



# TAKING A STAND FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Do  
something  
about it.

## DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 4 children is left alone after school

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

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

## IN HOUSTON, WE STAND UP FOR KIDS

More than **82% of students** in United Way programs are more successful in school.

Last year, United Way laid the foundation for more than **500,000 young people**.

Last year more than **73,000 children** flourished in quality child care.

More than **46,000 young people** benefitted from United Way mentoring programs last year.

What will our community look like without an educated workforce? How will Houston continue to lead the nation in job growth if its children don't graduate from high school? Can we remain the Opportunity City without preparing our youth to seize the opportunities of tomorrow?

United Way focuses on the big picture and tackles the major issues facing our community—like the school dropout rate. We know that giving young people an expanded vision and a better chance at becoming all they can be is the best way to ensure a strong future for our community.

At United Way, we know that success in school starts with a strong foundation. That's why we created *United Way Bright Beginnings*, an innovative child care quality-improvement program designed so that children from low-income families achieve social, emotional, physical and cognitive developmental milestones.

Children with quality early care experiences can expect higher math and reading achievement scores, greater language abilities, lower dropout rates, and higher employment and earning rates.

As kids get older, United Way is there to support their development with enriching activities, caring adult supervision and the opportunity to realize their dreams.

*Houston's Kids* and other after-school programs help young people stay on the right track.

Reducing the dropout rate is critical to the future of our community. Through out-of-school programs, child care, mentoring, after-school activities and more, United Way is giving our children and youth a better chance at success, and the opportunity to realize their dreams. That means a better future for them—and a better community overall.

At United Way, we believe that every child deserves a chance to thrive. It's another way we *do something about it* in Houston.

