



# Early Childhood

**Goal: Build family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children under five and the adults in their lives together.**

Research and community input consistently show that coordinated, holistic programs and policies that help meet children's and caregivers' goals simultaneously lead to increased family stability and mobility from poverty – leading to greater success across generations. At United Way, we bring together nonprofits and invest in multi-generational collaborations to meet families where they're at, providing holistic support and access to resources that'll help them thrive.

**Measure: Child poverty (ages 0-5) in Dane County.**



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*RISE Wisconsin is very grateful for the work we've done with United Way. With their support, we've really been able to walk alongside families in helping with early childhood development education, early learning and providing families with stability. Whether they need access to childcare so they can go to work, or help with food assistance, it really takes a village. And United Way allows us to be part of that village.*

– Maggie Waid, Director of Development, RISE Wisconsin



**6,125** *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*

## Home Visiting: Creating Connections with Families with Young Children.

United Way invests in home-visiting programs for young families, including Welcome Baby and Beyond and Parent Child+ (at RISE Wisconsin), and KinderReady (at Children's Service Society). Through these programs, family support specialists meet with parents/caregivers and their children at home to focus parent support, social connections and resource connections.

**In 2023, 200 children and their families participated in weekly or monthly visits depending on their unique needs.** And, in order to ensure each family has what they need to be successful, we work to connect families to additional resources to holistically meet their needs and goals – including housing and employment support, mental health support and more.



# 175

children screened received an intervention, referral, or appropriate support as a result



# 174

children achieved developmental milestones while in programming with their families



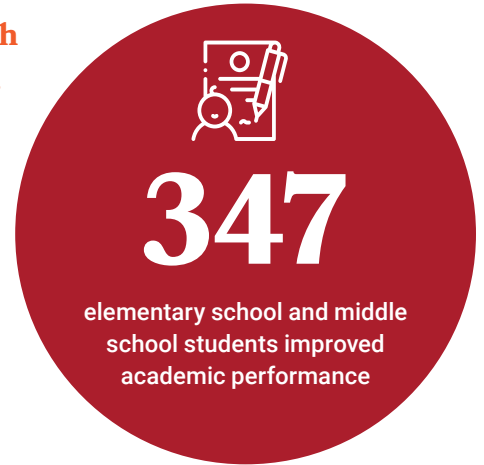


# Education

**Goal: All students succeed academically and graduate high school prepared for higher education, career and community.**

Individuals who finish high school are more likely to have the skills required to be successful in postsecondary education, an increasingly complicated job market and society. And adults with higher education levels are more likely to gain employment with family-sustaining wages. At United Way, we invest in nonprofits and programs that help prepare youth for the classroom and life beyond through mentorship, tutoring and social-emotional learning.

**Measure: Graduation rate in Dane County.**

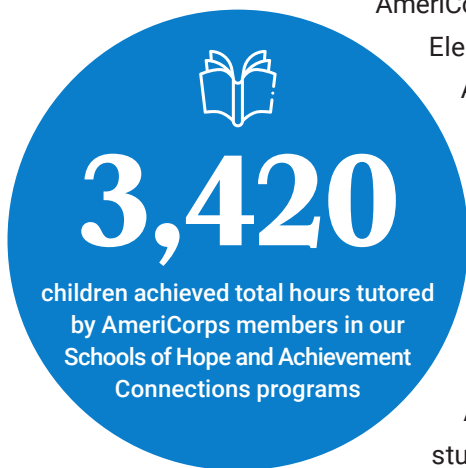


## Schools of Hope (Elementary Reading) and Achievement Connections (High School Math)

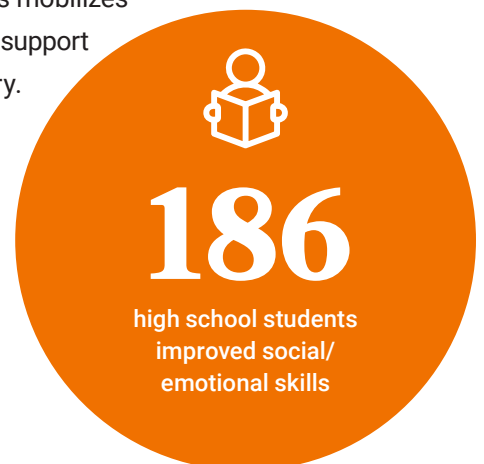
The Elementary Schools of Hope and Achievement Connections AmeriCorps Programs are dynamic community partnerships which have developed an evidence-based model of tutoring intervention fueled by impassioned AmeriCorps members and committed community volunteers. Both are unique collaborations.

