A United Way Community Initiative

A partnership of United Way and the CREATE Foundation, the Early Childhood Coalition is impacting early childhood education and grade-level reading by addressing four areas that influence 3rd-grade reading scores: school readiness, summer learning, school attendance, and early childhood health. The Early Childhood Coalition is a part of the national and Mississippi Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and the statewide Excel By 5 network.

Why it’s Important
Students who do not read on grade-level by the end of the third grade are more likely to drop out of high school.

FOCUS ON PHYSICAL & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

6,117 prescriptions filled
607 dental visits
5,913 alcohol & drug counseling and treatment sessions
2,972 healthy lifestyle education classes
120 mental health counseling recipients
35,868 therapeutic rehab sessions
2,897 doctor & nurse practitioner visits
1,136 physical fitness programs

20% of Chickasaw County residents are uninsured
48% of adults in Tishomingo County have been diagnosed with high blood pressure

60 of every 10,000 adults in Prentiss County have been hospitalized for substance use disorders

STRATEGIES FOR IMPROVEMENT
• Increase access to affordable outpatient prevention services and support services
• More education and awareness of behavioral health issues
• Increase access to long- and short-term behavioral health services
• More health education for all ages
• Increase access to affordable resources for senior adults and their caregivers

27,174 weekend food backpacks for kids
33 permanent homes
12,927 nights of shelter
38,575 food boxes for families
334 financial management classes
25 job skills trainings
20,251 meals served

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A partnership of United Way, the Tupelo/Lee County Community Foundation (a CREATE Foundation affiliate) and Families First, the Hunger Coalition works with all stakeholders who comprise the food distribution system to better understand the current situation and determine what is needed to eliminate food insecurity for all people in Lee County. The Hunger Coalition partners with food pantries, hot meals programs, and in-school pantries and weekend backpack programs to help build capacity for these programs. The Hunger Coalition also administers the BreakBox program, which provides students in need with food boxes over the summer and other school breaks when they do not have access to free school meals.
2019 Partners in Impact

- 4-H Itawamba County
- 4-H Lee County
- 4-H Prentiss County
- 4-H Tishomingo County
- Agape Health Services, Inc.
- American Red Cross, North Mississippi Chapter
- Association for Excellence in Education (AEE)
- Autism Center of North Mississippi
- Backpack Ministry of Tishomingo County
- Banah Pregnancy Testing Center of Pontotoc, Inc.
- Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Northeast Mississippi
- Boy Scouts Yocona Area Council
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Mississippi
- Boys & Girls Clubs of North Mississippi - Tupelo Clubs
- Boys & Girls Clubs of North Mississippi - New Albany Club
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Mississippi - Baldwyn Club
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Mississippi - Booneville Club
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Mississippi - Iuka Club
- CATCH Kids
- Church After School Association, Inc. (CASA)
- El Centro, Inc.
- EXCEL, Inc.
- F.A.I.T.H. Food Pantry
- Faith Haven, Inc.
- Family Resource Center of North Mississippi
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Food Depot of Tishomingo County
- Fuller Center for Housing of Houston, MS, Inc.
- Fulton United Methodist Food Pantry
- Girl Scouts Heart of the South
- Good Samaritan Center of Union County
- Good Samaritan Health Services, Inc.
- Habitat for Humanity of Northeast Mississippi
- Habitat for Humanity of Pontotoc County
- Helpful Samaritan Food Pantry
- Hope Family Ministries, Inc.
- Itawamba United Methodist Food Pantry
- Itawamba United Methodist Food Pantry West
- Meals on Wheels, MSMESS
- Mission Okolona
- National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of NEMS, Inc.
- New Haven Center for Special Needs Adults
- NMMC Camp Bluebird
- NMMC Diabetes Treatment Center
- Patient Assistance Fund
- NMMC Heart & Vascular Institute
- Patient Assistance Fund
- NMMC Hospice Patient Assistance Fund
- NMMC Social Work Patient Assistance Fund
- North MS Kidney Foundation
- Parkgate Pregnancy Clinic, Inc.
- Regional Rehabilitation Center, Inc.
- S.A.F.E., Inc.
- Saints’ Brew
- Sally Kate Winters Family Services
- Salvation Army
- Salvation Army - Chickasaw County
- Salvation Army - Pontotoc County
- Sanctuary Hospice House, Inc.
- Shepherd’s Center of Greater Tupelo
- Special Education Bowling Association
- St. Luke United Methodist Food Pantry
- The Sunday Fund at Traceway
- Talbot House, Inc.
- Three Rivers Area Agency on Aging Week End Backpack Program

WHY GIVE?
United Way understands our community’s toughest challenges. And every day, we find the best ways to bring people together to solve the issues that matter most. When you give to United Way, you’re investing in programs that create measurable impact for children and families in our local region.

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?
You can invest in your community by giving to United Way, either through your workplace campaign or with a direct gift. You can also get involved by volunteering and joining in the many projects sponsored by United Way. Visit unitedwaynems.org to learn more.