



# BE A PART OF CHANGE THAT LASTS JOIN THE FIGHT FOR STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS

LIVE UNITED

Greater Chicago is made up of problem solvers, difference makers and opportunity creators. United, we're fighting for the health, education, financial stability and safety of every person in every neighborhood across the region.

Together with thousands of volunteers, donors and advocates, United Way of Metro Chicago builds strong neighborhoods by finding solutions, supporting programs and fighting back against poverty, illness, violence and a lack of educational opportunities.

**We think that's a fight worth joining ...**

United Way  
of Metro Chicago





# OUR NEIGHBORS AND NEIGHBORHOODS NEED YOU.

The Chicago region is troubled with high rates of violence, failing schools, high unemployment rates and lack of access to quality healthcare. Many of our neighborhoods have been struggling for years, while others face more recent challenges.

By addressing our problems holistically and building strong households, United Way can stabilize our most challenged neighborhoods and improve the quality of life and economy for the entire region. But we can't do it alone. When you give, advocate and volunteer, you join an exceptional group of difference makers and game changers who are united in the fight for stronger neighborhoods across the Chicago region.

## HEALTH

Only 50% of adults in Chicago who report psychological distress are receiving treatment.

## EDUCATION

The CPS graduation rate is 73.5% (57.4% for African-American young men) meaning more than a quarter of students will struggle to find employment and be financially stable without a degree.

## FINANCIAL STABILITY

In some of the neighborhoods we work in, unemployment is as high as 40%.

## SAFETY NET

On average, 5,900 people are homeless on a given winter night in Chicago and an estimated 24,000 are homeless annually.

## Why United Way?

### 1) We solve issues using an integrated approach.

Our work addresses the interconnected issues—health, education, financial stability and safety—that households are facing. We fund and coordinate programs, and work with neighborhoods to solve community-identified problems through our Neighborhood Network Initiative.

### 2) We know the people, politics and players and how to best coordinate them.

From City Hall to corporate boardrooms to neighborhood meetings, United Way brings the right people to the table to address our toughest challenges. We bring together community leaders and residents, donors, advocates and volunteers to ensure we are working together to build stronger neighborhoods.

### 3) We have a collaborative and transparent process for accountability and results.

Our team of internal experts and external committees identify, partner with and fund best-in-class human service agencies to make sure that the quality programs and services that people need to improve their lives are accessible. Programs are evaluated regularly to ensure dollars invested are making the biggest impact.

### 4) We have the scale to drive maximum impact.

Our vision for the Chicago region is backed by nearly a century of experience. We know what it really takes to make a difference in lives and communities, and as the largest private funder of human services and most effective convener in the region, we know how to make it happen. We go beyond single-issue interventions and temporary fixes to impact millions of lives each year.

# STRONGER NEIGHBORHOODS FOR A STRONGER CHICAGO REGION

## What makes a strong neighborhood?

- > good schools
- > afterschool programs
- > employment opportunities
- > safe streets
- > healthy food options
- > access to health care
- > parks and green space
- > neighbors who care



## Neighborhood Network Initiative

In 2013, United Way of Metro Chicago identified an approach that would allow us to take our best thinking, proven strategies and expertise into

**10 of the Chicago region's most challenged neighborhoods** to help community members and stakeholders address their biggest issues. United Way and our partners and volunteers are working to improve the quality of life in **Austin, Auburn-Gresham, Blue Island-Robbins, Brighton Park, Bronzeville, Cicero, Evanston, Little Village, South Chicago and West Chicago.**

## Our Track Record

From 2011 to 2016, United Way served more than 9 million people with critical resources in health, education, financial stability and safety. As a result of that work:



