4 Kids and Community

MISSION

4 Kids and Community provides support to Perkins-Tryon Schools and the community to help people succeed.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Youth Opportunity

PURPOSE

To serve as an intermediary between the community, schools, local businesses, churches, organizations and individuals to meet the demand for school supplies, other school related items, nutritional needs, personal hygiene supplies and educational and life skills workshops, so that members of the community have the opportunities to receive the necessary tools to succeed.

SERVICES

Ensures that all students have the school supplies they need to succeed in school; helps schools by providing needed classroom items; provides food bags, food boxes, and snacks to students facing food insecurity; offers workshops that prepare students for life after school; and assists with special requests when funding is available.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

American Red Cross

MISSION

The American Red Cross prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Healthy Community
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

The American Red Cross, through its unparalleled network of volunteers, donors and partners, is always there in times of need, across the country and around the world.

SERVICES

The American Red Cross strengthens communities by ensuring a stable blood supply, responding to disasters, providing first aid and resiliency training, and promoting disaster preparedness. Services include financial assistance, safe shelter, meals, and emotional support for those affected by disasters, along with recovery resources to help individuals and families rebuild their lives.

RESULT

Last year, the Red Cross was notified of a house fire in rural Stillwater where a family had been displaced. One of the children suffered severe injuries and was transported to a burn center. A local Red Cross volunteer responded to the scene and provided care, comfort and financial assistance to the family. After the fire, the Red Cross casework team reached out to the family to help provide connections to other resources and agencies in the area. After the child was released from the burn center, Disaster Health Services with Red Cross was able to offer more financial assistance to the family to take care of additional immediate needs due to the injuries. The caseworkers stayed with the family until they were able to find new and permanent housing. They were truly thankful for having a friend like the Red Cross watching over them as they started their recovery journey.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

Big Brothers Big Sisters
OF OKLAHOMA

MISSION

Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Oklahoma creates and supports one-to-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.

IMPACT AREA

Youth Opportunity

PURPOSE

Many youth in Payne County face challenges that can impact their academic success, emotional well-being and long-term opportunities. Risk factors such as poverty, family instability, parental incarceration and other adverse childhood experiences can increase the likelihood of school failure, behavioral challenges, and limited economic mobility.

SERVICES

Big Brothers Big Sisters addresses challenges by connecting youth with caring adult mentors who provide consistent encouragement, guidance and support. These relationships help youth build resilience, strengthen decision-making skills and develop confidence in their ability to succeed.

RESULT

Little Brother Henry and Big Brother Martin are matched in our community-based program. Henry needed a positive male role model. His uncle is in jail, and he thought being “gangster” was cool. His mom wanted him to learn from someone who is ambitious and took a different path in life. Big Brother Martin is a retired police officer who now teaches at Meridian Technical Center. The pair do a lot of different things during their activities, including touring the Center so Martin can show Henry all the machines and simulators. Thanks to this match, Little Brother Henry has learned about new fields and career opportunities.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

CASA
Court Appointed Special Advocates
FOR CHILDREN

CASA FOR KIDS, INC.
PAYNE AND LOGAN COUNTIES

MISSION

CASA for Kids is a nonprofit organization that recruits, screens, trains and supports community volunteers who advocate for the best interest of abused and neglected children in juvenile deprived court.

IMPACT AREA

Healthy Community

PURPOSE

CASA for Kids addresses the complex and ongoing challenges faced by children who have experienced abuse and neglect and are involved in the child welfare system. These children often enter foster care due to unsafe home environments and face instability, trauma and uncertainty as their cases move through the court system.

SERVICES

CASA for Kids addresses these challenges by recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who serve as consistent, dedicated advocates for each child. CASA volunteers ensure that the child's voice is heard, their needs are identified and the court receives informed, objective recommendations, helping move children toward safe, stable and permanent homes more efficiently.

