



Triangle  
**United Way**

**2003**

**Needs**

**Results**

**Visions**



# Nurturing Our Young Children

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*  
2003

## The Need

- There were 45,203 children under six years of age in the Triangle with families in which all parents work. Over 2500 families in the Triangle with children under five years of age live in poverty. (Source: US Census, 2000)
- The cost of childcare exceeds the cost to attend UNC – CH. Based on market rates established by the state:
  - The average childcare cost for a 4 star center is \$8,220 per year
  - The average childcare cost for a 3 star center is \$7,980 per year
  - The cost to attend UNC is \$2,314/yr.
- In December 2002, the waiting list for a childcare subsidy for pre-school-aged children had reached 556 children in Durham and Orange Counties. (Source: Child Care Services Association)
- NC children from lower income families have significantly lower skills in social development, language development and communication than high income-families. (Source: NC School Readiness Assessment 2000).
- Children participating in high quality child care programs (as defined by 3-5 star ratings) scored significantly better on language, early literacy, math and social-emotional skills- abilities deemed important for success in kindergarten. The influence of childcare quality was equal for children from poor and non-poor families. (Source: Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, 2003)
- According to the NC Justice and Community Development Center (2001), the Living Income Standard in NC is \$22,608 for a single parent with one preschooler or \$33,636 for a two-parent family with 2 preschoolers. According to their study, 35.3% of families in Durham County earn less than these living income levels.
- For every \$1 spent on immunizations, \$14 is saved in medical costs.
- More than 1/5 of homeless children between 3 and 6 years of age have emotional problems serious enough to require professional care. Yet, nationwide, less than 1/3 of them are receiving mental health treatment. (Source: The Better Homes Foundation)
- Poverty and homelessness are linked to family violence. 8% of all homeless children have been physically abused, twice the rate of other children. 8% of all homeless children have been sexually abused, 3 times the rate of other children. (Source: The Better Homes Foundation)

- The estimated percentage of preschoolers with a mental health issue is 8% or approximately 4,000 children in need of mental health services in Wake County. (Source: American Journal of Psychiatry, June 1998).
- For every \$1 spent on quality early child interventions, \$7 is saved in remedial and treatment services as the child reaches school age.
- It is over three times more expensive to serve a child in a Behaviorally and Emotionally Disabled classroom than in a regular classroom with support. (Source: Wake County Public Schools).

## **The Results**

- 95% (405) of the children participating in high quality childcare centers (3-5 stars) receiving funds from Triangle United Way increased their skill level. This indicates that these children are more prepared to enter kindergarten.
- Through Triangle United Way's funding of **Child Care Services Association's** Scholarship Program, 78 children were able to access quality child care in Durham in 2002.
- **Learning Together** is only one of twenty-three 5 star childcare centers in Wake, out of 262 licensed centers. Learning Together's Developmental Day Program serves children with or at risk for a developmental disability, ages 0-3. During 2002, 52% of the 23 children who transitioned into public schools were placed into regular classrooms; after 6 months, all are still in the regular classroom setting. Yet, 80 children are on a waiting list to be served.
- **Interact** partners with **Triangle Family Services** and **SAFEchild**, to assist children who are witnesses to domestic violence. The Young Children Impacted by Violence Counseling Program helps children deal with the psychological effects of witnessing violence – 100% of the mothers participating have documented a positive change in their child's behavior or school performance.
- The **Children's Community Care Team in Wake County** targeted the mental health needs of children ages 0-5 as a critical issue. The team commissioned a group of 20 experts to study the problem and create a county wide strategic plan. Based on the plan, two gaps were noted: lack of sufficient programs to meet the demand, and the need for specialized professional and teacher trainings. In response, a Child Mental Health Training Program was developed. Additionally, a targeted public education campaign focusing on the importance of social, emotional and behavioral development in very young children was launched. Finally, funds were provided to support the Early Intervention Specialist position at the **Triangle United Way 211**.
- A formal collaboration was developed with the four **Smart Starts** in Chatham, Durham, Orange and Wake Counties and **Triangle United Way's Success by 6 Initiative**. These organizations pooled their resources to support a regional approach to increase the community's awareness of the importance of early childhood development. A community campaign was created, which included radio spots, print ads and posters. The overall theme for the campaign was **Read. Sing. Play. Hug**. The campaign kicked off in June 2001 and has been running for two years.
- **Triangle United Way's Success by 6** was granted the opportunity to create a team of local volunteers, researchers, business leaders, and staff to participate in an Advocacy Academy Training sponsored by United Way of North Carolina. From the training, the Advocacy Team created a plan to address the medical needs, both physical and mental, of the Hispanic children's population, age 0-6 years. The team won a \$1,000 grant from United Way of North Carolina, which will be used to conduct developmental screenings for young Hispanic children in August 2003 in partnership with a local church.

