

United Way of Forsyth County's "Breakthrough Initiatives"

Graduating Our Future

The Challenge

- ▶ Less than 71% of Forsyth County's 9th graders graduate from high school in four years.
- ▶ Forsyth ranks 3rd in graduation rates among the states five most populous counties, diminishing our economic competitiveness.
- ▶ Dropouts earn 32% less than high school graduates. They are more likely to live below the poverty line, serve time in jail, live shorter lives, and receive government assistance.

United Way's Response

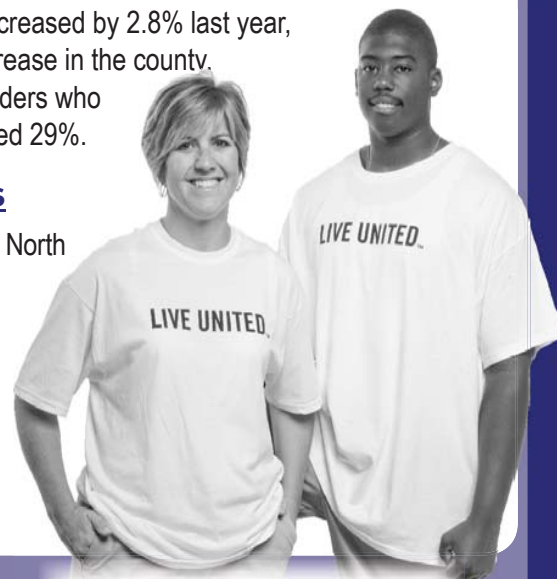
- ▶ Established improving the high school graduation rate as our top priority.
- ▶ Created a comprehensive pilot initiative in early 2008 to increase tutoring, family involvement, counseling, mentoring, graduation coaching for students at-risk of dropping out.
- ▶ Targeted the pilot program for Parkland Magnet High School (lowest graduation rate in system) and Philo Magnet Academy, Parkland's largest feeder school.

The Results

- ▶ Number of students passing End-of-Course tests at Parkland grew by over 20%.
- ▶ Number of targeted Philo students passing End-of-Course tests grew by over 50%.
- ▶ The graduation rate increased by 2.8% last year, the second largest increase in the county.
- ▶ The number of 9th graders who failed 9th grade dropped 29%.

Community Partners

Led by YMCA of Northwest North Carolina in partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters, Family Services, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.



Wendy Bartlett, award-winning Parkland math teacher, and Jairus Wilkins, a Parkland student who benefitted from the tutoring program.



Career Connections and Prosperity Center

The Challenge

- ▶ More than 22% of Forsyth County's children live in poverty. (Defined as a family of four having an income of \$22,050 or less.)
- ▶ Over 37% of Forsyth County households have annual incomes of less than \$35,000.
- ▶ Credit cardholders carry an average debt of over \$5,000. Families spend 14.3% of their disposable income to service their debt.
- ▶ Medical costs/illness are the leading causes of family bankruptcy.

United Way's Response

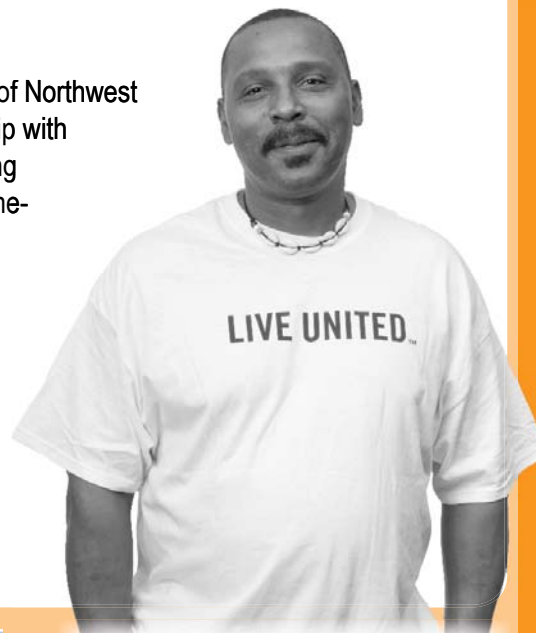
- ▶ Identified an integrated, innovative service strategy that would respond to the comprehensive needs of lower-income families seeking to improve their financial situation.
- ▶ Opened the Career Connections and Prosperity Center at 585 Waightown Street in mid-2008.

