

# WORKING TOGETHER

BECAUSE  
COMMUNITY  
MATTERS

Our mission is to improve lives and our community by engaging people to give, advocate, and volunteer.



The Neighborhood House learning center

## READY. LEARN. SUCCEED.

There are over 100,000 children under age 6 living in the area covered by Metro United Way, and research proves that success in school begins before kids ever set foot in a kindergarten. Sadly, data indicated Portland neighborhood kids were one year behind their peers, leaving them at a disadvantage for a good quality of life.

But through The Neighborhood House early learning center in Metro United Way's [Early Childhood Excellence Academy \(ECEA\)](#), children in Portland are significantly improving. "Our pre-school principals were calling us and saying 'Whatever you're doing, keep it up,'" said Pam Rice, Executive Director of The Neighborhood House.

Established in 2011, the ECEA program gives children the tools for a high quality education by increasing the skills of their teachers. Today, 172 teachers at 13 early learning centers are working to obtain the title of "Master" teacher. Over 1,100 students also benefit from "Creative Curriculum©," an interactive system that promotes critical thinking and problem solving.

Kids who start out behind, tend to stay behind. "It's just magical to see that as our teachers continue to improve, you also see the difference in the children," Rice continued. "Making a difference in the lives of kids in Portland through ECEA centers will ultimately make a difference for our entire community, long-term."

**Metro United Way**

[metrounitedway.org](http://metrounitedway.org)

## GETTING THINGS DONE

Working together, our efforts to lead the way to a brighter tomorrow achieved these results this past year:

- Three early learning centers in our Early Childhood Excellence Academy received educational books donated through our GiveTuesday drive.
- Nearly 200 children participate in our Ages & Stages Questionnaires; 91% of these families believe this information is helpful in their child's development.
- Out-of-School Time Coordinating Council charter established our partnership with JCPS & Metro Govt.; over 33,000 youth now participate in quality Out-of-School time programs.
- High risk middle school youth will benefit from a \$50,000 Grant received for student and parent support.
- Approximately 12,000 families benefited from tax assistance services and other resources to become more financially stable.
- Almost 11,600 volunteers have been deployed to help with the tornado recovery efforts in southern Indiana.
- Our 2-1-1 "help" referral service responded to over 60,000 requests for assistance.

**LIVE UNITED**



# LASTING CHANGE



Dear Friends,

Hopefully you've enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and the great beginning of the New Year! Your gift to Metro United Way this past year is one that will keep on giving all year long for the benefit of many.

As you know, Metro United Way's vision is a community whose people achieve their fullest potential through education, financial stability and healthy lives. We believe by focusing our energy on these three building blocks of a good quality of life, we will have stable, independent families and a strong community.

To fulfill our promise, Metro United Way builds community partnerships because we know that it takes everyone working together – foundations, businesses, government, schools, churches and nonprofit organizations – to accomplish things that no one organization and no individual can accomplish on its own.

With significant progress toward our goals this past year, we're more driven than ever before to achieve our Community Aspirations:

- All children enter kindergarten ready to learn
- All youth complete high school on time prepared for college, work and life
- Parents have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to help their children succeed
- A compassionate network of services is sustained to meet basic needs.

Thanks to your support and generosity, we're proud that children, teachers and families are benefiting from our Early Childhood Excellence Academy early learning centers; that many of our youth are engaged in quality out-of-school time programs, and that 86% of parents participating in our Ages & Stages Questionnaires report they know more about how to help their child learn and be ready for school. Overall, more than 300,000 people in our community took a step toward a better life this past year with our help.

Let's make this New Year our best! Please remember there are many ways you can get involved:

**GIVE:** Invest in your community. Your generosity shows your commitment because it ensures our important work continues.

**ADVOCATE:** Get informed, champion the Cause, and be a part of the change. Your voice is a powerful way to make a difference in people's lives.

**VOLUNTEER:** Give your time. Lend a hand. Share your talent. No matter how much you can volunteer, every minute counts toward making a positive difference in others' lives.

Because of you, working together, we're improving the foundation of our community.

