



Strong Neighborhoods. Strong Families.

If you would like to partner with us
or have ideas about
Strong Neighborhoods/Strong Families,
contact Angela Perisic, President & CEO,
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The future of Stark County's neighborhoods
depends upon our collective efforts to
address the root cause of poverty.

Strong Neighborhoods.
Strong Families.

*A United Way of Greater Stark County
community partnership.*



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Strong Neighborhoods.

Strong Families.

Real change starts with understanding where people come from, addressing disparities and strengthening neighborhoods in partnership with its residents.

United Way of Greater Stark County believes that we must disrupt the vicious cycle of disinvestment and displacement which damage the vitality of communities of families with low or even no income.

Every dollar invested in high-quality early care and education can yield up to \$12 in better outcomes in health, public safety, economic productivity, and education.

United Way of Greater Stark County and community organizations:

- Work to focus efforts to children and families most at risk for remaining or becoming poor,
- Support single parent families, especially those headed by females, and
- Work within the neighborhoods which positively affects entire communities.

It takes the community to work together to alleviate the impacts of poverty on our children!

Help families today by investing in the next generation to stop the cycle of poverty.



Pilot Program

Through a pilot program, United Way of Greater Stark County worked with local organizations to provide services to the students and families at **Gibbs Elementary School**, located near the Shorb Neighborhood.

Services provided:

Positive Parenting Program (PPP)
SPARK Kindergarten Readiness Program
Assistance with rent and transportation
Weekend Backpack Food Program
Community Health Worker on site

In the **Shorb Neighborhood**, Canton4AllPeople and United Way collaborated to provide:

A community organizer
Ring Doorbells for families in the neighborhood
Leadership Training
Home repairs and home down payment assistance
Neighborhood events

Next Steps

Expansion is in the works for:

Alliance Preschool
Franklin Elementary & Preschool in Massillon
Schreiber Preschool in Canton

Where you live matters.

Where you live matters!

Well-defined projects and activities toward a comprehensive child poverty reduction plan for Stark County with specific neighborhood-level approaches is what is necessary to help the families in our community.

People who live in quality neighborhoods have access to safe housing, recreation, good schools, and low crime, and are often surrounded by supportive neighborhoods.

Growing up poor is linked to a host of negative economic, health and social conditions. Studies show that children who experience poverty have more behavioral and social problems, more health issues, and lower academic achievement.

One myth we must overcome is the widespread belief that if people are poor, it is because of bad decisions or laziness. The data shows the opposite. **No one chooses to be poor.**

Focusing on programs that address basic needs and help alleviate the effects of poverty is what is needed.

1 in 5

children in Stark County live in poverty

*Information taken from, "Protecting Stark's Future A Call to Coordinate Child Poverty Strategies," 2020.

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