Elementary Schools of Hope is a collaboration with United Way of Dane County, AmeriCorps and the Madison Metropolitan School District. Achievement Connections is a partnership between United Way of Dane County, the Madison Metropolitan School District, the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District and the UW-Madison Morgridge Center for Public Service.

Elementary Schools of Hope’s mission is to provide literacy tutoring support to improve the academic achievement of kindergarten through fifth grade students. While Achievement Connections mobilizes AmeriCorps members and the community to support student achievement in Algebra and Geometry.



For the first time since the pandemic, AmeriCorps members and volunteers were back in school buildings in 2023! And **303 elementary students were tutored by nine AmeriCorps members and 20 community volunteers in the 2023 school year.** Additionally, **257 high school students were tutored by five AmeriCorps members and 111 community volunteers in the 2023 school year** through the Achievement Connections program.



## From Struggling Reader to Published Writer:

When Camila, a second-language English speaker, first joined our partners at Simpson Street Free Press (SSFP), she struggled with reading and writing. Shy about her lack of school-day success, she never asked for help. SSFP's literary specialists assessed Camila's reading comprehension and used Science of Reading principles and 1:1 tutoring to help build her skills – and her confidence along the way. Over the course of just a couple of years, Camila went from struggling reader to published writer! The Cap Times recently ran a piece she wrote about the "I Have a Dream" scholarship event hosted by Women in Focus last year.



# 6,125 *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*

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*Partnering with United Way has allowed the Middleton Youth Center to serve more students in our free after school and summer programs. The Youth Center is an important place of connection, belonging, and opportunity for our students. We are so grateful that now, more students have access to the support and activities that allow them to thrive.*

*– Gabrielle Hinahara, Director of Middleton Youth Center*

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# Income



**Goal: More people are on pathways out of poverty, ending family homelessness.**

When more individuals have jobs earning family-sustaining wages and safe and affordable housing, they are less stressed and more able to provide for themselves and their families – better positioning the entire community and our economy to thrive. At United Way, we’re invested in local nonprofits and programs that help families get what they need to be economically stable through job training, homelessness prevention and affordable housing.

**Measure: People living above 200% of the Federal Poverty Level in Dane County.**

## Addressing Family Homelessness

At United Way, we believe everyone deserves a place of their own to call home. But finding safe and affordable housing in Dane County isn’t always easy. By investing in programs that help families avoid eviction and rapidly re-house those that do become homeless, we’re helping parents/caregivers and their children build a solid foundation for success across all areas of life. **Through our Reducing School Mobility Collaborative** – a program focused on keeping families in their homes and kids attending the same school, funded, in part, by The Siemer Institute – **we were able to help 174 families in 2023 at risk of losing their housing with financial assistance and individualized case management** with our partners at Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin (CAC), Cultural Practices that are Relevant, Stoughton Area Resource Team (START) and WayForward Resources.

## Journey Home

Led with our partners at JustDane, Journey Home works to reduce recidivism (return to prison) and creates a stronger community. This is accomplished by helping recently-incarcerated individuals find housing, employment, support and treatment as well as transportation and education. **In 2023, resource specialists met one-on-one with 446 individuals, getting them the support and resources they need to thrive in our community.**



**21,630** *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*



**HIRE Initiative:**

In 2013, we launched our HIRE Initiative – a program that focuses on helping adults prepare for and find steady employment. We partner with six local nonprofits and 50 local employers through this initiative and, in 2023, we helped 613 people find new or better employment – 320 of those landing in jobs paying \$18+/hour.

Mike was one of those people.



When Mike was looking for a new career path, he turned to our HIRE Initiative. Through the support of our partners at the Latino Academy, he began pursuing his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL), knowing it would lead to a well-paying career. This collaboration provided Mike with financial support for his CDL training, covering costs and furnishing resources for study materials. Once he received his CDL – after training with enthusiasm and determination – we helped to place him at a job earning \$28/hour, plus great benefits.



