

Impact Insight and Inspiration August 2024

Did you know?

Issues related to poverty are significant factors contributing to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

ACEs are potentially traumatic events, whether single incidents or ongoing, that can impact a person's health and well-being throughout their life. Childhood poverty often leads to behavioral and social challenges, health problems, and reduced academic success. However, ACEs can be lessened through the presence of protective factors, including:

Access to local healthcare

Safe, affordable housing

Quality childcare and early education

Stable, nurturing caregivers

Families meeting basic needs

Positive peer networks

Healthy social and emotional skills in children

When you contribute to United Way, your donations support <u>carefully vetted programs</u> who work on these critical issues. Thanks to your generosity, families gain access to essential services that help unlock their potential and support children in reaching theirs.



AHEAD, a United Way Partner Agency, supports the social, emotional, and educational needs of Massillon families. Their mission is to remove barriers to learning and self-sufficiency, enhancing academic, emotional, and social well-being in a safe environment.



When you contribute to United Way, your support helps fund AHEAD's SPARK program and other partner programs that work together to help children achieve their full potential.

SPARK Massillon is a kindergarten readiness program for families with 3- to 4-year-olds in the Franklin Elementary neighborhood. It helps children prepare for school by building reading, language, and social skills through home visits with a Parent Partner. During visits, kids receive books, lessons (based on Ohio's Early Learning Standards), and educational materials. Children are assessed in reading, math, and social-emotional development, with referrals provided if needed. SPARK collaborates with families, schools, and community resources to ensure student success.



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VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHT

On June 12th, 50 Timken Company employees rolled up their sleeves and tackled the heat to revitalize Gibbs Elementary School in Canton. They mulched and built flower beds and raised gardens, painted benches and a picnic table, and refreshed playground lines. Additionally, they prepared classrooms by cleaning desks and adding words of affirmation to restrooms.

When students return to school this month, they'll encounter a transformed environment that fosters creativity, improves focus, and enhances emotional well-being. These updates are set to boost engagement and motivation, ultimately supporting better academic performance and positive social interactions.



THANK YOU to the Timken Team for the significant difference you made! This is the type of engagement that helps children reach their full potential!

You can check out a reel of the day here:

If you or your company is interested in a volunteer opportunity, please contact Robin Seemann, Donor Experience Coordinator at robin.seemann@uwstark.org



HOW YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE

\$1/week - provides a set of books for two preschool classrooms, which can be used to strengthen early literacy skills

\$3/week - provides snacks to children in an afterschool program

\$5/week - provides one week of preschool and care for a 4-yr old child

\$10/week - will provide 31-day bus passes to ride local transit