

U.S. PROGRAMS

Investing in Childhood: West Virginia

Save the Children invests in childhood – every day, in times of crisis and for our future. In the United States, our child experts work to ensure that our nation’s most underserved children have the best chance for success. Every day, we help children get ready to learn and succeed in school and live healthy, active lives. We ensure children are protected when crisis strikes. And we advocate to ensure American children’s voices are heard and their needs addressed, securing the future we share.

Save the Children has been implementing our evidence-based education and health programs in West Virginia since 2010. Thanks to the support of our generous donors, we currently partner with eight schools in five counties to deliver these programs to 1,824 children in the state.

EVERY DAY

Save the Children’s Early Steps to School Success program assists babies and young children with language, social and emotional development; equips parents with the skills and knowledge to successfully support their child’s growth; and develops strong home-school connections. The program can begin when moms are pregnant and it follows infants and toddlers through age 5.

Through our Literacy program, we provide children in kindergarten through sixth grade with the opportunity to increase their reading achievement by supplying the tools they need to develop reading skills and the guidance and support they need to grow as readers. And our Healthy Choices program increases children’s access to regular physical activity and healthy snacks, as well as nutrition education to increase children’s knowledge of healthy living. It also serves children in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Results: In 2014-2015 in West Virginia, 79 percent of 3-year-olds in our Early Steps to School Success program scored at or above the normal range for vocabulary acquisition. Children in our Literacy program read an average of 67 books during the school year, and more than 60 percent of participants showed significant reading improvement. On average, literacy improvement was equivalent to an additional 3.2 months of schooling. Children in our Healthy Choices program participated in an average of 28



minutes of physical activity per day and were introduced to nutritious snack options.

IN TIMES OF CRISIS

Save the Children’s Get Ready Get Safe initiative helps communities prepare to protect their kids before, during and after a disaster. We respond directly to disaster-affected communities, working to address unmet needs of children. We also support the child care community by providing recovery assistance, as well as emergency preparedness. In addition, we offer long-term resiliency support to children and caregivers through our emotional support program, Journey of Hope.

Results: Since 2005, we’ve helped more than 1,000,000 U.S. children in crisis through our emergency preparedness, response and recovery programs.

FOR OUR FUTURE

We advocate for initiatives and legislation at the state and national levels that promote children’s well-being and resiliency, including the necessity of quality early education programs, funding for underserved school districts, and child care emergency preparedness.

Results: Since 2010, Save the Children has achieved policy change in 37 states and the District of Columbia, benefitting 57,000,000 American children.

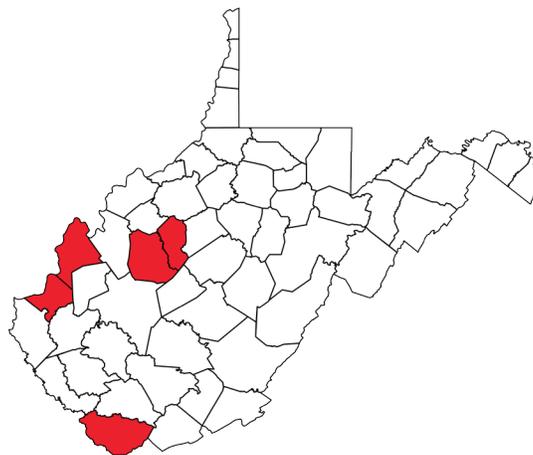
Thanks to our dedicated supporters, little Olivia, age 3, is getting the critical early learning she needs to dream of a better future.



For reading buddies Madison and Justine, both age 8, learning to read is opening opportunities for life.

WHERE WE WORK

SITES	Children Served	Early Steps	Literacy	Healthy Choices
CABELL COUNTY	577			
Spring Hill Elementary			•	•
CALHOUN COUNTY	472			
Arnoldsburg Elementary		•	•	•
Pleasant Hill Elementary			•	•
MASON COUNTY	313			
Beale Elementary		•	•	
MCDOWELL COUNTY	100			
Bradshaw Elementary		•		
laeger Elementary		•		
ROANE COUNTY	362			
Geary Elementary/Middle			•	
Spencer Elementary		•		



CHILD POVERTY IN WEST VIRGINIA

- 27% of children live in poverty.¹
- 53% of children are eligible for free or reduced-priced meals – a socioeconomic challenge recognized as a barrier to student achievement.²
- 73% of fourth graders scored below proficient in reading achievement on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.³
- 34% of children ages 10-17 are overweight or obese.⁴

¹ 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

² 2011-2012. National Center for Education Statistics.

³ 2013. Kids Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation.

⁴ 2011-2012. National Survey of Children's Health.