## **Our Vision for Caring**

We will make sure young children have:

- ❖ Increased access to high quality early childhood education and development services, especially for low-income families and children with special needs
- ❖ More support for behavioral, emotional and social problems
- ❖ Bilingual services for Spanish speaking families

**By 2005, we hope to see more children in high quality 4 – 5 star childcare facilities.**

***Triangle United Way focuses resources  
on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.***





# Investing in Our Youth

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*  
2003

## The Need

- According to the NC Department of Public Instruction, 1,672 youth in the Triangle dropped out of school in 2001-02. Most the juvenile crime occurs during the week between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. According to a survey in Wake County, 50% of white children do participate in structured sports or other activities after school or on weekends; however for Hispanic youth, the percent participation drops to 27%.
- A 1998 Orange County survey of citizens and key community leaders identified Juvenile Delinquency among the five most pressing social issues.
- Only 53% of Durham County Schools' students and 48.6% of Orange County Schools students will graduate from that school system. (Source: NC Department of Public Instruction)
- There is a minority achievement gap between the school drop out rate of white and minority students. In Durham County, 10% of all Hispanic students drop out of school compared with 5% of African-American students and 3% of white students. (Source: NC Department of Public Instruction)
- High school dropouts include approximately:
  - 75% of youth involved with the juvenile justice system
  - 66% of adult inmates
  - 80% of all federal prisoners(Source: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 1995)
- It costs \$500 to \$2000 per year to provide a young person with positive youth development opportunities – the cost of incarceration is \$40,000 per year. Therefore, for every \$1 spent on structured after-school youth enrichment programs, approximately \$40 is saved in youth incarceration costs
- Only one-third of teenage mothers receive a high school diploma.
- Adolescent pregnancy cost North Carolina \$1,039,390,739 in fiscal year 2001-2002 (cost of WIC, Medicaid, food stamps, and TANF). (Source: NC Budget and Tax Center).
- Each week 12 teens become pregnant in Durham County; 3 teens in Orange County and 21 teens in Wake County. In 2001, 1849 girls ages 10-19 became pregnant in Durham, Orange and Wake Counties. North Carolina has the highest Hispanic teen birth rate in the U.S. (Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics)

- The children of teenage mothers have lower birth weights, are more likely to perform poorly in school, and are at greater risk of abuse and neglect.
- Adolescents who begin drinking before the age of 15 are 4 times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who begin drinking at age 21; in NC there are between 25,000 and 50,000 adolescents in need of treatment. (Source: NC Epidemiological Data)
- Results of a national study on One to One mentoring confirmed that youth who have an adult role model are:
  - 46% less likely to start using drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking alcohol
  - 52% less likely to skip school
  - 33% less likely to hit someone
- Teens who volunteer reported doing better in school and improving grades (Source: Independent Sector, "America's Teenage Volunteers," 2001).