**THANK YOU** for showing you know what it means to Live United.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Tolan".

Joe Tolan  
*President and CEO*

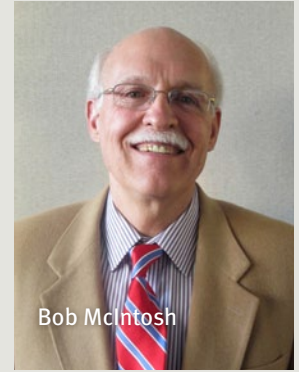
P.S. Spread the word! It takes everyone in the community working together to create lasting change. We need YOU! Join the conversation. Share a message via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

Tell a friend about Metro United Way's mission!

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

When tornadoes swept through Southern Indiana on March 2, many in our community volunteered to help survivors. Today, Metro United Way has deployed over 11,000 volunteers. Among those who continue to help rebuild our community is Metro United Way leadership volunteer, Bob McIntosh.

Bob arrived at the Volunteer Reception Center on Monday following the tornadoes and began training hundreds of people. In many years of volunteering, Bob believes this was one of the best collaborative efforts, saying “So many people from various backgrounds were united for one common purpose – to help those affected by the tornadoes regain their lives. The relief and recovery efforts have been Community Impact at its best – combining the resources, money and structure to utilize volunteers and resources in the most efficient and effective way possible.”



Bob McIntosh



Volunteers in Henryville

Bob continues to volunteer because he knows more skill based help is still needed. He encourages anyone who can spare a little time to volunteer. Bob explained, “All of us can do more together than we can separately.”

## BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES

For some Louisville residents who are wheelchair-bound, simply getting outside their home is difficult without wheelchair ramps. Recognizing their need, Ford Motor Company, UAW Local 862 and Metro United Way utilize their long partnership to make our community a better place.

The Wayne Vickers Memorial Wheel Chair Ramp Project connected these organizations with Metro Government and The Center for Accessible Living to help make homes more accessible for disabled families.

Nearly 50 skilled tradesmen from UAW Local 862 spent over 2,000 hours completing twenty ramps and plan an additional twenty in 2013; ramp recipients are selected by The Center for Accessible Living from a waiting list that some have been on for years.

“My mother-in-law hadn’t been able to leave her home for six months. This is life changing for her!” said Michael Coop, a UAW retiree.

Based on the success of this pilot program for Ford and United Way’s around the country, Ford plans to continue the program, expanding it to every U.S. city where Ford is located.



UAW workers on ramp site

“We’re proud to be involved with this important project to improve lives in our community”, said Joe Tolan, president and CEO of MUW. “We’re especially thankful for our long partnership with Ford and the UAW. This is how we Live United.”



# KIDS WITH SOMEPLACE TO GO...GO PLACES

One out of every four students drop out of high school; reducing this rate has as much to do with what kids do outside the classroom as what they do in it. Today, thousands of young people are unsupervised in the hours after school, before parents return from work, making the hours between 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. a critical time frame.

The youngest child and living in a neighborhood without many kids his age, Ta-Merrick joined the Shawnee Boys and Girls Club with a friend when he was a freshman in high school. “The Boys and Girls Club has opened a lot of doors for me. It’s kept me out of trouble and made me think twice about things in my life. I’ve thought about going to college since the people at BGC showed me that everyone can do it, not just certain people,” said Ta-Merrick, currently pursuing a degree in Pharmacy at Sullivan University.

And Ta-Merrick continues to be involved with the Shawnee Boys and Girls Club by being a mentor to the younger attendees. It’s important to him to continue to help the younger kids, explaining that the Unit Director there taught him an important life lesson: “He showed me that there is more to life than being all about yourself, and you can help somebody else be happy.”



Ta-Merrick is just one of thousands of youth in our community who benefit from [quality out-of-school time programs](#), which contribute to key performance indicators of on-time graduation including attendance, engagement in learning, test scores and grades. Metro United Way partners with Metro Government and JCPS to help make sure our youth have quality programs outside of school because we know that kids with someplace to go, end up ... going places.

