



CHILDHOOD SUCCESS STORIES

LIVE UNITED®

Helping Struggling Families Provide a Strong Learning Foundation for Their Children

In Stamford, a United Way funded child care center provided the support and resources a family needed when their son, George, was born with Down Syndrome. The family was confused and grieving, but the first thing the center staff said to the parents was “Congratulations, you have a beautiful baby boy!” The parents smiled and said that no one had said that to them. The staff established a bond of trust and showed the mother how to feed the baby and how to encourage the child’s development at home. George thrived, and the center is now helping him to prepare for entrance to the Stamford Public Schools. The child care staff said, “Our goal was to show the family what a wonderful baby they had and help them enjoy him.”

In Danbury, a struggling single mom with a preschooler and two school age children is able to send all three to a quality center, thanks to United Way funding. In addition to caring for her children when she is not working, the center connected the mother with other United Way resources, including Healthy Savings and the Giving Fund, which helped her repair her car so she had reliable transportation. The staff said all of these benefits allow her to “hold her head high for her family, not only for necessities such as food, rent, and electricity, but also leaves room to enjoy quality family time and experiences with her family that is essential for everyone’s well being.”

In Southern Litchfield County, a public school bus driver was bringing her preschool child, Sallie, with her every day on her bus routes, because she could not afford child care. Thanks to United Way funding, Sallie was able to attend a program, interact with children her own age, and benefit from a developmentally appropriate curriculum. After a year at the center, the staff says she is “flourishing” and is ready to succeed in kindergarten next year.

For more information on how United Way of Western Connecticut helps struggling families with childcare expenses, go to www.uwwesternct.org/earlychildhoodafterschool

2,730
preschoolers and school
age children receive
quality child care, with
the help of United Way
of Western Connecticut
funding.



United Way
of Western Connecticut



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After-School Programs Improve Lives for Kids Facing Challenges at Home and in School

In Southern Litchfield County, a single mother who is confined to a wheelchair is able to send her 10-year-old daughter, Rose, to clay, drawing, and pottery wheel classes with the help of funding from United Way of Western Connecticut. She writes that since attending this after-school program “I have seen big impacts in Rose’s work. Her new skills and methods have helped with her other studies and everyday life, too—such as planning her projects and working through until the end, with more confidence with each project.” The mother also reports that she was able to adapt some of the classes as part of a homeschool curriculum.

In Danbury, a hardworking mother is grateful that she has been able to keep her two children in a quality, accredited after-school program since the youngest entered kindergarten. Their father is disabled and can only work part-time. The program allows the children to do homework and enjoy the benefits of socializing with children their own age in the after-school hours.

In Stamford, Maria was having a difficult time keeping up with her school work and was reading below level at the end of the first semester. In a United Way funded after-school program, she was able to receive tutorial help with her reading and extra homework help. Her confidence rose, and by the end of the academic school year, she was reading above grade level. This program provided 123 students with subsidies through United Way funding, and of those, 83% were able to improve their academic standing.

Did you know...for many hardworking families child care is their biggest monthly expense?

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44%

of families live in a child care desert, with 3 times as many children for each available licensed child care slot.



United Way
of Western Connecticut