



Mile High United Way



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT MILE HIGH UNITED WAY CHILD CARE FUND

ADDRESSING OUR CHALLENGE

At Mile High United Way, we are working to improve the odds for young children. We know that investing in high-quality early education and care for children in low-income working families improves their health and promotes their development and learning.

Research shows, **investing in children early offers great benefits: \$1 invested yields \$7 in long-term returns.***

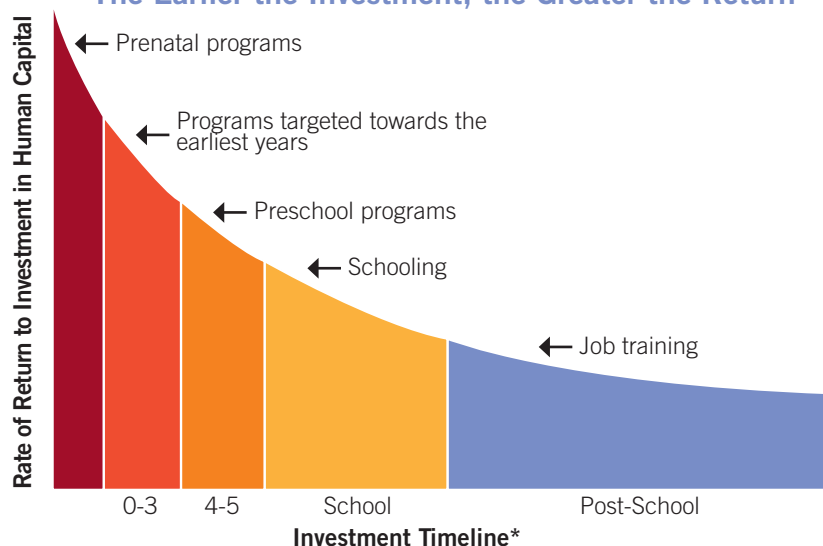
In Colorado, we need at least 134,000 more spots in licensed child care for children with working parents.

With your support for the Mile High United Way Child Care Fund, we are focused on investing in programs that increase access to high-quality and affordable child care, including after-school care, for low-income families.

Thank you for your continued generosity as we work to improve the lives of everyone in our community – especially our youngest residents.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The Earlier the Investment, the Greater the Return



What Does a High-Quality Child Care Setting Offer?

- An age and developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Quality teacher training
- Safe environment
- Small group size and low adult to child ratios
- Strong parent-teacher communication and family engagement

*Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

DEAR FRIENDS,

When you invest in the Mile High United Way Child Care Fund, you become part of a team working strategically to support the youngest members of our community.

For 128 years, Mile High United Way's mission has been to bring our community together and collaboratively address critical issues. Mile High United Way has worked in the early childhood arena for almost three decades. In this time, we have embraced the efforts of high-quality early care and education providers, caregiver and parent training, and have worked to improve the systems that support all children. From the creation of Qualistar to advance quality, access, and equity in early care, to local and statewide advocacy for funds to support families and children, Mile High United Way is proud to be a leader in our state along with all of you.

We are focused on building the quality and quantity of early care providers to deliver the highest-quality learning and nurturing environments. Our leadership and investment in materials and professional development for teachers has been foundational to how early childhood initiatives are implemented in our state. Our advocacy work was pivotal in the 2006 ballot initiative that increased access to preschool for all children; the 2014 initiative to renew the Denver Preschool Program; and ensuring that the Child Care Contribution tax Credit is benefiting families around the state.

As investors in early care and education, I want you to know that our focus is much greater than only licensed, high-quality child care centers. To leverage a bigger impact, Mile High United Way Community Investment Fund supports early education through a state-wide research project to support those caregivers and families providing Family, Friend, and Neighbor Care to meet the needs of more than 134,000 children without a spot in a formal child care center.

Investing in early childhood education offers the greatest returns of any investment you can make. Thank you for helping us support the common good and ensure that Colorado is building a strong, vibrant economy.

Diana Romero-Campbell

Director, Early Learning and Literacy, Mile High United Way

MNM, PhD candidate, University of Denver



YOUR IMPACT

Last fall, when a young family moved from Texas to Denver to escape a hostile situation, the only bed their 3-year-old daughter had known for several months was the back seat of their car; the only showers she had were in public restrooms.

