

United Way in Cherokee County
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MAKE A
~~INDIFFERENCE~~
A little change can make a big impact.

UNITED WAY IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.
LIVE UNITED. 
United Way of
Metropolitan Atlanta



To find or give help, dial 2-1-1

WHY UNITED WAY

We are stronger as a community when every person is thriving. Across our region people work hard and do all they can but continue to walk a tightrope, trying to provide for their loved-ones. Families face the reality that self-sufficiency is out of reach. We know that when services are coordinated, leadership is mobilized and the assets in the community work together toward shared goals, we can dramatically transform people's lives—and whole communities. Together, we are having great success.

But for every success, there are thousands of Atlantans in desperate need of a helping hand. Your gift can help. By strategically investing to transform lives, we will be able to ensure that the American dream is a reality—and not out of reach—for those who are currently struggling.

ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD

We work to leverage the best resources and community assets so that people don't fall through the cracks and that the direction for a child's life is not dictated by the challenges her parents face or by the neighborhood in which she grows up.

For hundreds of years, nonprofits have been focused on resolving issues and stabilizing people in crisis. But now is the time to shift—to start working together better, stronger and differently so that we can help people holistically transform their lives—so their families can thrive and our communities can become even stronger.

United Way works with all shapes and sizes of stakeholders so we can all be successful. We must be—for the risk is too great. Too great for the mother of three who just needs \$10 more a week to be able to buy her children lunch during the summer. Too great for the teenager who is right now deciding that he is too stupid to even try to go to college. Too great for the child who can't spell her name—and is too afraid to learn. Everyone deserves the opportunity for a better life. Join us. Be part of the change.

PARTNERS IN THE ATLANTA REGION WITH SERVICES IN CHEROKEE

American Cancer Society	770.320.3333	Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia	404.527.7500
American Lung Association Southeast Region	770.434.5864	Jewish Family & Career Services	770.677.9300
American Red Cross.....	770.428.2695	Latin American Association	404.638.1800
Auditory-Verbal Center.....	404.633.8911	Link Counseling Center.....	770.541.1114
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta	404.601.7000	Marcus Jewish Community Center	770.971.8901
Boy Scouts of America	770.989.8820	Parent to Parent of Georgia.....	770.451.5484
Catholic Charities Atlanta	770.429.2369	Pathways Community Networks	404.639.9933
Center for the Visually Impaired	404.875.9011	Saint Joseph's Mercy Care Services.....	404.851.5710
Council on Alcohol & Drugs.....	404.223.2480	Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia	404.755.1641
Diabetes Association of Atlanta.....	404.527.7150	Travelers Aid of Metropolitan Atlanta.....	770.428.1883
Easter Seals North Georgia	404.943.1070	Vision Rehabilitation Services	770.432.7280
Families First.....	404.541.3010	Visiting Nurse Health System.....	770.753.2000
Georgia Council on Substance Abuse.....	404.523.3440	YMCA of Metro Atlanta.....	404.588.7690
Georgia Radio Reading Service.....	404.685.2822		

CHEROKEE SUCCESS STORY



Inside the sparse, serene room, children tell of unspeakable crimes committed against them.

In a nearby room, a police officer, Department of Family and Children Services caseworker, or assistant district attorney watches the interview on a closed-circuit TV. The child's words might be used to build a criminal case against a sexual predator.

The secrets revealed at the Anna Crawford Children's Center are the most sensitive of revelations. Victims of sexual abuse often take years to tell someone. The person hurting them may be a cousin, a babysitter or their own father.

After telling their story to a specially-trained therapist, children continue to receive therapy. Siblings and parents may also receive therapy at the center. "It impacts the entire family," says Amy Economopoulos, clinical director and one of the center's therapists. "The mother can understand the repercussions and have a deeper understanding of what happened than the child. And if Mom is so depressed she can't get out of bed, how well can she love, nurture and raise the child?"

After a child is interviewed, the center works with the child's family, police and, sometimes, the Department of Family and Children Services to figure out the next steps. The center sees about 300 new children each year and conducts about 1,200 therapy sessions.

The services are free. United Way is a vital partner in providing the support to help cover operating expenses and pay the salary of a child advocate, who greets each child upon arrival and sits with the caregiver, often a stunned and anxious mother, in the waiting room.

The goal in the interview is to find out what happened. Advocates at the center believe every boy or girl who tells someone they were abused deserves the opportunity for a forensic interview in a private setting, conducted by a trained therapist.

The good news is that sexually abused children can get beyond the crime that stole their innocence. "Kids are resilient," Economopoulos says, adding that abused children often grow up to have enormous empathy and compassion. "With the right support and treatment, they can go on to live healthy, happy lives."

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN CHEROKEE

CASA for Children, Inc.....	770.345.3274	Cherokee Learning Center.....	770.720.1685
Cherokee Boys & Girls Club.....	770.720.7712	Cherokee Outdoor YMCA/YMCA of Metro Atlanta	770.591.5820
Cherokee Child Advocacy Council	770.592.9779	Cherokee Day Training Center.....	770.345.5821
Cherokee Family Violence Center	770.479.1804	MUST Ministries.....	770.479.5397