

# United Way of Central Illinois

## 2018-2020 Education Investments

Helping children learn, achieve, and succeed while engaging families and communities



### Total Education Investments: \$666,078

#### **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Illinois Capital Region** Comprehensive Mentoring

A program which provides at-risk children with a positive and consistent one-to-one volunteer mentor that works with the child to promote healthy development and functioning. Each relationship is closely monitored by a professional Case Manager through consistent contact. This program includes three types of mentoring: school-based mentoring, community-based mentoring, and mentoring children of prisoners. Matches are supported with curriculum that strengthens critical thinking skills, mathematics, spelling, fine motor skills and phonics. The curriculum also supports the child's understanding and coping of topics such as bullying, self-esteem, decision making, stress, communication and social skills.

#### **Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois** Project Learn

Project Learn is an out of-school-time educational enhancement program consisting of homework help, tutoring, high-yield learning and leisure activities, parent involvement, collaboration with schools, and a summer component aimed as bridging the educational gap that develops between school years. The program will operate 5 days/week from 3pm-6pm during the school year and include a full day, 8 week summer component called Summer Brain Gain that offers fun and engaging theme-based activities to mitigate summer learning loss, specifically in the areas of reading and mathematics.

#### **Compass for Kids, Inc.** Camp Compass

A summer program for elementary school age children from homeless and low-income families in Springfield which provides academic instruction by certified teachers in the mornings to maintain and improve reading, writing and math skills, with the goal of avoiding summer learning loss and having the campers return to school in the fall ready to learn. The afternoons focus on enrichment activities and camp experiences. There is no cost to the campers and they are provided transportation, meals and necessary supplies. Camp Compass aims to fulfill a profound need in our community by showing measurable results in increasing scores in reading and math.

#### **Compass for Kids, Inc. (Continued)** Club Compass

A free after-school program for homeless and low-income elementary students of Springfield School District 186. Compass is a unique community-based, volunteer-driven model. Each site is served by a team of faith institutions and/or civic groups called community partners that work together to provide the site location, snack, dinner, supplies and volunteer-mentors for each child. Each after-school program site serves 25-30 students and engages 25-30 volunteer-mentors to help create a structured environment where meaningful one-on-one relationships can blossom. Compass works through an evidence-based social emotional curriculum to support the overall well-being and academic success of their children.

#### **Girl Scouts of Central Illinois, Inc.**

##### Girl Scout Leadership Experience Outreach Program

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience Outreach Program (GSLEO) aims to help girls in urban under-performing school districts develop the inner resources that will increase their chances for a successful life. The goals of the GSLEO are to help girls develop: confidence and a positive sense of self-worth; a meaningful set of values to guide their present and future choices; respect for self and others and the value of working together as a team to solve problems; the ability to set and achieve goals in the realm of finances, grades/academics, and positive behaviors; the ability and desire to make healthy lifestyle choices; and a belief they can make a difference in their own lives and in their school, family, and community.

#### **Memorial Behavioral Health**

##### The Children's MOSAIC Project

This program is a collaborative effort to transform children's mental healthcare in Springfield. Key MOSAIC strategies include moving services from the clinic into the community which includes schools. MOSAIC integrates mental health therapists into Springfield Public Schools, partnering with teachers, school social workers and staff to conduct universal mental health screening and intervention to children identified as at-risk. Research shows that poor mental health is associated with lower academic achievement and students who receive social-emotional support have better academic outcomes.

### **One Hope United**

#### **Foster Grandparent Program**

The Foster Grandparent Program utilizes individuals who are 55 and over to provide academic and social support to students in need of assistance. Students chosen to receive intervention are identified by school educators near the beginning of the year. The program focuses on providing students with individualized support in the classroom as part of the regular school day. Foster Grandparents aid students with additional instruction time that may get lost or off track within the typical classroom setting. Foster Grandparents also assist students with behavioral issues stay within the classroom setting so they do not miss out on classroom instruction, and help to reinforce a culture of respect.

### **Springfield Urban League**

#### **Freedom School**

A national literacy-rich program that boosts children's motivation to read, generates positive attitudes toward learning, and increases their self-esteem through activities and books that reflect their own images. The curriculum developed by the Children's Defense Fund supports children and families around five essential components: academic enrichment; parent involvement; civic engagement; intergenerational leadership development; and nutrition, health & mental health. Freedom School gives children opportunities to discover the joy of reading and improve their ability to read, while connecting to their culture, developing self-discipline, having fun, and participating in community service and social action projects.

#### **Brandon OutREACH**

Brandon OutREACH is a Teen REACH (Responsibility, Education, Achievement, Caring and Hope) modeled program which provides positive activities for low-income Brandon Court K-5 youth during out-of-school time. Activities are grouped into the following six categories: academic remediation and enrichment; mentoring; community service; life skills education; recreation, sports, arts and culture; and parental involvement. AmeriCorps members and college students tutor and mentor the children, lead group discussions, and facilitate service-learning projects. By exposing at-risk children to the range of positive life choices and opportunities that are available to them, they enable, empower, and encourage them to make positive choices for their own lives.

### **United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln**

#### **Learning Without Limits Summer Camp**

An 8 week summer program for children with disabilities that includes educational components for reading and math while providing opportunities to explore the community and develop social applied skills. This program serves school age children who require more intensive support to prevent summer learning loss in the areas of reading and math. United Cerebral Palsy staff works with the child, family, and teacher to determine whether additional goals should be included in the Individual Service Plan to work on over the summer. Camp curriculum may also include physical activity, crafts, and field trips into the community to build on academic, social and life skills.

#### **Our Child Without Limits**

Our Child Without Limits will be a new project modeled after the Kate Laver Family Empowerment Project at UCP Inland Empire in California. Extensive research is available to support the conclusion that family involvement in education improves outcomes. This program not only helps families learn how to cope with their child's disability, but also helps them learn to navigate their new normal. Each of the 8 sessions is complete with home exercises and home-visiting supports to review and support families as they learn new skills. In turn, this program will track the growth and development of the children of the families being served.

### **Community ACEs Training (Adverse Childhood Experiences)**

In an effort to advance the Social Emotional Strategies within the Education Strategic Investment Plan, the Education Vision Council has set aside \$2,000 to provide comprehensive training on implementing trauma-informed best practices to help our community be a leading community when it comes to supporting individuals to overcome Adverse Childhood Experiences.