



United Way of Greater Houston

Despite hard work and good values, thousands of families in our area are barely making ends meet, going without food by the end of the month, coping without health insurance and trying to raise healthy and happy families in highly stressful situations. All of us want the same things – good jobs with good wages, safe and affordable housing, financial security and a bright future for ourselves and our families. By focusing on building strong families and neighborhoods, United Way is making things possible.

It is possible for families to stand

STRONG

Do
something
about it.



THE REALITY

1 in 3 Houston families has trouble buying groceries once a month.

32% of surveyed Houstonians felt their personal situation worsened in the past year.

1 million people in our area have no health insurance.

115,000 families in our area live on incomes of \$20k-\$35k annually.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

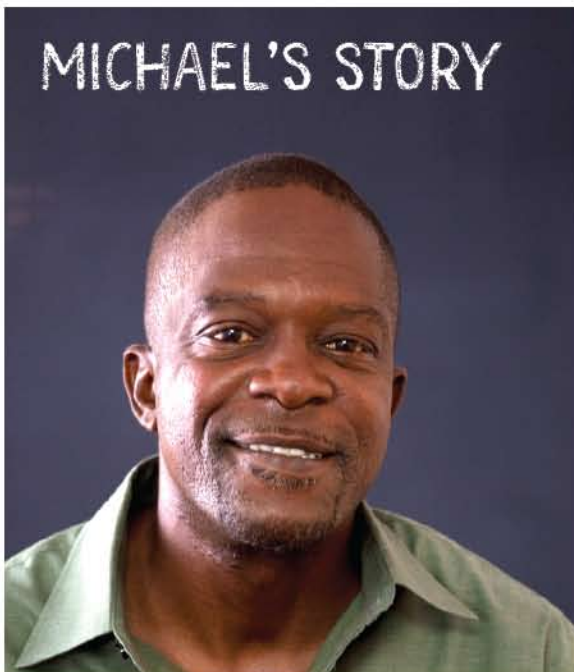
In 2009, our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answered more than 732,500 calls for help, which included:

- 41,348 calls for housing assistance programs
- 14,733 calls for free tax preparation/earned income tax credit
- 12,290 calls for holiday assistance programs
- 9,874 calls for hurricane preparedness

Today's families are facing tougher times than ever before – a challenging economy, job loss, increasing costs of healthcare and child care. With limited take-home pay, it's tough to make ends meet.

That's why improving the lives of individuals and families is at the heart of United Way's work. We're here to see that families have the opportunities that all families want – good jobs with good wages; safe and affordable housing; financial stability and the possibility of a better, brighter future.

DID YOU KNOW? Last year, United Way helped more than 780,000 individuals build a strong foundation.



Raising kids as a single parent is hard enough. Fighting every day to keep them, and keep them safe, is the hardest thing Michael has ever done.

Just as Michael was awarded full custody of his two children, he lost his job. He struggled to provide for his children and maintain his home, but without an income, he just couldn't keep up. Before Michael knew it, he and his kids were out on the street.

Michael wanted a better life for his children, so he turned to United Way for help. Immediately, United Way helped with temporary housing. Things were looking up. And then Michael became disabled, and he feared that his disability might prevent him from caring for his children, or worse, put them back on the street.

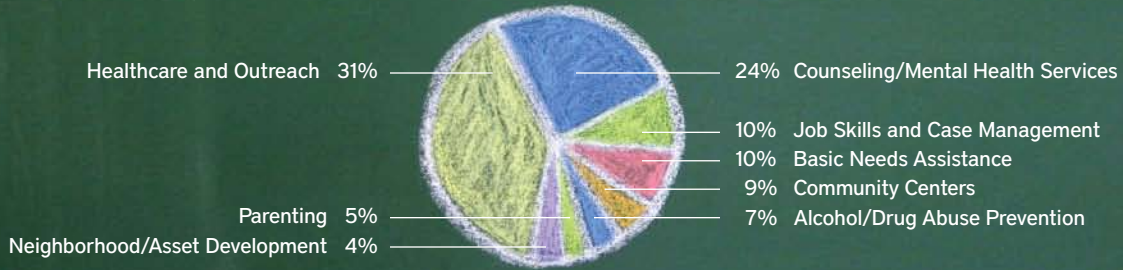
"Every father wants a home and safety for his children," Michael says. "When my own family wasn't there for me, United Way was there to help us."

Through United Way, Michael and his children moved into a permanent home. The family got help with basic needs, like food and clothing and other assistance, such as school supplies for the kids. Michael participated in United Way parenting classes to learn how to be a better father and create a stronger family.

At United Way, we know that stronger families mean a stronger community and a stronger future for us all. We give families, like Michael's, a better chance of not only surviving, but thriving.

OUR INVESTMENT

United Way investment in families



IN HOUSTON, WE HELP FAMILIES THRIVE

Parenting • Counseling • Healthcare • Basic needs assistance • Job skills and case management • Community centers • Substance abuse prevention • Financial literacy and mentoring • Neighborhood/asset development

\$100 a month (\$1,200 gift) can provide

171 individuals with cancer screening, early detection and education

\$20 a week (\$1,040 gift) can provide

32 families with basic needs (food, clothing and shelter) for a week

\$200 a month (\$2,400 gift) can provide

267 families with groceries for one week



THE RESULTS

780,000 In 2009, we helped more than 780,000 individuals build a strong foundation.

88% of moms and dads in United Way programs improved their parenting skills.

37,000 people learned how to be better parents.

48,400 individuals received primary healthcare services.

27,000 families were helped to gain greater financial stability.

In Houston, happy families are possible.

United Way of Greater Houston makes a substantial investment in the health and well-being of families in our community. We assist area families with parenting classes, financial literacy and mentoring, asset building, substance abuse counseling, wellness counseling and medical care, as well as access to food pantries and community centers.

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.



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