The Results

- ▶ 193 individuals increased their family income by obtaining a job.
- ▶ 215 families have improved their debt-to-income ratio.
- ▶ Over 1,200 individuals have received the services above or assistance in avoiding foreclosure, pursuing homeownership, and/or free tax preparation.

Community Partners

Led by Goodwill Industries of Northwest North Carolina in partnership with Consumer Credit Counseling Service, the Center for Homeownership, Experiment in Self-Reliance, and Family Services' Ways to Work program.



William Kelley was one of the 193 individuals who got a job with assistance from Career Connections and Prosperity Center.



Streets to Homes

The Challenge

- ▶ In 2008, over 2,988 people received emergency shelter in our community because they were homeless.
- ▶ Of that group, 110 were chronically homeless (unaccompanied individuals with a disabling condition who have been homeless for one year or four times in the past three years).

United Way's Response

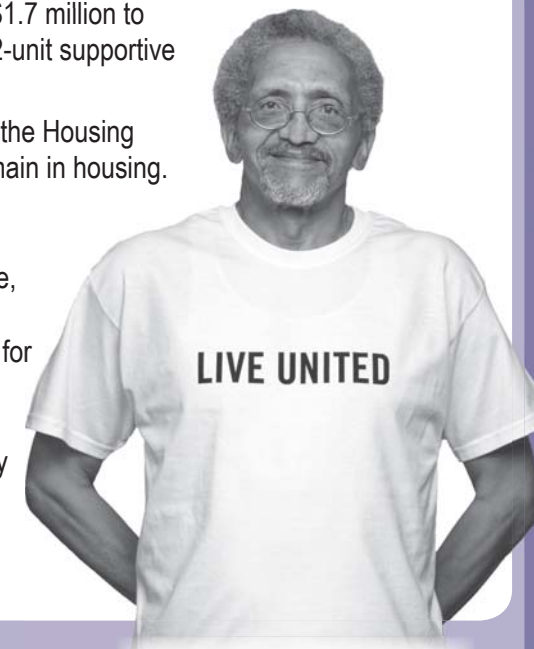
- ▶ Provided seed funding for SOAR, a project of Disability Advocates to help chronically homeless individuals apply for disability benefits.
- ▶ Funded the Housing Assurance Fund which provides financial "back-up" to chronically homeless people to assure their rent and utility costs are paid.
- ▶ Created new "housing first" case management positions at Experiment in Self-Reliance and Bethesda Center. ("Housing first" means getting individuals into housing prior to providing them with other programmatic assistance.)

The Results

- ▶ 16% decrease in chronically homeless individuals since last year.
- ▶ United Way funding for Streets to Homes was used to leverage \$1.7 million to build Hunter's Hill, a 12-unit supportive housing project.
- ▶ 47 participants utilized the Housing Assurance Fund to remain in housing.

Community Partners

Experiment in Self-Reliance, Legal Aid Society of North Carolina, Bethesda Center for the Homeless, CenterPoint Human Services, Crisis Control Ministries, Disability Advocates, and Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.



Peter Moorman is a formerly homeless veteran who is now the resident manager of The Fifth Street Project.



Med-Aid

The Challenge

- ▶ Over 45,000 Forsyth County residents are uninsured, creating a substantial barrier for individuals and families to obtain prescription medications
- ▶ Based on national estimates, 7 of 10 people will not fill a prescription because of cost. Others will not take the full dosage.
- ▶ Failure to comply with prescribed medical treatment increases society's costs as untreated diseases worsen and patients utilize more expensive services such as the emergency room and in-patient hospital care.

United Way's Response

- ▶ United Way's investment provides operating support for Med-Aid, a pharmacy assisting uninsured and underinsured patients with accessing free or low-cost prescriptions.

The Results

- ▶ Since July 2008, Med-Aid processed over 4,000 applications for 800 patients.
- ▶ Over 100 medical practices are participating in the initiative and are sending underinsured patients to Med-Aid to apply for prescription assistance.
- ▶ The value of the medications received through Med-Aid now exceeds \$1.4 million
- ▶ 99.9% of the patients surveyed indicated they now take their medications as prescribed. 95% report feeling healthier now that they are getting their medications.

Community Partners

Led by the Community Care Center in partnership with Cancer Services, Crisis Control Ministries, Downtown Health Plaza, Forsyth Medical Center, HealthCare Access, Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center and other free medical clinics.



Kathy Atkins is a paralegal who was downsized following a heart attack in early 2008. "I lost my job and my insurance," she says. Kathy is required to take 9 prescription medications daily. She is getting 8 of them for no charge through Med-Aid.