60,223 middle school students are on track to graduate



133,680 households are more financially stable



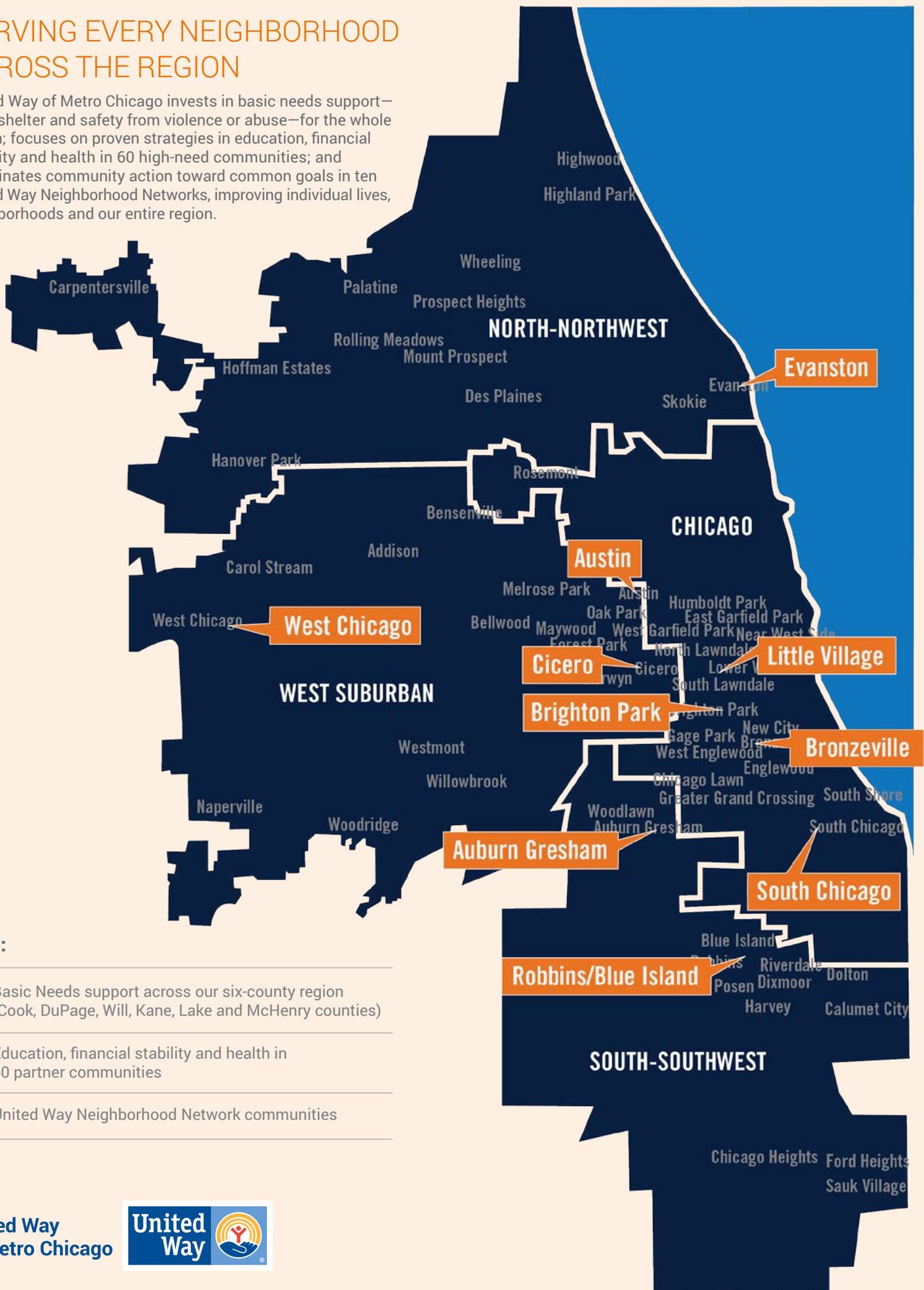
577,121 people are connected to a doctor



5 million people in crisis received food, shelter and safety

# SERVING EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD ACROSS THE REGION

United Way of Metro Chicago invests in basic needs support—food, shelter and safety from violence or abuse—for the whole region; focuses on proven strategies in education, financial stability and health in 60 high-need communities; and coordinates community action toward common goals in ten United Way Neighborhood Networks, improving individual lives, neighborhoods and our entire region.



## KEY:

- Basic Needs support across our six-county region (Cook, DuPage, Will, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties)
- Education, financial stability and health in 60 partner communities
- United Way Neighborhood Network communities