RESULT

One powerful example involves a sibling group of young children who entered foster care after experiencing significant neglect and instability. When their CASA volunteer was appointed, the children had already experienced multiple placement disruptions and were struggling emotionally, behaviorally and academically. The CASA volunteer quickly built trust with each child, becoming a consistent and reliable presence in their lives. Through regular visits and conversations, the volunteer was able to understand their fears, needs, and hopes - insight that was not always visible to others involved in the case. The volunteer identified gaps in services, including the need for additional mental health support and educational interventions, and advocated for those services to be put in place.

Dolly Parton's
IMAGINATION LIBRARY

MISSION

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library inspires a love of reading by mailing free, age-appropriate books directly to children from birth to age five.

IMPACT AREA

Youth Opportunity

PURPOSE

The program honors Dolly Parton's father, whose inability to read deeply inspired her mission to help children succeed. Books are provided at zero cost to families, regardless of household income. Program participants have more advanced early literacy skills than their classmates who did not participate in the program.

SERVICES

One high-quality, age-appropriate book is mailed every month directly to enrolled children from birth until age five. United Way of Payne County serves as the Local Affiliate for Payne County's Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which serves about 2,000 children every month.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

Early Childhood Coalition

Nurturing beginnings for a lifetime

MISSION

Early Childhood Coalition fosters communitiy efforts to promote healthy growth and development in young children.

IMPACT AREA

- Youth Opportunity
- Healthy Community
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

To bring area agencies, schools, nonprofits, businesses and individuals together to make Stillwater a truly family friendly community and support healthy development of our next generation.

SERVICES

Parent education, tools, prevention, guidance and resources are provided through the HealthySteps Program, Building a Better Brain Campaign, StillWonder playful learning pop-ups, Babymobile food and diaper distribution and other partnerships.

RESULT

Early Childhood Coalition was founded by volunteers in 2010 after state funding cuts threatened services that give children a good start in life by empowering parents with information, tools and services during early childhood, a critical period of brain development. It has become a collaboration hub for community efforts through a network of partnerships working to improve outcomes for more than 5,000 children and families across Payne County.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

girl scouts of eastern oklahoma

MISSION

The Girl Scouts' mission is to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

IMPACT AREA

Youth Opportunity

PURPOSE

Girls in Payne County face growing barriers to academic success, mental health, and long-term economic mobility. Broader state-level challenges, including high child poverty, low educational rankings, family instability, and rising youth mental health concerns, disproportionately impact girls in low-income and under-resourced communities. These systemic challenges limit access to mentorship, STEAM enrichment, leadership development and safe, structured extracurricular opportunities that build confidence and resilience.

SERVICES

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma provides research-based leadership programming, STEAM education, outdoor experiences and mentorship that equip girls with the skills, confidence and community support they need to thrive.

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc.

MISSION

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma's mission is to be a partner in the community making equal justice for all a reality.

IMPACT AREA

Financial Security

PURPOSE

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma is committed to ensuring that low-income and vulnerable Oklahomans have meaningful access to the law and the justice system. Regardless of financial circumstances or other barriers, the organization helps individuals resolve legal disputes, protect their rights and obtain the legal representation and advocacy they need.

SERVICES

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma provides free civil legal assistance to low-income individuals, older adults, survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking, veterans, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. The organization helps clients understand and protect their legal rights in matters involving personal safety, health care, housing, consumer protection, income, and public benefits, family law, Social Security and other civil legal issues.

RESULT

A mother facing her fourth cancer diagnosis, now Stage 4, turned to Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) to protect her two minor children. LASO prepared a Last Will and Testament naming her sister as guardian if needed and ensuring her wishes would be honored. LASO also helped her son take her last name, fulfilling an important family wish. These services gave the client peace of mind and helped secure her children's future during an incredibly difficult time.

LIFE CENTER
Adult Day Services

MISSION

The LIFE Center's mission is to enhance the quality of life for the elderly and disabled, and their caregivers, by providing compassionate support, comprehensive resources, and innovative programs.

