WHERE WE LIVE MATTERS.

The opportunity for a good life begins in our families, schools, and jobs. And it begins in our neighborhoods. To help ensure sustainable change, United Way has launched Place Matters – an innovative, asset-based strategy to focus investments on interconnected solutions within 13 neighborhoods within Winston-Salem.

With our key partners Neighbors for Better Neighborhoods we are able to convene community stakeholders—residents, nonprofit organizations, the faith-based community, and business and education leaders—in an inclusive approach focused on sustainable change in the key areas of Education, Financial Stability, Health, and Basic Needs.

In 2018, United Way of Forsyth County’s Place Matters initiative is investing in 21 programs focused on strengthening these neighborhoods. These programs are innovative, collaborative initiatives that engage existing community assets, especially residents themselves, to further enhance these neighborhoods and the lives of those who live there.

PLACE MATTERS.

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PLACE MATTERS.
United Way of Forsyth County brings the community and its resources together to solve problems that no one organization can address alone.

When we Live United, we take on the hardest challenges and tackle problems others shy away from. Because change doesn’t happen on its own, hope isn’t a one-man band, and there’s no such thing as self taught or self made.

We have one life.
To live better, we must Live United.

**United Way of Forsyth County** fights for the health, education, basic needs, and financial stability of every person in our community. We win by living United. By forging unlikely partnerships. By finding new solutions to old problems. And by inspiring individuals to join the fight in our community’s most daunting social crises.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**
We help people use their resources effectively. From finding a living wage job to attaining better paying employment through training and job placement, the ultimate goal is to gain and maintain financial stability.

Through the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program, 3,888 tax returns were prepared by staff and volunteers for free — saving local residents $972,000 in fees and generating over $5.4 Million in refunds.

**HEALTH**
Good health begins long before you need medical care. It begins where we live, learn, work, and play. United Way supports solutions that diagnose, treat, and control cancer, heart disease and diabetes so all members of our community have a chance to live a long and healthy life.

Through United Way’s funding of the Community Care Center located in Northeast Winston-Salem, approximately **20,000 patients** received free medical and dental care they otherwise could not afford.

**EDUCATION**
We are focused on increasing the graduation rate to 90%, increasing at-grade-level skills in reading and in math by the end of 3rd and 8th grades, and soft skill development for post-secondary opportunities.

Through United Way’s support of **Project Graduation** and our other educational initiatives, Forsyth County’s high school graduation rate has risen from **70.7%** in **2007** to **86.5%** in **2017**.

**BASIC NEEDS**
Addressing the basic needs of families is an important starting point to help them add the building blocks of education, financial stability, and health to their lives.

In 2017, United Way’s investment in the Salvation Army’s Food and Shelter program helped **146 families** secure permanent housing.

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**$30 =** Provides one night of shelter for a person experiencing homelessness.

**$80 =** Provides one month of counseling services to a student in crisis.

**$115 =** Provides legal services to a child who is the victim of domestic violence.

**$500 =** Provides one year of intensive psychological and counseling services to a child facing mental health issues.