United Way of Greater Atlanta’s vision for Henry County is to create a community where every child and family regardless of zip code can reach their greatest potential.

Through United Way of Greater Atlanta’s Child Well-Being Agenda, we have gathered people from every sector of Henry County to ensure children, families and Henry County communities can thrive. Our efforts are to ensure we have a community of people who have the opportunity to live a healthy life, acquire the education and the skills they need to earn a good living and have a safe place to live.
WE ARE IMPACTING HENRY COUNTY

United Way of Greater Atlanta and our partners continue to play an integral role in transforming communities throughout Henry County. Our mission is realized in various ways through Impact Funding, our Initiatives, our 211 assistance and our Child Well-being framework.

Nancy is an employee for a major supermarket chain in Henry County. According to her manager, she is a loyal and hardworking team member who is dedicated, cheerful and great with customers. Nancy has never missed her rent nor had a need to solicit help from others in the many years that she lived in her apartment or worked at her current job. However, due to an unforeseen event, she was faced with depleting funds and the inability to pay her rent. She heard about Home Again in Henry and reached out for assistance. After assessing her situation, the committee voted to approve her application. A check in the amount she owed was delivered to the Management Office of her apartment complex making it possible to avoid eviction. With the financial assistance from Home Again in Henry, Nancy was able to stay in her apartment and maintain a stable living condition.

Home Again in Henry was started as a local initiative modeled after Vets Connect. The committee comprising of advisory board members and volunteers, works primarily with individuals and families who are considered “working homeless”. These are families who have jobs but maybe living in cars and budget motels because it is difficult to accumulate enough capital for a housing deposit after paying their bills.

WE ARE STRENGTHENING OUR EFFORTS IN HENRY COUNTY

United Way of Greater Atlanta has played an integral part in creating thriving communities in Henry County for 25 years. In 2017, United Way in Henry impacted the lives of many children and families through Child Well-Being Impact Fund dollars raised that were directly distributed back into Henry County communities.

United Way continues to transform Henry communities, but there is still work to be done. We have aligned priorities to address Henry’s most pressing issues of suburban homelessness; children not meeting the critical third grade reading milestone; food insecurity; and a large population without financial stability.

Henry County’s Child Well-Being score, which is based on the Child Well-Being Index’s data driven approach is 63.2. While Henry scores higher than the region’s 13-county average of 58.9, there remains extreme disparities among Henry county zip codes, with the lowest-scoring zip code rating 23.7 and the highest 81.9. This rating gap predicts vast differences in the life of a child growing up from the well-being of the child’s health to the child’s future earnings to lifespan.

*THE CHILD WELL-BEING INDEX DRIVES THE FRAMEWORK, TOOLS AND PARTNERSHIPS TO MEASURE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ACROSS UNITED WAY OF GREATER ATLANTA’S 13-COUNTY REGION.
WE ARE HERE IMPROVING CHILD WELL-BEING

With our partners, we understand that sustainable community change happens when we bring together people and resources to drive collaborative impact. Through the collaborative culture, United Way of Greater Atlanta in Henry County works to bring together government, businesses, philanthropic groups, nonprofit organizations and citizens by convening and connecting them through conversations, initiatives and outreach.

An example of our collaborative work in Henry County is where we created two separate Community Engagement Action Teams under our Child Well-being framework. The Healthcare and Wellness Action Team’s primary focus is to provide better access to education, mentorship and health services to the families who live in the neighborhoods located in our low and very-low child well-being zones. The Job Readiness and Financial Literacy Action team is focusing on providing training opportunities, resume building classes and providing direct connections to employers. They are also educating our children and families on basic life skills such as balancing a household budget, repairing their credit score and managing their finances.

A community event held on the 1st Saturday of each month at Henry County Middle School allows residents who live in our red and orange zones (low child well-being areas) to meet with our community partners, have their needs addressed and get connected to the services and resources they need.

COLLABORATIVE WORKS AT A GLANCE

**Vets Connect Henry** Since its launch date of April 2015, the Vets Connect Initiative in Henry County has seen tremendous growth through the support of individuals and local businesses. There is now more ongoing awareness of the needs of our veterans in the community, especially the ones who are homeless or on the verge of becoming homeless. Through local connections and partnerships, veterans are provided a safe place to stay temporarily until permanent housing can be secured; connections to local partner agencies who provide food, clothing, job placement, financial literacy and help accessing their benefits.

**Home Again in Henry (HAIH)** is a local United Way initiative under the Homelessness Focus area modeled after Vets Connect. Home Again in Henry works primarily with individuals and families who are considered “working homeless.” These are families who have jobs, who are living in cars and budget motels, but cannot afford to accumulate enough capital to provide the deposit on an apartment or rental home.

Families are referred to the HAIH committee from local businesses, the Henry County School System and individuals who encounter homeless families. The candidates are carefully screened and required to provide proof of income, submit a letter of reference from their employer, take a standard drug test and must meet a number of other requirements before financial assistance is given. The committee stresses the ability to be self-reliant and self-sufficient once financial assistance is provided. HAIH utilizes community partners such as Hire Dynamics to assist families with job connections, United Food Force to provide food, Radiant Church to provide Dave Ramsey financial literacy courses and others.

**Food for Thought (FFT)** is a local resource developed under the Silence the Growl™ initiative. It is a meal funding model created to raise funds and meals for our nonprofit partners working to combat childhood hunger in the Red and Orange Zones. The FFT model allows us to raise funds and purchase food directly from the Atlanta Food Bank through a partnership with a local church. The food is distributed every Thursday to the counselors at the elementary, middle and high schools located in the 30253 zip code. Under the FFT model, food packets can now be offered to families on a weekly basis at approximately $2.50 compared to the traditional model that costs approximately $4.50 per family.
HELPING YOU SERVE

Volunteering your time to serve Henry County communities can make all the difference. Our corporate partners and individuals often roll up their sleeves to give back by getting involved and we can help with:

**Year-round local group volunteer projects** onsite or at United Way funded nonprofit organizations.

**Year-round volunteer opportunities** through United Way in Henry County’s local initiatives and community engagement action teams.

To Give, Advocate and Volunteer in Henry County, please contact us

henry@unitedwayatlanta.org
678.623.2876

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Hands of Hope Clinic, Inc., Communities In Schools of Georgia in Henry, Henry County Schools, Henry County Government, McDonough Lions Club, Georgia United Credit Union, Hire Dynamics, City of McDonough, City of Hampton, City of Stockbridge, City of Locust Grove, Henry Chamber of Commerce, Burris Logistics, Shiloh Baptist Church, A Friend’s House, Haven House, St. Vincent DePaul, Helping in His Name Food Pantry, United Food Force, Department of Public Health, WIC, Mcintosh Trails, Henry County Library System, Miracle Mission Hope House, SWAG Program, Henry County Transit, Fuller Center for Housing, Inc., Holiday Inn Express Suites, Fairbridge Inn & Suites.

WE ARE HERE IN HENRY COUNTY

**Henry Advisory Board**
Jea Gackowski, Chair

**Contact Us - United Way of Greater Atlanta in Henry County Staff**
Shane Persaud, Regional Director
shanepersaud@unitedwayatlanta.org

Anissa Johnson, County Engagement Director
ajohnson@unitedwayatlanta.org

Linda Jones, Regional Manager
melder@unitedwayatlanta.org

Jacob Powers, Administrative Coordinator
jpowers@unitedwayatlanta.org

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United Way of Greater Atlanta
unitedwayatlanta.org