## The Results

- Seven Triangle United Way agencies in Durham, Orange and Wake counties (**Boys & Girls Clubs, Garner Road YMCA, YMCA of the Triangle, Volunteers for Youth, Salvation Army-Wake County, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, John Avery Boys & Girls Club**) operate 10 programs with a specific focus on academic improvement through homework assistance, tutoring and mentor relationships. Of the 1,643 young people who participated in these programs last year, 45% (746 youth) improved their academic performance.
- The **Volunteer Center of Durham** recruited over 2000 youth volunteers during 2001.
- In Durham, structured after school educational enrichment programs served over 2,000 low income, at risk youth through the **Salvation Army and John Avery Boys and Girls Club**. Participating youth achieved academic improvements (up to 97% in one program) and enhanced social and job readiness skills.
- In Wake, the **Boys and Girls Club** served over 2800 youth through 5 club locations. 100% of teens that were members for at least 4 years, graduated from high school last year.
- In Orange, a teen pregnancy and violence prevention program operated by **The Women's Center** targets low income girls ages 10-14. Of the 30 girls served last year, 100% were matched with a volunteer mentor and no pregnancies were reported.
- Three United Way agencies (**Volunteers for Youth, Durham Companions, and Haven House**) operate mentoring/role model programs for at-risk or delinquent youth – youth who have been referred by the court or law enforcement, along with youth who are having trouble in school with suspensions and truancy. Last year, 206 youth were served and 189 (92%) had no new court referrals as a result of the support they received from an adult mentor/role model.
- The **Tammy Lynn Center's** Developmental Day Program enables children and youth with severe and profound disabilities to improve their self-help, socialization and communication skills. Last year, 85% of the 26 students had demonstrated progress.
- **Southlight's** Youth Intervention & Treatment Program targets youth with multiple destructive behaviors due to substance abuse. Last year, 92% of 108 youth treated for more than 60 days were drug free; yet, 10 youth were turned away due to limited funding.
- **The YMCA of the Triangle** operates a tutorial program for children K-12 at 5 sites in Wake County; 98% of participants reside in public housing. Program results indicated that 100% of the 25 students referred by the Wake County Public Schools showed improvement in their end of grade reading tests.

- The After School Program operated by **Garner Road YMCA** served 97 youth 5-12 years of age. The program is designed to enhance educational learning ability, and build self-confidence and self-respect. Over 75% of the participants' grades improved.
- **Triangle United Way and Wake County Human Services** are finishing its 4<sup>th</sup> year of a partnership to support neighborhood based positive youth development services for middle school youth in southern and eastern Wake County. Two projects, involving 10 youth agencies are serving over 600 youth, improving academic performance, increasing their commitment to school, practicing healthy behaviors and enhancing youth involvement in community volunteering.
- **The Orange Children and Youth Team** in collaboration with the **Orange County Government, Orange County Cooperative Extension and Orange County Human Rights and Relations** will be funding and participating in a youth leadership program called Community Voices during the summer of 2003. Youth will learn leadership skills to work together to solve problems, and make a difference in their communities.
- Established in 1980, the **C.M. and Margaret D. Suther Memorial Fund** supports renovations, repairs and capital improvements for Durham County member agencies. In the past year, over \$23,000 has been granted to member agencies that serve Durham youth.

### **Our Vision for Caring**

We will make sure youth have:

- ❖ Increased opportunities for success in school
- ❖ Increased educational enrichment and support services such as tutoring and youth development programs
- ❖ Accessible bilingual services for Spanish speaking youth

**By 2005, we hope to see increased school performance rates.**

***Triangle United Way focuses resources  
on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.***





# Strengthening Our Families

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*  
2003

## The Need

- The median family income in the Triangle was \$71,300 in 2002. A family of four with \$54,500 is considered low income. A family of four with \$35,650 is considered very low income. (Source: 2002 HUD Guidelines)
- Almost 24,000 children under 18 in the Triangle live in poverty. In Durham County, 43% of single mother families with children under 5 years live in poverty. (Source: US Census, 2000).
- Triangle-wide, there are 14,858 living in poverty. Almost one out of every 10 families in the Triangle lives in poverty. (Source: US Census, 2000).
- One in four women is a victim of domestic violence during her lifetime. (Source: Interact)
- Over 10% of adults in the Triangle reported that they have been physically abused by a spouse or partner in 2001. (Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics). In Durham County, there were 2400 incidents of domestic violence reported by the Durham County Police Department in 2001.
- In 1999, there were 249 rapes with a weapon reported to the police in the Triangle. Over 23% of the rape victims were 15 years and younger. (Source, NC State Bureau of Investigation)
- For every \$1 spent on family respite care to care for a person with developmental disabilities, \$15 is saved in costs associated with institutionalization.
- The Hispanic/Latino population in Wake County grew 529.8% from 1990-2000. Durham County's growth was 729.5%. Orange County's growth was 312.3%. In 2000, there were 56,297 Hispanic/Latinos in the Triangle. (Source: US Census)
- Over 19,000 calls from Triangle residents were made to crisis hotlines in Wake and Durham Counties last year.
- Every 2 hours a child in the Triangle is reported to be abused or neglected. In 2001, the total number of children who were found to be abuse or neglected was 2,293. (Wake: 594 children, Durham: 1,282 children; and Orange: 417 children) (Source: NC Child Advocacy Institute)
- There are more than 10,000 children in Department of Social Services custody in foster care in North Carolina; 848 of these children live in the Triangle. (Source: NC Child Advocacy Institute).
- According to a study by the National Association of School Guidance Counselors, the children's population served by programs such as **Summit House**, if not treated, are 6 times more likely to continue the cycle of poverty, substance abuse, and crime that is their family's history.
- In NC, 60% of families do not make enough money to meet basic living expenses. (Source: NC Justice and Community Development Center).