IMPACT AREA

- Financial Security
- Healthy Community

PURPOSE

The LIFE Center addresses interconnected challenges facing older adults and adults with disabilities, as well as the families who care for them. Programs help to mitigate risks like elder abuse, isolation, and mental health decline, while promoting a healthier, more inclusive community where older adults can thrive.

SERVICES

Core services include adult day care, caregiver respite, therapeutic activities, wellness programs and community engagement initiatives.

RESULT

Last year, a participant began attending the LIFE Center during a very challenging time for their family. Their caregiver was working full-time while also trying to manage the increasing care needs of their loved one. The participant had begun spending most days alone at home and was becoming increasingly withdrawn and isolated. Their family worried that without additional support, they might soon have no choice but to consider a higher level of care. When the participant first started attending the LIFE Center, they were quiet and hesitant to join activities. Over time, with encouragement from staff and the welcoming environment created by other participants, they slowly began engaging in daily programming such as exercise classes, music, group games, and social conversations. As weeks passed, the change became noticeable – not only to staff, but to their family as well.

mission of HOPE

MISSION

Mission of Hope provides people who are experiencing homelessness with hope for a better future.

IMPACT AREA

- Youth Opportunity
- Financial Security
- Healthy Community
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

To provide a safe and supportive option for people who need housing due to emergency circumstances. To offer intensive case management so clients can increase their income, secure affordable housing and develop skills to maintain self-sufficiency.

SERVICES

Programs include emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and rapid re-housing. Prevention services are provided to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless when funds are available.

RESULT

Quinna arrived at Mission of Hope at a pivotal moment in her life. With consistent support and personal resilience, she turned a challenging period into a powerful story of achievement and hope. She earned her high school diploma, became a Certified Nursing Assistant and is taking steps to enroll in college. Her journey demonstrates how stable housing, dedicated mentorship and clear educational and career objectives can empower people experiencing homelessness to achieve meaningful outcomes.

UNITED WAY Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

MPower

MISSION

MPower works to empower adults with developmental disabilities to contribute to the community through a variety of meaningful training and employment opportunities and to live as independently as possible.

IMPACT AREA

- Financial Security
- Healthy Community

PURPOSE

MPower serves people in Payne County with intellectual and developmental disabilities by addressing barriers to employment, independence, and community inclusion.

SERVICES

Services include paid work opportunities, job training, job development, and job placement, helping people build the skills and confidence needed to secure and maintain employment.

RESULT

Before graduating from high school, a client had the primary goal to live independently. The client participated in the vocational program immediately after graduation, leading to successful placement in a community job. With consistent support and job coaching, the skills and confidence needed to perform the job independently were developed. As independence increased, staff gradually faded their support, and employment has been successfully maintained without ongoing assistance.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

Payne County Drug Court

MISSION

Payne County Drug Court works to create an environment where people can receive treatment for substance abuse with or without co-occurring disorders and individualized plans for themselves and their family.

IMPACT AREA

- Financial Security
- Healthy Community
- Youth Opportunity
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

Payne County Drug Court provides a supportive, court-supervised alternative to incarceration for individuals with substance use disorders or co-occurring mental health conditions and criminal charges related to drug and alcohol abuse. The program works with a specialized "Drug Court Team" – including a judge, district attorney, defense counsel, and treatment representatives – to address addiction while reducing recidivism.

SERVICES

The services include out-patient substance abuse treatment including supervised rehabilitation, mental health therapy and counseling, accountability, tracking, life skills and support.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

PayneCounty YouthServices,Inc.
www.pcys.org

MISSION

Payne County Youth Services, Inc. is dedicated to providing free, quality services for the positive development and recovery of children, youth and families.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Healthy Community
- Youth Opportunity
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

Payne County Youth Services works to improve the lives of children, youth (ages 7–22), and families by providing free, comprehensive support services.

SERVICES

Emergency youth shelter, site-based and school-based mental health counseling, crisis intervention, alcohol and drug counseling and prevention, Skills for Success (First Time Offender Program), SafePlace, transitional living program, building a competent community for suicide prevention.

