



## **United Way of Oxford-Lafayette County: Focus Areas & Funding Preferences**

In 2008, United Way Worldwide initiated a program designed to achieve the following goals:

- Improve **education**, and cut the number of high school dropouts - 1.2 million students, every year - in half.
- Help people achieve **financial stability**, and get 1.9 million working families - half the number of lower-income families who are financially unstable - on the road to economic independence.
- Promote **healthy** lives, and increase by one-third the number of youth and adults who are healthy and avoid risky behaviors.

In 2018, United Way Worldwide initiated a program designed to achieve the following goals over a ten-year period:

- **Education:** 95% of students will graduate high school ready for college and career
- **Income:** Five million people will get better jobs
- **Health:** 90% of people will be healthier
- **Community Cohesion:** Engage ten million people to build inclusive and stronger communities

In keeping with these broad national goals, the United Way of Oxford-Lafayette County has identified the following areas of focus and funding preferences as we continue to seek strategies and programmatic support to help improve our community and its members for the coming years:

### **Health**

*Focus:* To improve people's health, with a focus on programs that help the community and its members:

- Achieve and maintain healthy lifestyles for adults and children
- Support older adults and adults diagnosed with mental illness

### **Education**

*Focus:* To help children and youth achieve their potential, with a focus on programs that help the community and its members:

- Enter kindergarten ready to learn
- Read at grade level by the fourth grade
- Earn a high school (or equivalent) degree

### **Income/Financial Stability**

*Focus:* To promote financial stability and independence, with a focus on programs that help the community and its members:

- Attain family-sustaining employment
- Create affordable housing opportunities
- Manage expenses and build savings

### **Basic Needs**

*Focus:* To meet the community's basic needs, with a focus on programs that ensure that community members have:

- Sufficient food
- Adequate shelter
- Disaster/emergency relief services