## The Results

- Over 4700 families sought counseling or parent education from Triangle United Way agencies. Almost 90% of these families reported that they learned a new skill that will help them cope with life challenges.
- It costs about \$60,000 a year to institutionalize a person with developmental disabilities. However, a parent can spend as little as \$3,840 for respite service, and successfully keep their family member at home. In 2002, **The Arc of Durham** helped 54 families use 8,592 hours of respite care. In addition, 300 families received support services that increased their ability to care for their family member with special needs.
- **Catholic Social Ministries**, in collaboration with **SAFEchild**, continues to prevent child abuse by providing parent education and support services to Spanish-speaking families living in rural Wake County. Twenty parents and their 32 children have been recruited into the program that began in February 2002. Over 90% of the participants were able to identify new parenting skills they learned as a result of attending the workshops. There are at least 15 more families on the waiting list each time these parenting education sessions are offered.
- **Triangle Family Services'** Family Violence Intervention Services operates a one-year, 32 session psycho-educational batterers' treatment program. Each participant is required to attend 26 consecutive weekly group sessions and 6 monthly follow-up sessions. More than 75% of participants have children under the age of 10. Working with a sampling of 250 convicted offenders from 1998, 96% of those completing the program successfully avoided their unhealthy behavior from the past.
- According to the 2000 US Census, there are approximately 50,000 low-income persons in Wake County who are eligible for legal assistance. **Legal Aid of NC** (formerly East Central Community Legal Services) served 1352 clients in 01-02. At least 23 evictions were avoided last year and \$139,849 in benefits were obtained or preserved through prevented evictions or monetary awards. 130 requests for legal assistance are turned down each week.
- **Child Advocacy Commission of Durham** served 851 families in 2002 with legal assistance in family matters, including mediation, consensual custody matters, and emergency custody cases involving children at risk of abuse and neglect. For \$50 - \$250, a family can file emergency custody actions which would cost anywhere from \$1,500 - \$5,000 to file through a private attorney.
- **Family Counseling Services of Durham** operates a state-approved program for domestic violence offenders and reports that of the 341 perpetrators, upon completion of the 26-week program, 80% had no repeat offenses during a one year follow up study.
- **Summit House**, serving non-violent women who have entered the court system, takes mothers and children into the residence for 18 – 24 months. Ten mothers successfully stayed drug and alcohol free, refrained from criminal activity, and learned to parent their children well.
- **Durham Crisis Response Center** provided shelter and residential services to 109 women escaping family violence last year.
- Last year, 246 women and children, who were victims of domestic violence, found safe shelter in Wake and Durham through **Interact** and the **Durham Crisis Response Center**. Due to limited shelter space, more than 20 women and children per month cannot be housed in the shelters.
- The Wake Families Team has established a **Family Violence Awareness Initiative**. In 2002, the team launched a public awareness campaign to highlight Triangle United Way programs that collaborate to tackle the problem of family violence. The team will develop a family violence screening tool to be used by agencies to screen for potential victims of abuse and provide referrals to the appropriate resources.

