United Way of Greater Atlanta’s vision for Douglas County is to support 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 are working to ensure the children, along with the families of Douglas County have the opportunity to live a healthy life, acquire the education and the skills they need to earn a good living and have a roof over their heads.
WE ARE IMPACTING DOUGLAS COUNTY

Children who are homeless switch schools on average three or more times in a given school year, as their families need to move from place to place. Switching schools frequently throws children off track with their educational curriculum inhibiting the student from keeping up and reducing their chances of graduating.

United Way’s Kids Home Initiative (KHI) works with at-risk students and their families to ensure at-risk kids remain in their school of origin. KHI links housing assistance, public school system resources and case management services to provide integrated support for the whole family.

Since its inception, KHI has helped more than 350 families find stable housing and has kept nearly 1,000 kids in school and on track for graduation. More than 90% of families participating in KHI have remained stable and avoided homelessness. More than 37% of families’ heads of households have been connected to employment services and 15% now have a medical home. In addition, 52 families have achieved a major goal such as purchasing a home, running for an elected office and saving over $500.

KHI in Douglas County successfully housed over 65 families in 2018. United Way’s Kids Home Initiative worked directly with partners throughout the county such as the Douglas County School System, Sweetwater Mission and Good Samaritan Health Center.

WE ARE ALIGNING AND STRENGTHENING OUR EFFORTS IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

United Way of Greater Atlanta in Douglas County continues to transform its communities and is working to do even more for the future. We have aligned priorities to address Douglas County’s most pressing issues of families experiencing financial instability and homelessness and supportive services for improved workforce development.

Douglas County’s Child Well-Being score, which is based on the Child Well-Being Index’s* data driven approach is 61.8. While Douglas scores similarly to the region’s 13-county average of 61.8, there remains extreme disparities among Douglas county zip codes, with the lowest-scoring zip code rating 45.6 and the highest 76.7.

The rating gap between the 45.6 vs 76.7 zip code predicts vast differences in the life of a child, from the well-being of the child’s health to the child’s future earnings to lifespan.

Douglas County has several programs and initiatives to address the concerns. United Way’s place-based approach targets priority zip codes while our multi-generational methodology embraces innovation and accelerates success. Collaboration and partnership are key.

Learn more about your zip code by exploring United Way’s interactive maps to see how the children in your neighborhood are doing. Visit www.unitedwayatlanta.org/child-well-being-map/

*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 WITH OUR PARTNERS

Throughout 2018 United Way of Greater Atlanta in Douglas County along with other local and statewide partners have been developing and planning the Douglas County Coordinated Entry Program to address homelessness. Homelessness in Douglas County has been a visible and prevalent problem. This is a collective effort to help reduce the number of people entering into and currently experiencing homelessness.

Coordinated entry is an important process through which people experiencing homelessness can access a crisis response system in a streamlined way. Their strengths and needs are quickly assessed and they get connected to appropriate housing and mainstream services within their community. Standardized assessment tools and practices provide the ability for households to gain access to the best options to address their needs with each intervention prioritized.

How can Coordinated Entry impact a community?

- CE provides the right assistance at the right time, resulting in less failed referrals and better outcomes.
- It helps people resolve their crisis before becoming homeless, avoiding personal and system costs
- CE helps communities identify service needs, gaps and strengths across the system
- Reduces system inefficiencies, overall costs and recidivism

United Way continues to play an integral role on the planning committee and assisted in the coordination of the Balance of State Point in Time Count for Douglas County in January of 2019. The surveys conducted by volunteers during this count provide demographic information on each unsheltered, homeless individual, give insight to their homeless history, and assess individual needs that will enable us to effectively plan housing and service interventions to prevent and end homelessness in Douglas County.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

United Way of Greater Atlanta in Douglas County would like to acknowledge and thank our partners in Douglas County. Douglas County Government and Douglas County Board of Commissioners, City of Douglasville, Douglas County School System, Douglas County Economic Development Authority, Sweetwater Mission, Douglas County Homeless Coalition, Children’s Voice: CASA, Douglas County Kiwanis Club, Communities in Schools of Douglas County, Douglas County Chamber of Commerce, Live Healthy Douglas and Greystone Power

**Kids Home Initiative** is a comprehensive solution to end homelessness by assisting school-aged children and their families to find secure and stable housing, allowing them to stay in their school of origin. This program brings together over 20 collaborative partners in the areas of health, education, income, housing services, and basic needs to serve families with appropriate support and wraparound services.

Our **Gifts In-Kind Truck** is a unique shopping experience provided by United Way of Greater Atlanta to the nonprofit community. Four times a year, registered 501(c)3 nonprofit agencies in Douglas County can collect items donated from various companies and partners. To be invited to our next Gifts In-Kind Truck distribution event please contact our office.

**VITA** is our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. This incredible program offers working individuals and families FREE tax preparation for households with an income of $55,000 or less. This tax service is prepared in-person by IRS trained and certified volunteers.

**Silence the Growl** - A meal funding program for partner agencies within our community who are working tirelessly to combat childhood summer hunger.
HELPING YOU SERVE

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

**Large-scale Douglas County volunteer events** that engage corporate teams and citizens.

**Year-round local group volunteer projects** onsite or at partner organizations

WE ARE HERE IN DOUGLAS COUNTY

**Advisory Board**

Our local advisory board members play a critical role in helping to guide the work of United Way of Greater Atlanta in Douglas County. The board is comprised of leaders who work and live in our community and they are tasked with important decisions regarding our local action and community results.

**Tyler Barr, Chair**

**Contact Us- United Way in Douglas County Staff**

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