

# EDUCATION. INCOME. HEALTH.

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

United Way of Northeast Florida's work in education is a national model for success. As part of our focus on positive, sustainable impact, United Way has developed and implemented initiatives that increase students' access to high-quality early learning and help them stay on track through graduation.

### SUCCESS BY 6

Research has consistently demonstrated that the early years of a child's development provide some of the best opportunities for learning and education. However, for those who could benefit most from high-quality early education in the northeast Florida community, the opportunity is often out of reach. To meet this need, United Way of Northeast Florida has partnered with a number of top-rated early learning centers to provide Success By 6, an initiative that offers two-year early education scholarships to hardworking families who do not qualify for state subsidies, providing them with access to high-quality early learning opportunities for their children.



### READINGPALS

Reading is the single most important skill for learning and the building block for a lifetime of academic success. Early literacy is what kids know about reading before they learn to read: vocabulary, enjoying books, telling stories, noticing printed words and letters and recognizing smaller sounds in words. For half an hour each week, ReadingPals spend time with their pair of preschoolers, reading a book, completing activities, and developing skills that they'll need for success in school. Each participating child also receives at least four books to help build their home library.



### ACHIEVERS FOR LIFE

Leading education research has shown that students begin thinking about dropping out of high school as early as sixth grade, often because they simply need support to overcome barriers to success in and outside of the classroom. Achievers For Life provides sixth-grade students who demonstrate signs of dropping out of high school with a team of mentors and advocates who help them succeed in their academics, reach their goals and receive assistance with non-academic obstacles to thriving at school.



United Way  
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Learn more about the community impact model and our work in education, income and health at

[unitedwaynefl.org](http://unitedwaynefl.org)

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When people are unemployed and families are financially unstable, the impact is felt throughout the community. That's why United Way is focused on strengthening the financial stability of families and individuals. Our income initiatives provide free financial education, counseling and tax preparation services to help Northeast Florida residents save money and build assets.

### **REALSENSE**

RealSense is a community coalition of corporate, civic and community organizations focused on helping Northeast Florida prosper by providing individuals and families with the knowledge and tools to manage their finances. The services we offer include:

- Free tax filing and guidance at locations throughout Northeast Florida with IRS-certified volunteers
- Financial education workshops to teach people how to achieve their goals
- Financial coaching and planning at Prosperity Place



Participants in RealSense financial education workshops have reported an increase in paying their bills on time and better savings habits to plan for a more stable fiscal future. United Way of Northeast Florida's RealSense is the winner of the Common Good award, earning recognition as one of the most effective United Way programs worldwide.

### **YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

Jacksonville has a number of students who are motivated to work and ready to acquire the skills and experience needed for the 21st century workforce. All they need is an opportunity.

Funded by the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, the Youth Employment initiative connects teens ages 16-19 with job readiness training, a finance workshop, individual coaching and exposure to careers matching their talents and interests. Youth are matched with local companies and nonprofit organizations for paid, six-week internships that help them gain career experience and set them up for a lifetime of greater financial stability.



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Good physical and mental health allows children to learn better and adults to increase their income through productive work. Whether families lack access to health care, require in-home support to recover from a hospital stay or struggle with mental illness, United Way works to ensure that every individual at every age has the opportunity to lead a healthy and engaged life.

### **FULL SERVICE SCHOOLS**

Jacksonville is a diverse city with diverse needs. Full Service Schools recognizes that achievement is fostered in and out of the classroom, and the initiative brings together community resources, neighbors and schools to promote the health and well-being of students, their families, and neighborhood residents. The Full Service Schools collaboration enables United Way and its partners to connect nearly 3,500 students and families to a critical range of therapeutic, health and social services and address non-academic barriers to success in school.



### **2-1-1**

The easy to remember, three-digit telephone number connects northeast Florida callers to health, social and human services and more than 4,000 community programs. Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the highly trained call specialists are prepared to make the connections that callers need, from saving lives on the suicide hotline to helping families keep the lights on.



### **ELDER CARE ADVOCATES**

One of the most critical times for seniors is when they are recovering from an illness. Often these seniors do not have adequate resources, family or friends who can help after a hospital stay to promote their recovery and prevent their readmission to the hospital. Focused on keeping seniors independent and engaged, elder care advocates work with hospital staff to coordinate care and services for older patients who are discharged from the hospital, including:

- Giving referrals to post-care providers
- Arranging for in-home care and follow-up appointments
- Coordinating transportation, home delivered meals, and housekeeping services



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