RESULT

This past year, the Payne County Youth Services shelter provided for two residents who were victims of human trafficking. The physical, sexual and emotional abuse they endured resulted in a complete lack of trust for these teens. These young people were with Payne County Youth Services for months and were later transferred to a longer-term facility that will allow them to continue to heal and progress. The staff worked hard to facilitate this transfer, knowing that it was a good match for the teens in their care.

UNITED WAY Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

Stillwater
CARES
Helping people help people

MISSION

Stillwater CARES connects community organizations, builds relationships and identifies resources to alleviate and prevent poverty by promoting interactive solutions.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

Families in Payne County experiencing poverty often face interconnected challenges such as limited access to stable employment, affordable childcare, transportation, housing and community resources. As a result, they frequently must navigate multiple agencies with different eligibility requirements and processes to access the support they need.

SERVICES

Stillwater CARES strengthens collaboration among local service providers to improve access to resources for families. Through partnerships, shared tools like Charity Tracker, and initiatives such as community conversations and Getting Ahead classes, Stillwater CARES reduces barriers, improves service coordination and builds a more connected support system for families experiencing poverty.

RESULT

Participation in the Getting Ahead Program over the past year provided valuable knowledge and insight to a recent graduate. The program offered tools and perspectives that will remain beneficial both now and in the future. It also fostered a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of personal financial challenges, as well as the broader financial struggles experienced within the community.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

STILLWATER
GROUP HOMES

MISSION

Stillwater Group Homes provides quality residential and vocational services to individuals with developmental disabilities.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

To offer a safe, secure, community-inclusive environments that promote independence and follow normal, age-appropriate patterns of living for individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom have intellectual functioning with IQs below 75.

SERVICES

Stillwater Group Homes offers residential living that includes a safe and secure home and support services. Each person served has an individualized service plan designed to address their specific strengths, needs, and goals so they can live as successfully and independently as possible.

RESULT

Patrick joined the Stillwater Group Home Ability Hub team last year, bringing with him a strong sense of purpose and a passion for inclusion. From the very beginning, he has been motivated not only to contribute himself, but also to create opportunities for others with intellectual disabilities to get involved, give back and grow through volunteering. One of Patrick's proudest accomplishments has been his work promoting and selling SGH's special blend of popcorn.

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity®

MISSION

Stillwater Habitat for Humanity envisions a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Community Resiliency

PURPOSE

To address the critical and growing issue of housing insecurity by partnering with families, volunteers, and supporters to build safe, affordable homes and strengthen our community.

SERVICES

Working with qualifying families to construct homes that are sold at no profit with affordable mortgage terms. This model removes barriers to traditional homeownership, allowing families to invest in their future and achieve long-term stability.

RESULT

A young, single mother who spent time in foster care now has a home where she and her child can put down roots and build a life. Being moved repeatedly when she was young created a strong desire to provide stability for her own child. By working with Stillwater Habitat for Humanity and providing sweat equity, she was able to create generational change for her family by buying an affordable home that provides them with greater personal and financial security.

Stillwater Literacy Council

MISSION

Stillwater Literacy Council's mission is to promote literacy awareness, and to provide free tutoring to adults age 18 or older in basic literacy skills and English as a second language (ESL).

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Community Resiliency
- Healthy Community

PURPOSE

Stillwater Literacy Council's goal is to prepare individuals for meaningful engagement with their community, their family and their workplace.

SERVICES

In addition to reading, writing, spelling and speaking tutoring, Stillwater Literacy Council also provides digital and interdisciplinary literacies and may address family, financial, health and workplace literacy and competencies.

RESULT

A student was in an automobile accident that was not her fault. Though her tutor offered to assist her, she was able to fend off the accusations of the other driver, garner witnesses and deal with the police and insurance company by herself. She credited her tutoring sessions and the Stillwater Literacy Council's course work with giving her the knowledge and the confidence to handle the situation.