## **Our Vision for Caring**

We will make sure families have:

- ❖ Increased support services to prevent domestic violence, child abuse or neglect
- ❖ Greater access to coordinated services to ensure stability
- ❖ Increased access to family services for minority families, especially our growing population of Hispanic families

**By 2005, we hope to see more families living in stable households free of abuse and neglect**

***Triangle United Way focuses resources  
on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.***





# Enriching the Lives of Our Seniors

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*  
2003

## The Need

- Almost 63,000 seniors in the Triangle are living with disabilities that may prevent them from living independently without support. (Source: US Census, 2000)
- According to the 2000 Census, there are 105,791 seniors over 60 in Durham, Orange and Wake counties. This number represents 10% of the total population. There are more seniors than children under five. By 2020 the 65+ populations in NC will increase by 72.6%. In Orange County by 132%. In Wake County by 180%. In Durham County by 60.8%.
- For every \$1 spent to enable a senior to remain independent, in their home, at least \$1 to \$2 is saved in nursing home costs, using Medicaid cost rates.
- In 2000, there were 5447 grandparents in the Triangle who are responsible for caring for a grandchild who is under 18 (Source: US Census).
- The fastest growing segment of the population is the 100-year old group.
- According to the US Census, there were 7072 Triangle residents over the age of 65 living in poverty in 1999.
- 379 Seniors aged 65 and older in the Triangle do not have telephones in their homes (Source: US Census).
- In a telephone survey conducted by the Wake County Community Assessment, 34% of those who needed adult daycare were unable to find it.
- The Seniors Focus Group for the Orange County Community Assessment participants identified quality of care for frail, older persons in institutions, services for frail, older persons living in the home, and lack of coordinated service delivery as major human service issues in Orange County.
- Lack of affordable housing, lack of senior citizen facilities and services, or lack of health care accessibility and affordability were identified as major human services issues in Orange County by more than 50% of the key leaders interviewed in 1999 for the Orange County Community Assessment.
- According to the State Center for Health Statistics, almost 30% of adults age 50 and over in NC report that their health is fair or poor. Almost 50% of minority females ages 65 and over state that their health is fair or poor.
- 9% of adults 50 and older report that they could not see a doctor due to cost last year (Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics).

## The Results

- Nearly 2000 seniors living in the Triangle maintained independent lifestyles by utilizing supplemental meal program delivered by three United Way-funded programs, **Meals on Wheels of Wake County, the Joint Orange Chatham Community Action, Inc. and Orange Congregations in Mission in Orange County.** Yet, more than two-thirds of rural Orange County is still unreached and Wake County has a waiting list of 90.
- Adult Day Services were provided to 416 seniors who needed a safe and supervised day environment with activities designed to fit their individual needs through the program services of **Resources for Seniors, YWCA of Wake County, and Durham County's Council for Senior Citizens.**
- **The Orange County Aging Advisory Board** and the **United Way Seniors Community Care Team** joined forces in October 2002 to form a joint planning group to plan, coordinate, and advocate for Seniors in Orange County.
- **The Keeping in Step/ Seniors Team in Durham County** has as its planning priority focus for 2004 the development of the **Center for Seniors Life**, scheduled to break ground in September 2003.
- As part of the public awareness focus of the **Wake County Seniors Community Care Team**, team members collaborated with the News and Observer to promote continuing coverage of Senior issues.

## Our Vision for Caring

We will make sure that seniors have:

- ❖ Equitable access to quality services
- ❖ Support and services for their caregivers
- ❖ Support that reduces isolation within the community
- ❖ The ability to reside in their choice of location as long as possible

**By 2005, we hope to see increased access to services for Seniors that encourage independence**

*Triangle United Way focuses resources  
on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.*





# Meeting Basic Needs

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*  
2003

## The Need

- The median family income in the Triangle is \$66,100. A family of four with \$52,500 is considered low income. A family of four making \$33,050 is considered very low income.
- There are 91,533 people in the Triangle who live below the poverty line. (US Census, 2000).
- According to adjusted Census figures and food insecurity studies by Tufts University, there are 86,500 individuals at risk of hunger in Durham, Orange and Wake Counties.
- In Orange County, more than 48% of renters pay more than 30% of their income for rent. (Source: US Census)
- For every \$1 spent on food distribution, \$10 is saved if the food were to be purchased at retail prices.
- For every family that finds shelter at **Genesis Home**, there are 8 families who have called requesting housing and services.
- 12.4% of participants surveyed in the 1999 Wake County Community Assessment have trouble providing their family with the basic necessities.
- 1/3 of households surveyed in 1999 have annual incomes of \$35,000 or less, yet the average new detached home in Orange County sold for nearly \$283,000 in 1998.
- Homelessness:
  - As of 2003, the documented homeless population in the Triangle totals 2,180 people (Durham – 529, Orange 179, Wake – 1472). **Of these homeless people, 455 (22%) are chronically homeless.** (Source: Point in Time Surveys)
  - Nearly 80% of the homeless adults in the Triangle have jobs and still have trouble providing basic necessities.
  - Indicators at the national level suggest that almost 40% of homeless people are part of a family. Aggregate data from the State of NC indicate that this percentage is as high as 58%.
  - The fastest growing segment of homeless population is women and children - 26% of homeless population are children; the number of homeless women and children has doubled since 1989;
  - Fifty percent of all homeless women and children in this country are fleeing domestic violence.

