

Education in Centre County

(Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: 2011)

- 11.8% of our Centre County adult population is illiterate
- People living in poverty or below the self-sufficiency standard have difficulty preparing their children for school
- Adults with intellectual or physical disabilities have limited access to continuing education and support programs
- People living in poverty or below the self-sufficiency standard are often penalized by the civil justice system in their ability to protect themselves against unlawful eviction and/or utility terminations.

Income Stability in Centre County

(U.S. Census Bureau: 2010)

- 34.1% of households live below the Self Sufficiency Standard
- 16.8% live below the federal poverty level
- 11,397 children are eligible for medical assistance
- 290 children are eligible for cash assistance

(Community Action Poll of Centre County Service Recipients and Providers: 2011)

- 51% believe that working families DO NOT have access to affordable, high quality child care
- 67% believe that good jobs ARE NOT available for anyone willing to work
- 79% believe affordable housing IS NOT available to all people in Centre County

Health Care in Centre County

(Mount Nittany Medical Center: Health Needs Assessment: 2012)

- Centre County has experienced an “uptick” in poverty and unemployment
- 11% of residents are uninsured – below the national benchmark
- All residents have limited access to dental care
- Poor primary care provider to patient ratio
- Mental health issues are a prevailing theme
- Increasing drug & alcohol abuse among high school students – considerably worse than the national bench mark

Education in Centre County

Hanna, Aaron and Daniel:

Single parent Hannah needed help preparing her sons Aaron and Daniel for kindergarten. They were enrolled in Centre County United Way programs and connected to other county support systems that allowed them to receive speech therapy and learn life skills, such as being polite and kind and following directions. They also received intensive instruction in getting-ready-to-read activities and pre-math. Hannah received education in improved parenting and budgeting her meager income, which included shopping wisely for nutritious food. All three demonstrated marked improvement in each of the programs in which they participated.

Thanks to your donation, Hanna, her boys and 9,763 other Centre County residents received similar services resulting in measurable, positive improvement in success in Education.

Income Stability in Centre County

Helen

For many reasons, and for the first time in her life, Helen found herself homeless at the age of 29. She shares her story by saying, “The greatest thing I learned from being homeless is that no one really wishes it upon themselves. It just happens. Homeless people are not all addicts or people too lazy to work. Most of the residents in our shelter were their because of unemployment. I spent six months living in the shelter. I was able to grow and gain positive experiences there. I even managed to receive a promotion at work. The staff helped to keep me motivated to find a place for myself.”

Helen’s story is not unique. Enrollment in Centre County United Way programs that assisted with emotional support, managing limited incomes, and staying on task – along with their own fortitude and desire to succeed – has assured measurable improvement in the lives of almost 15,000 Centre County residents.

Health Care in Centre County

Aaron and Audrey

Aaron, a Marine, received severe head injuries in the Iraqi war. He was told, due to his injuries and the medication used to treat them, that he would never have children. His daughter, Audrey, is the miracle in his life. She was born 12 weeks premature. It wasn’t long before Aaron and his wife noticed that Audrey wasn’t developing normally – she wasn’t responding well to touch, wasn’t crawling, holding her head up or responding well to language. Through arduous therapy sessions, Audrey took her first steps. She still receives speech therapy and can’t yet speak completely, but now knows sign language.

Thanks to the generous support of Centre County United Way donors, an additional 19,352 people have learned to cope with ongoing health issues, prepare for natural and medical disasters, and overcome health-related obstacles to working and socializing in the community at large.