

Gheens Bridges To Tomorrow Overview

Metro United Way Success By 6 is dedicated to ensuring that all children are safe, healthy, nurtured and prepared to succeed in kindergarten. We believe so strongly in the long term benefits of high quality early care and education that we recently committed to leading our community in assuring that by 2017 all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

We also understand that in order for children to be successful families need the stability to encourage that success. Because of this we have embarked on the Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Partnership. With support from the Gheens Foundation, PNC, and the Humana Foundation, Metro United Way is partnering with Americana Community Center, Louisville Central Community Centers, Neighborhood House, Presbyterian Community Center and New Directions Housing Corporation to create an innovative new endeavor that not only works to increase children's preparation for kindergarten, but also works to ensure financial stability for their families.

The Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Partnership will strive to increase school preparedness for children touched by these four community centers by focusing on the child, the family, and the childcare setting. We will be implementing a new curriculum in each childcare center that will provide teachers with a proven template for educational success while allowing them the flexibility to serve each child's needs. We will be continually assessing the progress of each child as teachers and parents work together towards success. We will work with parents to get them more engaged in their child's education, and provide them with any needed skills or resources along the way. We will be working with childcare centers to increase staff training and development to improve children's preparedness and overall center quality. We will also work in these neighborhoods to ensure that all children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed.

The Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow Partnership will support families in becoming more financially stable by helping them to increase income, build savings, and gain assets such as home ownership or continued education. We will work with families to assess current financial situations and develop individual plans for improvement. We will use a pioneering series of financial skills building workshops to increase education about financial issues. We will work to increase job skills, reduce debt, repair credit, make sure tax credits are being accessed, and connect to public and employer benefits. We hope to offer individual development accounts, a match saving program towards the purchase of specific assets such as a home or education, and provide opportunities for small business loans.

Metro United Way Success By 6 believes that this innovative new partnership is an integral step towards ensuring that all children enter school healthy, safe, nurtured, and prepared to be successful. This partnership will not only lead to improved outcomes for the children and families in the project, but will also provide valuable information for future use as our community strives to better support families and ultimately ensure the success of all young children.