- Utilizing National Network for Youth statistics, there is an estimated 200 youth in Wake County who are homeless.
- Approximately 24% of Durham's population is adults who lack literacy skills to earn a family-supporting wage.
- People with Disabilities:
  - In 2000, there were 218,616 people with disabilities in the Triangle (Source: US Census).
  - In Wake County alone, there are currently over 900 children and adults with developmental disabilities waiting for services that are often desperately needed.

## The Results

- Last year, 540 (57% of those served) homeless people secured permanent affordable housing through efforts of United Way agencies such as the **Urban Ministries of Raleigh, Salvation Army, Genesis Home, Pan Lutheran Ministries, Women's Center of Wake County, Triangle Family Services, and YWCA of Wake County**. Unfortunately, there are over 123 people on waiting lists to receive such valuable services.
- Over 24,300 households in the Triangle turned to the United Way agencies to help them avoid homelessness with short-term emergency assistance such as food, rent, utilities and clothing. Member agencies providing the needed help included: **Salvation Army (Durham and Wake), Inter-Faith Council for Social Services, Women-In-Action, Women's Center of Wake County and Orange Congregations in Mission**.
- **The Food Banks of North Carolina** distributed more than \$4.6 million pounds of food to Durham, Orange and Wake Counties during 2001-2002.
- **Freedom House's** Life Skills Education Program increases self-sufficiency among residents by combining substance abuse treatment with a various other support services. 76% graduated with jobs and housing last year. Due to capacity limitations, 21 people are on the waiting list.
- Last year, the **American Red Cross** responded to the worst ice storm ever in our community. Nearly 1000 people were sheltered and over 10,000 meals were served in Durham alone.
- The **Basic Needs Issue Team** in Durham County is leading an effort among agencies providing emergency financial assistance to coordinate efforts in order to better and more easily serve clients in crisis.
- **United Way 2-1-1** handled over 14,044 calls in the last twelve months from people who did not know where to turn for help in accessing health and human services. Approximately 40% of the calls were from people who needed their basic needs met, such as emergency financial assistance, food, clothing, shelter, and affordable housing.
- **The Basic Needs Teams of Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties** spearheaded the **Triangle Partnership to End Chronic Homelessness** resulting in a submission of a \$3.5 million federal grant on behalf of over 20 partners in the Triangle working to end homelessness.
- **The Basic Needs Teams of Durham, Orange, and Wake Counties** worked together with the Continuums of Care in the Triangle to submit the first regional homeless count in 2003.

## **Our Vision for Caring**

We will make sure that people have their basic needs met through:

- ❖ Access to food, clothing, shelter and tools for independence in a caring environment
- ❖ Coordinated systems of care to reduce red tape and improve delivery of services
- ❖ Information, support and resources to help them help themselves

**By 2005, we hope to see a reduced proportion of people who are homeless.**

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on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.***