*I really respect United Way’s commitment to the work we’re all doing – because we need that umbrella organization that pulls us together. Together, we can align with a greater vision for community and make greater impact.*

*– Karen Menéndez Coller, Executive Director, Centro Hispano.*





# Health

**Goal: A Dane County absent of racial health disparities in physical and mental health, emphasizing a trauma-informed approach.**

While Dane County remains a top place to live, raise a family and retire, for our BIPOC neighbors (including Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Southeast Asian and People of Color), education, income and health inequities and disparities remain consistent. Unfortunately, in Dane County the color of your skin and the ZIP code in which you live have a significant impact on your quality of life, life expectancy and a wide range of health outcomes. To help address and dismantle the existing inequities, United Way invests in local nonprofits and programs that aim to reduce health disparities faced by our BIPOC community members.

**Measure: Life expectancy in Dane County.**



## **Saving our Babies Through ConnectRx**

The ConnectRx Wisconsin program is an initiative of the Dane County Health Council (DCHC), and United Way of Dane County is a proud partner of this large collaborative. The program is designed to improve birthing outcomes for Black families by screening for the social determinants of health among Black birthing people in Dane County. Those who enroll in the program are supported with community health workers, referrals to services and doula care.

**In 2023, the program received 469 referrals and served 202 patients!**

**20,030** *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*



## HealthConnect

At United Way of Dane County, we believe cost should not prevent you from getting the health care you need. That's why we're helping lower income individuals and families who make too much to qualify for BadgerCare purchase insurance through healthcare.gov via our HealthConnect Premium Assistance Program.

**In 2023, \$1.05 million was invested into the HealthConnect program – allowing us to pay insurance premiums for 578 people through 492 plans.** Helping more individuals and families across Dane County lead healthier, happier lives.



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*Over the last several years, HealthConnect made it possible for me to afford individual insurance through the Marketplace, and I'm incredibly grateful for that! United Way gave me the support and care I needed.*

*– Yara, HealthConnect participant*

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# United Way 211

**United Way 211 is here to provide 24/7 live, local assistance to every person in our community who needs it. In times of crisis, navigating resources and solutions can be difficult – but we're here to help.**

From finding food to paying rent or connecting to addiction treatment (and so much more) 211 can help. Our specialists listen, offer comfort, hope and solutions in times of crisis. 211 hosts the most comprehensive health and human services database in Dane County and provides real-time, up-to-date information on needs.



Five years ago, Lydia had trouble finding housing she could afford. Not sure where to turn, she called 211 and our specialist connected her to the resources she needed. Lydia found stable housing and was able to deal with some of the trauma she'd experienced in her previous living situation. Thanks to that support, Lydia has spent the last few years focused on what matters most – bettering her life for herself and her kids. She worked hard to receive her GED and is now a full-time student at Madison College!

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*We are so fortunate to be one of the partner agencies housing one of the new 211 kiosks. With it being so user-friendly, a wide range of individuals with varying technology backgrounds will be able to use it. Additionally, it allows a bit of discretion for users by bypassing the need to ask for help in-person, which is a barrier in itself.*

*– Arturo Ambriz, Executive Director, Lussier Community Education Center*

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# 211 Activities in 2023:



**47,546**  
Referrals to  
community resources



**160,000+**  
minutes  
serving clients



**1,486**  
211 Wisconsin  
App visitors



**14,750**  
Housing



**7,954**  
Food



**4,042**  
Utilities



**4,027**  
Behavioral  
Health/  
Addictions



**2,472**  
Individual  
Family and  
Community  
Support



**2,337**  
Transportation



**2,327**  
Clothing/  
Personal and  
Household  
Supplies



**2,261**  
Healthcare

**23,695** *Dane County Neighbors Supported in 2023*

## 211 Wisconsin App – Community Resources at Your Fingertips

In October of 2023, we announced the launch of our new 211 Wisconsin App! This app was developed by us at United Way of Dane County to broaden awareness of and access to services in our community. The app can be downloaded to your mobile device or, for those who do not have access to a mobile device, we've placed kiosks around the county to help make sure 211 services are accessible for everyone.