They were relieved to enroll their daughter in a Mile High United Way partner preschool, Early Excellence, where she had consistency, stability, and her own bed at nap time.

Families experiencing homelessness are familiar to the staff at Early Excellence, where 97 percent of students qualify for free and reduced price lunch. Teachers at the school connect these families with Mile High United Way's 2-1-1 Help Center for shelter, health care and food, and establish networks that can help their parents find jobs.

"Early Excellence is a light during a really dark time in our lives right now," said her mother.

When you give to Mile High United Way, you help provide the resources that young children and their families need to thrive.





"The biggest unfairness in life is not getting an equal start." – Brad Busse

Donor, Mile High United Way;
President, Busse Ventures

YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

Your Mile High United Way Child Care Fund Investment Helped:

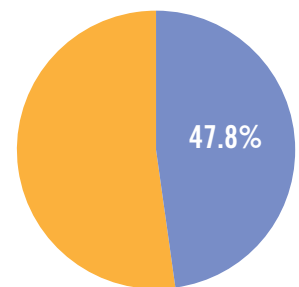
- Nearly 36,000 children and families access high-quality child care and after-care programs and our 2-1-1 Help Center
- Offer training to nearly 5,000 educators to enhance the quality of their educational support
- Provide training to more than 6,000 caregivers and parents
- Provide families with more 30,000 books and educational toys that enhance early childhood development
- Offer safe after-school care for children with working parents
- Provide families experiencing homelessness with high-quality child care options

Your Investment Supports Well-Researched Community Outcomes:

- Increased likelihood that young children will stay in school and complete high school
- Decreased likelihood that children will be dependent on social services later in life
- Decreased employee absenteeism and turnover due to child care conflicts
- Increased productivity for working parents

Cost of Infant Child Care

Child care for an infant costs 47.8% of the Colorado median income.*



Your Gift to Mile High United Way Child Care Fund Can Leverage:

- A Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit on your Colorado state taxes of **up to 50 percent of your gift****; and
- Additional **federal funding** for Colorado to support low-income individuals

*Child Care Aware of America, Parents and the High Cost of Child Care, 2014 Report

**Please consult your tax advisor for tax advice.

PREPARING CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS

Your gift to Mile High United Way's Child Care Fund helps prepare thousands of young children for success with our 2-1-1 Help Center and Impact Investment Partners:

Early Childhood Education Partners

Ability Connection Colorado
Adams County District 14–Lights On After School
Adams County School Dist. #14–STARS Early Learning Centers
Arapahoe County Early Childhood Council
Bright by Three
Catholic Charities
Children's Outreach Project
Clayton Early Learning
Colorado Coalition for the Homeless
Denver Early Childhood Council
Early Excellence
Family Star
Florence Crittenton Services
Friends of the Haven–Baby Haven
Hope Center
Invest in Kids
Mile High Montessori Early Learning

Mt. St. Vincent Home
Qualistar Colorado
Sewall Child Development Center
YMCA Metro Denver
Warren Village

After-Care Program Partners

Bennie E. Goodwin After School Academic Program
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado
Boy Scouts of America, Denver Area Council
Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver
Bridge Project
Denver Public Schools (Department of Extended Learning & Community Schools)
Scholars Unlimited

“At Florence Crittenton Services, the support we receive from Mile High United Way goes beyond direct funding, and is integral to enhancing our program to help teen moms and their children get on the road to success. Our Mile High United Way partnership allowed us to continue to strengthen our program outcomes this past year – one big outcome was successfully building space for additional early childhood education spots.”

- Suzanne Banning, president and CEO, Florence Crittenton Services



Mile High United Way

Mile High United Way creates opportunities for all children, their families, and individuals through our unique position at the intersection of the public, private, philanthropic, and nonprofit sectors.

We are more than an organization—we are a catalyst for social change. By conducting deep community research, advocating for systems-level change, and strengthening and investing in community programs, we develop long-term solutions that ensure our children are learning and reading at grade-level; that young people graduate from high school ready for college or the workforce; and individuals and families have their basic needs met and are afforded every opportunity to move toward economic success.

Together, we
LIVE UNITED.

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