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 Catholic Charities Atlanta
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 Center for the Visually Impaired
 CHRIS Kids
 Communities in Schools of Atlanta
 Decatur Cooperative Ministry, Inc.
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 DeKalb Early Learning and School Readiness Commission
 DeKalb Partners for Early Learning
 Diabetes Association of Atlanta
 Easter Seals North Georgia
 Elaine Clark Center for Exceptional Children
 Forever Family (formerly Aid to Children of Imprisoned Mothers)
 Georgia Center for Child Advocacy
 Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta
 Goodwill of North Georgia

International Women's House
 Jewish Family & Career Services
 Latin American Association
 Link Counseling Center
 Marcus Jewish Community Center
 Memorial Drive Presbyterian Community Children's Program
 National Mental Health Association of Georgia
 Odyssey Family Counseling Center
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 Positive Growth
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 Refugee Family Services
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 Scottdale Child Development Center
 Senior Connections
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 The Sullivan Center
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DEKALB COUNTY

PARENTS LEARN TO BE CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER



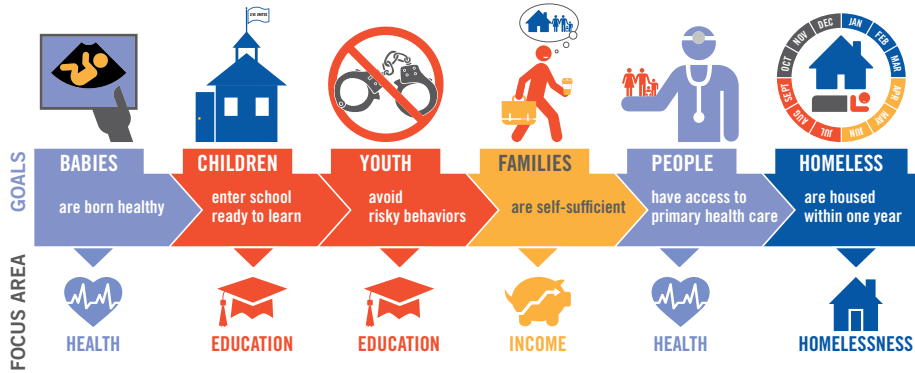
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WHY UNITED WAY

United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community to advance the common good. We focus on the building blocks for a good quality of life — education, income, health and ending homelessness. United Way unites nonprofits, businesses, government, donors and volunteers to keep kids learning and in school, help people achieve financial stability, strengthen our health safety net, and end chronic homelessness. Join us and become a part of the lifeline.



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PARENTS LEARN TO BE CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER

All parents want their children to succeed in school, but many don't know how to make that happen. In DeKalb County's Scottdale community, Carlotta Bradshaw helps parents set the stage for a successful school career.



Carlotta is a parent educator in DeKalb's Parents as Teachers program, a nationally recognized model for teaching parents of children ages 5 and younger. The idea is that by reaching parents when their kids are young, the home-school connection will be strong from the start.

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta supports the Parents as Teachers program at several partner nonprofits in DeKalb County as part of its focus on education.

"I want parents to realize they are their child's first teacher," says Carlotta, who is based at the Scottdale Child Development and Family Resource Center. "I want to teach them how to advocate for their child at school and make them aware of resources available to help them."

The Scottdale organization works with up to 100 families at a time. Parent educators meet with mothers and fathers in their homes or wherever they are comfortable. Some have painful memories of their own school experience. Some cannot read. They may be overwhelmed with the responsibility of raising children and have few role models.

When their child starts school, such parents don't know their role. They think they can't participate in their child's education because they aren't educated themselves.

Carlotta bonds with the parents, encouraging them to open up to her and share their fears. She teaches them how to help their children with language development, social skills and motor skills.

Many of Carlotta's parents blossom. One such mother had three children ages 5, 3 and 2. With her oldest about to start school, the single mom had no idea how to get involved. With encouragement, she started volunteering at school and signed her child up for extracurricular activities such as basketball. She even joined the PTA.

The mother took Carlotta's message to heart: "The more the teacher sees you at school, the more the teacher will know your child has an advocate. Teachers need to know you care. They need to see your face."