



BECAUSE EVERY CHILD DESERVES THE BEST START IN LIFE.

LIVE UNITED

Every day, people in our communities struggle with education problems that may seem impossible to solve. Children starting school without the skills necessary to succeed. Kids who can barely read by third grade, and who are far more likely to quit school later. Youth who don't go on to college or vocational training.

These are tough problems that threaten the future of individuals and communities. But United Way is fighting to improve education for everyone—everywhere. In Kankakee and Iroquois Counties, we're bringing together stakeholders from all sectors and systems to collaborate on solutions that support early childhood development through policy formation, environmental changes and direct services.

We are more than the fundraisers. We are the problem solvers, the hand raisers. We are the game changers. We surround a community's most critical problems—and we fight. With our partners -- including 40+ local organizations committed to our Success By 6

Coalition— we're offering hope and help where it's needed the most. In the last year, our community has celebrated many big wins including:

- \$2.1 million grant to address childhood trauma and resources for families in Kankakee County,
- Kankakee County now has the most Theraplay trained practioners in the world, with over 100+ people certified,
- Successful implementation of the Early Development Instrument in four local school districts to measure kindergarten readiness,
- \$240k federal grant to support violence prevention programs at Kankakee School District 111, which includes mental health crisis intervention and suicide prevention strategies.

There's still so much more to do. Around the world and in our own backyard, we're fighting to build a better tomorrow today.



13%

return on investment for every dollar contributed towards early childhood development

United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community. We have one life. To live better, we must LIVE UNITED.

