When children thrive, communities can thrive.

Communities can thrive today and reach their greatest future potential only if our children are thriving. That’s why our focus is on building a Greater Atlanta where every individual and family can thrive, by making sure that every child has the opportunity to reach his or her potential.

Communities that can say “all the children are well” have babies who are born healthy; kids who read proficiently by 3rd grade; teens graduating from high school prepared for college, careers and life; they grow up in secure homes, in safe neighborhoods, with healthy food, and access to medical care to keep them healthy; and have adults that are educated, employed and housed, with ready access to good healthcare and affordable healthy foods.

What stands between us and community well-being?

We cannot say all the children are well. Of the nearly 1.3 million children living in our 13-county region, nearly half a million of them live in communities with low or very low child well-being.

- While there are many organizations, businesses and individuals doing excellent work in our area, the services and resources are not as aligned as they need to be to tackle the big issues that affect child well-being.

- There are also gaps in services – missing resources, without which existing services can’t be fully effective.

- Resources and efforts are not always focused on leveraging the most powerful drivers of change.

With our partners, we can ensure Greater Atlanta is a community where everyone can thrive.

Together, we work alongside our nonprofit, businesses, volunteers, donors, governments and foundation partners across all 13 Greater Atlanta counties to create solutions to improve the health, education, financial stability and living situations for all. Alongside United Way, our partners understand the needs of the community and encourage others to take action to solve them – whether it be through contributing their time, talent and/or treasure. No one can do it alone.
United Way has developed, with dozens of community partners, a “yardstick” for child well-being – a set of measures that the community can use collectively to assess how well children, the families that support them and the community that surrounds them, are doing. The measures enable us to track our progress and determine what “levers” are the most effective in taking us to a place where we can say “all the children are well.” Measures include:

**Measures: The Child Well-Being Index**

**Child Measures**
- % Low Weight Births
- % Students Exceeding 3rd Grade Reading Standards
- % Students Exceeding 8th Grade Math Standards
- High School College & Career Readiness Score
- High School Graduation Rate
- % Children without Health Insurance
- % Children in Poverty

**Family Measures**
- % Families Not Financially Stable
- % Families with Housing Cost Burden
- % Births to Moms Without a High School Diploma

**Community Measures**
- % Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education
- % Adults without a High School Diploma
- % Adults without Health Insurance
- Unemployment Rate

The Child Well-Being Index and other data in the data snapshot comes from a variety of sources and reflects the most recent available data for 2015. Visit [http://impact.uwga.org/CWB_Data_Sources.pdf](http://impact.uwga.org/CWB_Data_Sources.pdf) for more details.

We are especially grateful to Neighborhood Nexus and the Atlanta Regional Commission, the primary partners in the development of the Child Well-Being Index and alignment of community perception data through the Metro Atlanta Speaks public opinion poll.

**CHILD WELL-BEING TODAY**

Across the Greater Atlanta region, almost 500,000 children (36.5%) live in communities with low or very low child well-being. The challenges are not exclusive to one neighborhood, city or county.
The Disparities among Counties Are Large

The percent of children living in very low or low child well-being areas ranges from 84% in the reddest zones to under 7% in the greenest zones.

Levels of Child Well-Being

Very Low | Average | Very High

Total Regional Child Well-Being Score 58.9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>Child Well-Being Index Score</th>
<th>Number of Children in Low or Very Low CWB areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Butts</td>
<td>53.2</td>
<td>2,217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee</td>
<td>74.5</td>
<td>4,384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton</td>
<td>36.2</td>
<td>69,455</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cobb</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>53,216</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coweta</td>
<td>69.1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>52.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas</td>
<td>59.1</td>
<td>14,114</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fayette*</td>
<td>82.2</td>
<td>3,843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fulton (North)</td>
<td>81.4</td>
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<td>Fulton (South)</td>
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<td>City of Atlanta</td>
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<td>Gwinnett</td>
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<td>Henry</td>
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<td>Paulding</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>3,642</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rockdale</td>
<td>55.3</td>
<td>9,175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

467,049 children live in communities with low or very low child well-being

*5,893 (19.2%) children live in communities with very low child well-being compared to the county average in Fayette.

We are especially grateful to Neighborhood Nexus and the Atlanta Regional Commission, the primary partners in the development of the Child Well-Being Index.

The Child Well-Being Index and other data in the data snapshot come from a variety of sources and reflects the most recent available data for 2015. Visit http://impact.uwga.org/CWB_Data_Sources.pdf for more details.
For every measure of child well-being, there are a multitude of factors that strongly influence outcomes, and a series of actions we can take that can change outcomes for the better. When we consider all of the different potential solutions that help us move the needle – evidence-based strategies, innovative programs, policies, volunteerism, etc. – they fall into three categories:

**Strong Foundations:**
Strategies that prevent problems from occurring in the first place. These activities and programs strengthen core skills, sustain what’s working and increase overall family stability.

**Core Strategies:**
- Family Health
- Positive and Responsive Relationships
- Early Learning
- Cognitive, Social and Emotional Learning

**Opportunities for Success:**
Strategies that help children and families to heal, rebuild and create new opportunities for success.

**Core Strategies:**
- Healthcare
- Academic Development
- Employment and Career Development
- Financial Empowerment
- Basic Supports

**Nurturing Communities:**
Strategies that address community-wide issues to ensure that each child, regardless of zip code, has a fair shot at growing up in a healthy, nurturing community.

**Core Strategies:**
- Healthy and Safe Environments
- Community Connections and Leadership
- Public-Private Investment Models
- Integration and Cross-Sector Coordination
- Equity

For more information visit unitedwayatlanta.org