# Providing Access to Health Services

*Together, We Can Do The Most Good*

2003

## The Need

- The health status of minorities, particularly African-Americans and Hispanics, lags behind that of Whites. Access and quality of health care services, especially services that are designed to promote and maintain good health, contribute to improved population health status. Most of the uninsured in NC are minorities. (Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities)
- For every \$1 invested in outpatient treatment for people with substance abuse addictions, \$7 is saved in long term costs associated with drug-related crime, criminal justice costs and theft. When savings related to health care are included, the total savings can exceed costs by a ratio of 12 to 1.
- Almost 15% of children ages 5-11 years and almost 20% of children ages 12-18 years are overweight. Black students (18.5%) are more likely to be overweight than white students (10.6%). (Source: 2002 Wake County Community Assessment)
- Approximately 10% of Wake County's population is substance abusers. (Source: 2002 Wake County Community Assessment).
- The minority infant mortality rate for 2001 (14.8 per thousand) was more than twice the white infant mortality rate (6.1 per thousand). (Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics).
- Up to two-thirds of individuals with mental illness do not seek treatment. (Source: 2002 Wake County Community Assessment).
- For every \$1 spent on a structured rehabilitation program for adults with serious mental illness, \$12 to \$21 is saved in hospital costs to care for these individuals.
- Nationally, 1 in 5 teens suffer from some type of mental health problem each year. Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death among teens and the second leading cause of death among college-age youth.
- Over half of the respondents surveyed for the Orange Community Assessment think that being able to get mental health services when needed is an issue in Orange County.
- 60% of survey participants said getting mental health services when needed was a problem in Wake County; 45% did not know how to access such services; 36% said they could not afford them.
- In 2001, 20% of Durham County adults, 15% of Orange County adults, and 16% of Wake County adults did not have health insurance. (Source: Current Population Surveys, 2000-2002). 44% of the uninsured statewide are Hispanic. (Source: Urban Institute and Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured)

- There are approximately 3,274 residents in Wake County under the direct supervision of the NC Department of Correction. It is estimated that 9,822 of their family members are living in a high-risk environment. If only 5% successfully participate in prevention interventions, stay in school, stay in the workforce, communicate more effectively with their family, and do not develop a criminal lifestyle, a savings of \$530,230 to the taxpayers of Wake County is achieved.
- About 23% of Orange County residents report not participating in any type of physical activity outside of work during a one-month period. (Source: NC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System)

## The Results

- Of the 5732 individuals who participated in Triangle United Way programs to help them access health care, 96% (5501 people) reported improvement in their health status.
- The **Central Chapter of the American Red Cross** in Durham County, the **Triangle Chapter** in Wake County and the **Orange County Chapter** together collected 64,452 pints of blood in 2002, a 25% increase from last year. However, the need for blood still exceeds the donations.
- **Mental Health Association in Orange County's** Compeer Program coordinates friendship matches between volunteers and mentally ill adults in order to address the intense social isolation often experienced by those with severe mental illness. 88% of Compeer clients reported improved social lives.
- 897 persons with limited life expectancies were served by **Hospice of Wake County**. Physician directed care teams might include a nurse, medical social worker, home health aide, chaplain, dietician, and pharmacist.
- Of those who responded to a survey, 100% of participants in the **YWCA Wellness Program** stated that they were healthier as a result of program participation.
- The LifePlus program at **South Light** provides an affordable outpatient treatment for low-income clients with a history of drug addiction and multiple life problems. During 2002, 75% of LifePlus clients were drug free. The projected savings to the community is \$4,410,000.
- 100% of the 435 women participating in The **YWCA's** breast cancer early detection and education outreach program demonstrated knowledge of the 3 keys to breast cancer early detection.
- The Open Door Clinic of **Urban Ministries of Raleigh** served 4,326 patients who were not insured or whose incomes are at or below 185% of the federal poverty limit. Of these, 90% would have gone to an emergency room if they could not have been seen at The Open Door Clinic.
- Over 1300 teens accessed mental and/or primary health services through **Wake Teen Medical Services** in 2002. 85 % of teens seeking mental health services had documentation of positive progress by either a teacher or a parent.
- 100 % of **Threshold** participants, a clubhouse model rehabilitation program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness, reported that attending Threshold helped them to decrease their psychiatric symptoms.
- 99% of babies born to **Florence Crittenton Services** maternity home residents were born drug free.
- A partnership between **Triangle United Way** and **Durham County Department of Social Services** provided \$43,000 in direct assistance to Department of Social Services clients, including the working poor, who do not qualify for Medicaid assistance in the form of prescription drugs, medical equipment, diabetic supplies, eye glasses, colostomy supplies, oral surgery, and orthopedic needs.

## **Our Vision for Caring**

We will make sure health needs are met through:

- ❖ Increased access to health services for minorities especially Hispanic/Latinos
- ❖ Greater access to health services for people who are uninsured
- ❖ Better physical, mental, and substance abuse services

**By 2005, we hope to see improved healthy lifestyles, especially for ethnic minority populations and the uninsured.**

***Triangle United Way focuses resources  
on the most important needs in our community.  
Support the Community Care Fund.***

