

IN HOUSTON,
**WE STAND UP
FOR KIDS**

Do
something
about it.



THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON
HELPS KIDS REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Today's children and youth face an array of challenges such as lack of adult supervision after school, little or no access to activities such as museums or parks or sports, difficulties with schoolwork or even a safe place to live. But in Houston, we come together to do something about it. Through the work of United Way, our children and youth have a chance to develop to their full potential. That means a better future for them – and a better community for us.

THE FIGURES

**1
in 4**

1 in 4 children are left alone after school

**50
percent**

50% of the children in Houston live in low-income families.

**30
percent**

30% of children in Harris county lack health insurance.

**3-6
pm**

Between the hours of 3 and 6 pm, kids are most at risk of getting into trouble or becoming victims of a crime

**1
in 3**

Nearly 1 in 3 students in Greater Houston does not graduate from high school

THE REALITY

Sadly, for thousands of children in our community the world consists of four walls of an apartment, life without strong adult guidance, little or no access to outside activities such as museums or nature or ballgames.

Instead, there's an array of temptations such as video games, getting high and peers who have gotten into trouble or have become involved in gangs.

Last year alone, United Way programs gave over half a million young people an expanded vision and a better chance of becoming all they can be.

Understanding the need

In 2008, our 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answered more than 575,000 calls for help, which included:

- 7,108 calls for child care provider referrals
- 6,970 calls for community health clinics
- 4,578 calls for school supplies
- 2,054 calls for school clothes

DID YOU KNOW? Every dollar invested in quality childhood education and care yields as much as a \$17 return to individuals and society.

A STORY



"There are good things and bad things happening in my neighborhood, and I want to be a part of the good things."

Growing up can be hard for any kid – regardless of the neighborhood. From alcohol and drugs to peer pressure and gang activity, the world is full of ways to get into trouble.

For Danzle – growing up in one of Houston's toughest gang neighborhoods – the world was downright dangerous. But thanks to some caring mentors and a United Way youth program designed to engage young men in structured learning and character-building activities, Danzle found the world full of possibilities.

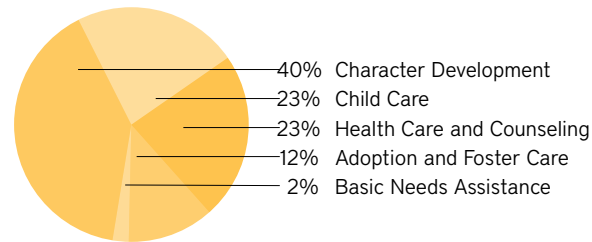
"United Way provided a safe place for me to learn about the world outside my neighborhood," Danzle says. A program participant since age 10, Danzle has been a star pupil. At 17, he is now a peer educator – emulating the role models that helped to shape him into the young man he has become.

He says it frustrates him to see other kids in his neighborhood doing bad things because they didn't have the care and guidance he was given at such a critical time in his life. "I just want to grab them and tell them to straighten up – that there is a better way."

Danzle wants to go to medical school and become a cardiologist, but he says he will never forget his roots. "There are good things and bad things happening in my neighborhood, and I want to be a part of the good things."

OUR INVESTMENT

United Way investment in children and youth



IN HOUSTON, WE CHAMPION THE CAUSE OF CHILDREN

Character development • Child care • Health care and counseling • Adoption and foster care • After-school care • Mentoring • Basic needs assistance

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS CAN DO

\$4 A DAY

Value of a fast food meal (\$1,460 GIFT) CAN PROVIDE:

34 school-aged children and teens with education, prevention and intervention on alcohol and drug abuse

\$45 TWICE A MONTH

(\$1,080 GIFT) CAN PROVIDE: 56 days of comprehensive quality child care to families in need

\$100 A WEEK

(\$5,200 GIFT) CAN PROVIDE:

20 children with supervised after-school activities

193 pregnant teens with counseling services through the duration of pregnancy



THE CHANGE

500
thousand

In 2008, we laid the foundation for a good life for more than 500,000 of our kids

82
percent

82% of students in United Way programs were more successful in school

46
thousand

46,200 young people benefited from our mentoring

37
thousand

37,200 children learned how to say no to drugs

73
thousand

73,300 children flourished in quality child care

THE FUTURE

In Houston, we believe that every child deserves a chance to thrive.

United Way is standing up for children and youth with ground-breaking programs, after-school care, mentors, parenting classes, after-school activities and more. We're giving our children and youth a better chance at success, and the opportunity to realize their dreams.

Please stand up for our community and join others who share your can-do spirit by giving generously. Together, we *do something about it* ... the United Way.

