



THE UNITED WAY OF WYOMING VALLEY CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

## Children's Success Fund

Since its founding in 1921, the United Way of Wyoming Valley has always played a key role in funding the social service needs in our community. While much has changed over the past 100 years, today, the work of the organization could not be more important or meaningful.

Seven years ago, the United Way of Wyoming Valley shifted its focus from its historic role as a fundraiser/funder to becoming a leading advocate in addressing the complex issues of childhood poverty. In recognition of our Centennial Anniversary, the United Way of Wyoming Valley is creating the **Children's Success Fund** to advance our goals of helping at-risk children and families of our community.

The pandemic has been challenging to all of us, but has been devastating to the one-in-four children in our community who live in poverty and are most at-risk of failure.

National studies have affirmed what our local schools have witnessed:

- Students with the fewest resources and academic opportunities are on track to experience the greatest learning loss.
- By the end of June 2021, impoverished and at-risk students could be as much as 12 months behind in their learning.
- Absenteeism is up; kindergarten enrollment down; high school dropout rates are expected to rise.
- More families are experiencing food insecurity; more stress; and more mental health issues.

Contributions earmarked for the **Children's Success Fund** will go to initiatives and programs that will enable United Way, in partnership with local school districts, to respond to these needs. In addition, the fund will support and sustain many of the programs already in place and designed to address the education and health of children, and the stability of families. We will respond as we always have – in ways that are both thoughtful and impactful.



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