

United Way of the Greater Triangle Regional Initiatives



United Way
of the Greater Triangle

Background

From our inception until 2007, all undesignated funds were allocated to county-based programs.

- In 2007, we identified *Preventing and Ending Homelessness* as a regional focus and invested \$10K
- In 2008, we invested \$40K
- In 2009, we added *Poverty to Possibility* as an area for regional work and invested \$40K
- In 2010, our investment grew to \$48K
- In 2011, our investment will be \$100K

Successes 2007 – 2011

Project	Description	United Way Investment	Leveraged Funds for this Work	Results
VITA/EITC	Volunteer Income Tax Preparation services for low-income people. Focus on making sure clients receive the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Childcare Tax Credit.	\$ 113,500 (over the last three years)	\$113,500 through partners receiving IRS matching grants. In the 2010 tax season an additional \$381,257 went to new households who applied for tax credits. In the 2011 tax season a total of \$1.6M was generated in tax credits	Over the last two years there has been: 100% increase in the number of VITA sites. 16% increase in the number of volunteer tax preparers United Way provides the funding for these projects and participates in county coalitions that have nonprofit and human service organizations as part of the coalition.
Benefits Bank	Web-based system that allows human service agencies to help individuals receive public benefits	\$ 9,863 (one time investment to pilot the intervention)	\$39,452 by Connect, Inc.	Three new caseworkers helped clients receive benefits About 200 people began receiving benefits; most did not know they were eligible. Volunteers were trained to work with clients in the future United Way funded the Interfaith Food Shuttle and The Women's Center (Chapel Hill) to hire TANF eligible caseworkers to help complete applications.
Matched Savings for Foster Care Youth	Tools to help youth aging out of the foster care system to become successfully independent.	\$ 34,000	\$1,705 in sponsorships for the Real World United Way Simulation	Hosted staff from Mile High United Way to learn from their success. Real World Simulation conducted for 50 youth in foster care in 2010 and a second one scheduled for Dec 6, 2011. Enrolling 25 young people into financial literacy and matched savings during 2011. United Way is working with the Departments of Social Services and Triangle Family Services to implement this project.

Poverty Simulations	Simulated experience of living in poverty for a "month."	\$1,500	0	<p>11 completed since 2007 (5 in 2010 and 4 completed/3 scheduled for 2011)</p> <p>United Way runs these simulations for a wide variety of community groups with support from volunteers and partner agencies.</p>
Project Homeless Connect	A one-day, one-stop service center for homeless individuals and/or families.	\$33,000	Over \$65,000	<p>Over the four year period an average of 1196 homeless people each year are assisted by 621 volunteers and 160 service providers.</p> <p>United Way is the single largest financial sponsor for this event in all Wake, Durham and Orange counties. In 2011, the focus will shift to the 100,000 Homes Campaign</p>
100,000 Homes Campaign	Completion of a Registry Week, a one-week census of those who are homeless; including the administration of the Vulnerability Index designed to assess mortality risk.	\$ 25,000		<p>Registry week to be completed the last week of January 2012. The most at risk individuals will be the priority for permanent supportive housing in 2012.</p> <p>The 100,000 Homes Campaign is a national campaign. Locally, United Way is the primary convener and coordinator of the first Registry Week for this community.</p>
Employment Initiative for Chronically Homeless	Intervention designed to reemploy chronic homeless men.	\$22,500 (two year investment)	\$600,000 from the Department of Labor to reemploy homeless veterans awarded to the South Wilmington Street Center and Step-Up Ministry	<p>The original investment resulted in data demonstrating that 2/3rd of the chronic homeless men completed a work training program; 1/3rd gained and sustained part time employment</p> <p>This data was used to compete for the Department of Labor funding</p> <p>UW helped write the award winning grant for the last two years that the community received funding.</p>