Lack of access to basic necessities is one of the top reasons for chronic absenteeism. For a family living in poverty, a lack of simple items such as hygiene products and school-approved attire, can keep children out of school for days, even weeks. Many families are unable to afford costly medicated shampoo to treat head lice. Some may not have access to adequate laundry facilities.

For children in poverty, lost school time means lost learning time. When students do return to school, they often struggle to catch up and become frustrated, which makes them less likely to achieve academic success.

How it works. Elementary students are introduced to The Nurse’s Pantry through school nurses, principals and guidance counselors. In addition to attire, The Nurse’s Pantry also provides hygiene items, appropriate footwear, outerwear, undergarments, and lice treatment kits. The United Way has launched The Nurse’s Pantry in 17 elementary schools throughout the Wyoming Valley.

Your donation helps us to reach and support our highest-risk students with strategies to tackle chronic absenteeism and encourage early grade success.