NEW BRITAIN-BERLIN REGIONAL COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

1,200 children received quality early childhood education services to help develop skills needed for success in Kindergarten
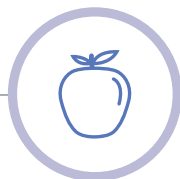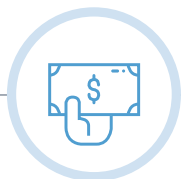
750 students participated in school and/or community-based programs, improving their academic skills

570 individuals accessed financial services to help attain jobs, increase savings and budget for the future

4,166 people filed their 2018 tax return at no-cost through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites in New Britain/Berlin and received more than **$12.3 million** in earned tax credits and refunds

15,194 calls were made to United Way 2-1-1 seeking help for things like housing and utility assistance

7,720 hours of service committed by **343** volunteers

ENGAGING

I joined STRIVE when I was in sixth grade. It's the favorite part of my day. It's fun. You learn a lot and they give good advice.

Daeja Richardson, Participant of STRIVE, a United Way-supported program focused on providing young women with STEM education, leadership development, teamwork, career opportunities, community activism and healthy decision-making

At United Way, we strive to create a community where every child and family has the opportunity to succeed. We tackle tough problems, addressing immediate needs and finding long-term solutions. We do this by investing in programs, initiatives and services and by mobilizing volunteers. Because we know that United, we can do more than anyone can do alone. One example is our investment in STRIVE, which provides young women with STEM education, leadership development, teamwork, career opportunities, community activism and healthy decision-making. Our United Way brings people and resources together to find long-term solutions to challenging problems, such as ensuring that youth succeed academically.

Meet Daeja

In New Britain, the YWCA is there to offer help along the way. It's United Way-supported STRIVE program provides youth development activities for girls attending Slade or Pulaski Middle School.

STRIVE — an acronym for **S**trength, **T**eamwork, **R**espect, **I**ndividuality, **V**ision and **E**xcellence — affords a safe after-school environment where girls like Daeja can continue to learn and have fun.

When Daeja began middle school, she struggled academically and had trouble staying focused and on task. As a participant of STRIVE, Daeja was provided in-class and after-school academic assistance. Over time, with guidance from YWCA staff, Daeja was moved from a special education classroom to an honors classroom, where she continued to shine.

Today, Daeja is about to start her first year of high school. She's more confident in her abilities and is well on her way to achieving greater levels of success.

"STRIVE is the favorite part of my day," said Daeja. "It's fun. You learn a lot and they give good advice."

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

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Opportunities Industrialization Center of New Britain, Inc. (OIC)

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YMCA of New Britain - Berlin

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United Way cares about our community, just like you. We bring the right people and resources together for the well-being of local children and families. This year, through the commitment and generosity of workplaces, donors, foundations, volunteers and community partners, we achieved real results for people in central and northeastern Connecticut.

JOIN US IN UNITING TO DO SOMETHING BIG.

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United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut