Education is the key to success in work and in life. A child who has access to high quality early childhood education enters kindergarten ready to learn and is on the road to graduating from high school. High school graduates earn more, raise children who are likely to graduate, and form a community of productive and engaged adults. By investing in programs that provide quality education for all York County children, United Way is investing in youth today and in the next generation.

CHALLENGES IN YORK COUNTY

A child living in poverty who cannot read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade is more likely to fall behind, become frustrated with school, and drop out in high school. United Way wants to change the lives of children in low-income families by increasing access to high quality early childhood education, funding youth development and early intervention programs, and identifying strategies to keep older youth in school and on track to graduate. The cost of not educating children is high and lasts a lifetime.

26,562 children ages birth to 5 live in York County
63% of children do not have access to preschool or quality child care
NEARLY 32% of York County children read below grade level at the end of 3rd grade
266 or 1.59% of York County high school students dropped out of high school in 2015. On average, each dropout will cost taxpayers $292,000 over a lifetime, or $77,672,000
ALMOST 11% of York County residents live in poverty, 35% of them are children under age 18

OUR WORK

To support children and boost student achievement, we currently fund 26 educational programs focused on strategies proven to achieve long-term student success. We prepare children for school and support youth for school success, community engagement, and high school graduation.

A Good Start - Children enter kindergarten ready to learn
90% of brain development occurs by age 5

On Track - Children read proficiently by the end of 3rd grade
Reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade is the earliest indicator of academic success

A Strong Finish - Youth graduate high school
Disengaged students make a successful transition back into a formal education
RESULTS MATTER
Since 2012, United Way of York County has invested $3.28 million in programs and initiatives in education.

- 3,535 children were enrolled in KEYSTONE Star 4 child care centers
- 822 children enrolled in the 100 Book Challenge
- 2,447 children achieved 80% of milestones for literacy, socio-emotional, and intellectual skills
- 4,950 students in youth development and school support programs progressed a grade and/or graduated from high school
- 96% of kindergarten age children entered school ready to learn
- 708 pre-kindergarten children attended Ready Freddy, a kindergarten transition program that encourages parents to raise readers and engage with schools
- 272 children were referred for assessment and treatment of developmental delays
- 822 children enrolled in the 100 Book Challenge
- More than 350 families with a student who is habitually truant participated in the Youth Court Alliance
- 2,447 children achieved 80% of milestones for literacy, socio-emotional, and intellectual skills
- 4,950 students in youth development and school support programs progressed a grade and/or graduated from high school

Moving the Bar: Students in United Way of York County funded programs who advanced a grade or graduated by school year

- 2012-13: 1,180 Students
- 2013-14: 1,489 Students
- 2014-15: 2,281 Students

Alexis, Aryana, and Nicole’s Story

These three young ladies attended William Penn Senior High School. Each of them was interested in pursuing a college education but didn’t know where to start with the planning process. Thankfully they found YWCA York’s Quantum Opportunities Program (QOP) which helped guide them through the process of taking their SAT’s and completing college applications.

Most importantly, QOP gave them the ability to go on college tours to visit potential schools in person. These visits allowed each of them to see the culture and atmosphere of the school that one can only truly experience in person, allowing them to make the best decision for their long-term academic success.

Aryana (center in photo) shares her feelings. “Many of my peers didn’t have the benefit of going on college tours or the mentorship that QOP provided me. Having someone to help you through the process and deadlines is extremely helpful.” Aryana will pursue a pre-medical degree at Bloomsburg University of PA this fall.