assistance for rent or utilities. The collaborative consists of 6 community partners who service the Greater Stark County area: United Way of Greater Stark County, The Salvation Army (Massillon, Alliance and Canton), Catholic Charities Serving Portage and Stark Counties and CommQuest Services, Inc.



MY BUDGET COACH

This proven budget coaching program 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.

**UNITED WAY OF GREATER STARK COUNTY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN EVERY COMMUNITY.**

We win by living United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. By mobilizing the best resources. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight against our community's most daunting social crises.

United Way of Greater Stark County builds a stronger community, committed to strategic investments with long-term measurable results.

### SOME OF THE NEEDS IN STARK COUNTY

- Out of the 165,462 total housing units available, 62% are owner occupied and 28% are renter occupied. 49.3% of renters are in unaffordable housing, reducing their ability to purchase essential goods & services.
- 3% of residents do not finish 9<sup>th</sup> grade and 10.9% do not graduate high school.
- 13.3% of the population for whom poverty status is determined in Stark County, OH (364,905 people) live below the poverty line.
- In Stark County in 2015, the infant mortality rate was 4.8 per 1,000 live births.

Statistics obtained from:  
[www.communitysolutions.com](http://www.communitysolutions.com)  
[www.factfinder.census.gov](http://www.factfinder.census.gov)  
[www.opendatanetwork.com](http://www.opendatanetwork.com)  
<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/stark-county-oh>  
<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/>



A free, confidential information and referral help line available by phone 24/7 or via online chat 9AM-5PM at [www.211oh.org](http://www.211oh.org). UWGSC's 2-1-1 connects families and individuals in need to current resources in Greater Stark County.



Whether you're an individual seeking to volunteer your time, a business seeking to engage employees, or a nonprofit agency that needs the help of volunteers, the VOLUNTEER RESOURCE CENTER makes it easy for you to give back. The online volunteer matching tool is available anytime, day or night at [www.uwstark.org/volunteer](http://www.uwstark.org/volunteer).



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 continues to support and fund Teen Court in recognition of its effectiveness, low recidivism for defendants and on-going benefit for student volunteers.



**United Way of Greater Stark County**

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## RECOVERY ID PROGRAM

United Way of Greater Stark County collaborates with the BMV, Health Department and local chemical dependency treatment centers to provide photo IDs to those wanting to enter addiction recovery programs.



## DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

United Way of Greater Stark County partners with Child & Adolescent Behavioral Health to bring Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to our community. UWGSC serves as the 501(c)(3) for the program, raising funds and encouraging other partners to contribute to cover the cost of books and mailing, promoting the program and registering local children. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library fosters a love of reading to preschool children and their families by providing them with the gift of a specially selected book each month. By mailing high quality, age-appropriate books directly to their homes, children can be excited about books and feel the magic that books can create. Every child can have books, regardless of their family's income. Statistics and independent reports have shown this program drastically improves early childhood literacy for children enrolled in the program. Further studies have shown improved scores during early literacy testing.



The partnership between the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Development Board and United Way of Greater Stark County provides an array of financial literacy services to customers within the OhioMeansJobs Center. The United Way of Greater Stark County's Financial Prosperity Center at OhioMeansJobs 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. United Way of Greater Stark County envisions a community where a cycle for financial stability exists, allowing individuals and families access to build long-term, economic independence.

### Ohio's Stark County C.A.R.E. Team Initiative



The CARE Team Initiative is a collaborative between Stark County Family Court, Stark County Job & Family Services, Stark Education Partnership, Stark County Family Council, Stark County Educational Service Center, Stark County Mental Health & Addiction Recovery, Stark County Board of Developmental Disabilities and United Way of Greater Stark County. The 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.

## YOUTH WORKFORCE PROGRAM

Through a professional services agreement with the Stark Tuscarawas Workforce Developmental Board for the Comprehensive Case Management and Employment Program, component of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), UWGSC provides direct services to low-income youth, ages 16-24, who face barriers to employment. In 2015, 7,999 youth received services, 1,645 were placed in jobs or education and 1,703 completed certifications or degrees. The **WIA Youth Workforce Development Financial Literacy Program** increases opportunities for low-income youth to gain knowledge and skills surrounding personal finance and decision making. Understanding personal finance is the key towards a stronger financial future, as employment is secured and careers are created. This program is 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.



United Way of Greater Stark County partners with Live Well Stark County, Creating Healthy Communities and the Stark County Park District by helping develop urban walking routes. Combining resources increased the number of routes available to the public throughout the county. Urban pathways - or green streets - are a free, easy way for residents to participate in physical activity. These pathways encourage people to explore their community, get great exercise and have healthier lives.

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