



# Meeting Our Neighbors' Basic Needs

Together, we can build a brighter future where every family has a stable place to call home, food on the table and support during times of crisis.

## WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

At any given time, more than 3,000 local MNPS students have no place to call home—they're living in cars, shelters or on friends' couches. And families struggling to make ends meet are often one unexpected expense from not being able to pay their rent or utilities that month.

## HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER

**Move families out of homelessness.** Our work through **The Family Collective** transitions families experiencing homelessness into stable housing as quickly as possible and works to prevent families from losing their homes in the first place. Coming up with a security deposit and first month's rent can be a major obstacle. Our network of trained coaches helps families secure housing and plan for the future.

## Make sure no one goes hungry.

Through our **partner agencies**—food banks, hot meal providers and meal delivery services—we're bridging the gaps so that our neighbors have access to high-quality, nutritious meals. Together with our community partnerships, we also provide access to food pantries and work to ensure kids are fed when school is not in session.

## Provide assistance in times of crisis.

We partner to provide a safety net and the **211 Helpline** in times of crisis to avoid foreclosure, utility cutoffs or repossession. We pool funds from various sources to help make rent or mortgage payments, pay outstanding utility bills and provide relief from natural disasters like flood or fire.

## WE'RE SEEING RESULTS

**43,055**

community service referrals were made through United Way's 211 Helpline

**268**

individuals moved into stable housing through The Family Collective

**19,291**

people received emergency financial assistance during a time of crisis

We are strengthening our community from the inside out, but we can't do it without you.

Make a gift today at [unitedwaygreaternashville.org/donate](https://unitedwaygreaternashville.org/donate).



United Way  
of Greater Nashville



# Breaking the Cycle of Poverty

Together, we can build a brighter future where everyone has the opportunity to earn a livable wage, grow their savings and move toward greater financial stability.

## WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

Greater Nashville is thriving, but many are being left behind. One fifth of our neighbors are living in poverty. 30 percent of those are children. We owe it to our neighbors to provide clear pathways to more stable futures.

## HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER

**Provide individuals with the education and training they need to get better, higher paying jobs.** To move out of poverty, people need higher paying jobs with opportunities for growth. To land these jobs, they need the right post-secondary education, training or certification. Through our **SNAP Employment & Training, along with our partner agencies**, we are helping individuals receive the education and training to obtain a livable wage that will set them on the path to a financially secure future.

**Make sure our neighbors keep more of what they earn.** 55 million Americans say they have nothing in their emergency savings. This means one trip to the hospital or a car or home repair could create a vicious cycle of debt. Our **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance** free tax prep program returns millions of dollars back into our community each year leading to more money to use on essentials.

**Help families increase their savings.** Individualized counseling at the **Financial Empowerment Center** can help those who are struggling to move toward greater financial stability. Professionally-trained financial counselors help clients work through debt, establish and improve credit, create a budget, open a bank account and save for the future, all at no cost.

## WE'RE SEEING RESULTS

**1,863**

people received no-cost financial counseling to decrease debt and take control of their budget

**1,006**

individuals increased their job skills through training opportunities

**893**

individuals received SNAP Employment & Training support

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# Helping Kids Learn and Succeed

Together, we can build a brighter future where every child enters kindergarten ready to learn, develops the reading skills they need to thrive and is supported in and out of school.

## WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

Education is a gateway out of poverty, but odds are often stacked against students from the start. Three out of four third graders in Davidson, Hickman, Houston and Robertson counties are not reading on grade level. And children who have not developed basic literacy skills by the time they enter kindergarten are three to four times more likely to drop out in later years.

## HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER

**Prepare students for kindergarten.** Early brain development helps children become lifelong learners. We ensure children have access to books through **Imagination Library**; provide accessible, high-quality child care and pre-K programs through **Childcare Nashville**; and deliver training for educators to increase the quality of

early childhood education through **Read to Succeed**.

**Improve literacy rates.** If children aren't reading on grade-level by third grade, they will likely struggle in other subjects and will continue to fall behind. **Raising Readers Nashville** is increasing third-grade reading proficiency by ensuring kids receive high-quality early learning, addressing chronic absenteeism, tackling summer learning loss and providing access to books in the classroom.

**Make sure kids graduate.** Too many of our students aren't graduating from high school. Along with our **partner agencies**, we are making sure every student has the support to graduate and plan for the future. We support social and emotional education, provide mentorship and family guidance opportunities and offer meaningful one-on-one tutoring through **Raise Your Hand**.

## WE'RE SEEING RESULTS

**5,696**

students increased their math and literacy skills

**1,239**

children showed improved social-emotional learning

**796**

children were enrolled in Read to Succeed

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# Building Strong, Healthy Communities

Together, we can build a brighter future where every person has access to quality health care, support for chronic conditions and connections to their community.

## WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST

Too many of our most underserved neighbors struggle to access quality health care, supportive services and a strong community network. In fact, Tennessee ranks 40th out of 50 states for overall health—and roughly 10 percent of our population is uninsured.

## HOW WE CAN MAKE IT BETTER

**Help our neighbors access quality health care.** We partner to help those without health insurance obtain affordable care and those living with or affected by HIV/AIDS—through **Ryan White Part B**—receive essential support and services. We also work with community-based clinics and providers to link individuals to medical services, dental care and supportive services.

## Assist those suffering from mental health issues and chronic disease.

Living with chronic disease, mental health issues and drug addiction is a daily struggle for so many. Our **partner agencies** provide clients with the education and resources they need to manage their conditions so they can live healthy lives. The **Williamson County Anti-Drug Coalition** and the **Robertson County Prevention Coalition** work to prevent substance abuse in teens by building strong partnerships to support a drug-free community.

**Build strong, supportive neighborhoods.** We bring neighbors together to build a sense of community. Through our **Family Resource Centers**, senior citizen meal delivery and teen outreach programs, we help our neighbors make meaningful, lasting connections. Good health and a supportive community improve a child's opportunity to learn, increase an adult's quality of life and can make all the difference for a senior living alone.

## WE'RE SEEING RESULTS

**23,641**

individuals had their medical needs met to address a health-specific emergency or crisis situation

**3,618**

individuals reported improved mental health and a decrease in feelings of depression or hopelessness

**1,584**

individuals were helped to make behavior changes to support improvements to their health and quality of life

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