



United Way  
of Greater Milwaukee

Safety net is the cornerstone of United Way’s investment because it meets critical, current needs of thousands of people, making it a priority to the community. United Way ensures that a vast range of programs is available each year, making the greatest impact. In fact, United Way’s safety net services improved the lives of over 300,000 people last year alone.

# Safety Net Services

*Basic Needs, Strengthening Families and Children, Self-Sufficiency*

## Why Do We Need a Safety Net?

More than 143,000 in Milwaukee were living without enough money to ensure they had adequate food, housing and other basic needs, according to estimates based on Census Bureau surveys.

Two-thirds of those in Milwaukee living in poverty have jobs, but don’t make family-sustaining wages.

39% of senior citizens in Milwaukee County are living with a disability.

Thousands of families struggle with a number of serious issues that include abuse, mental health and drug or alcohol dependencies, among others.




Violent crime in our community has increased by more than 25% from 2005 to 2006, with an increase in violent crime by youth for the first time in five years. Research shows that violence by and to teens, peaks in hours immediately after school.

About 40% of teens in our community don’t graduate from high school.

Last year, over 16,000 calls were placed to one of United Way’s domestic abuse agency hotlines.

## What is a Safety Net?

United Way’s safety net of services gets people back on their feet through programs that meet basic needs, strengthen families and children, and promote self sufficiency. By helping people who need help now, the goal of United Way’s safety net services is to empower people to become more self sufficient and independent over time. **Last year, United Way’s safety net impacted over 410,000 children, adults and seniors.**

| Safety Net Services Priority Areas  | Objective  | Examples of Services   | Examples of Results  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <br>basic needs                  | Connect people with critical resources including basic health care and emergency food and shelter, provide the building blocks to self-sufficiency | Emergency food/shelter, affordable housing, health/dental care                         | 94% of youth are placed in a home or safe environment upon departure from residential care   |
| <br>self sufficiency             | Promote opportunities that empower youth to reach their full potential and adults to become self-sufficient  | Youth development, older adult and independence, programs for people with disabilities | 98% of seniors accessing older adult programs were able to remain living independently at home, or in the best possible alternate setting. |
| <br>strong families and children | Promote healthy relationships within families that support children, parents and grandparents  | Family counseling, day care, domestic violence   | 96% of participants protected themselves from further abuse by developing and articulating a safety plan.                                  |