Stillwater Mobile Meals

Serving Stillwater since 1972

MISSION

Stillwater Mobile Meals provides affordable, nutritious meals and meaningful human connection to Stillwater residents.

IMPACT AREAS

Healthy Community

PURPOSE

Stillwater Mobile Meals works to address food insecurity in our community. Many of the clients are unable to shop for themselves and/or don't have the funds to adequately purchase well-balanced meal preparation items.

SERVICES

Stillwater Mobile Meals provides much-needed meals to Stillwater residents who are unable to prepare meals for themselves. As a result, many are able to remain safely in their own homes longer, reducing the need for nursing facility placement or hospitalization.

RESULT

A driver recently arrived to deliver a meal and discovered a client on the floor, in excruciating pain and unable to get up. Without hesitation, he sprang into action, immediately calling 911 and staying by her side to provide comfort and reassurance until help arrived. The client had suffered a broken shoulder and required surgery. In that moment, the driver did far more than deliver a meal. He delivered compassion, reassurance and critical help when a client needed it most.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

MISSION

It is the mission of the YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, and all branches within this Association, to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

IMPACT AREAS

- Financial Security
- Youth Opportunity
- Healthy Community

PURPOSE

The YMCA is focused on strengthening communities by nurturing the spirit, mind, and body of every individual served.

SERVICES

Through programs that are inclusive, accessible, and meaningful, YMCA brings together members, volunteers and staff to create a welcoming environment where children, families and neighbors can grow, connect and thrive.

RESULT

After being released from jail, Mandy took a brave first step toward change by enrolling in the YMCA's Getting Ahead program. What started as a search for stability turned into a life-changing journey, moving from surviving generational poverty to building a future filled with purpose and possibility. Mandy graduated from her Getting Ahead class and kept moving forward instead of slipping back. Today, she works as a program facilitator, serves on a YMCA branch council, and holds a position at a prestigious university, where she supports students who are dealing with housing and financial instability.

The Saville Center

FOR CHILD ADVOCACY

MISSION

The mission of The Saville Center for Child Advocacy is to facilitate the protection, prevention and healing of victims of child abuse and to promote the health of families in our community.

IMPACT AREAS

- Community Resiliency
- Healthy Community

PURPOSE

The Saville Center addresses child abuse and the gaps that exist within traditional response systems. When agencies work in silos, children may be interviewed multiple times, experience delays in services and lack coordinated support.

SERVICES

The Saville Center for Child Advocacy brings together law enforcement, child protective services, medical professionals and prosecutors in a single, child-focused setting. This coordinated approach reduces trauma, increases efficiency in investigations, and ensures children and families receive timely, comprehensive care aligned with standards set by the National Children's Alliance.

RESULT

A young child walked through the doors of The Saville Center for Child Advocacy after disclosing abuse. The fear was visible. That child wasn't rushed, pressured or forced to speak. They were given control; something that had been taken from them. In a single, child-friendly forensic interview, surrounded by a team working quietly behind the scenes, the child found their voice. Their caregiver shared that having one place to go, one team, one process, one source of truth made an unbearable situation feel just a little less impossible. Because of this coordinated, trauma-informed response, the child only had to tell their story once. Their voice was heard. The case moved forward.

UNITED WAY
Payne County

unitedwaypaynecounty.org

Wings of Hope
FAMILY CRISIS SERVICES

MISSION

Wings of Hope Family Crisis Services mission is to break the cycle of violence by providing safety, hope and empowerment.

IMPACT AREAS

- Community Resiliency
- Healthy Community
- Financial Security

PURPOSE

Wings of Hope addresses domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking in the community.

SERVICES

The services at Wings of Hope support women, children and men who are seeking safety and working to break the cycle of abuse. Wings of Hope provides direct services including safe shelter, victim advocacy, counseling, a 24-hour crisis line and comprehensive wraparound support to help survivors stabilize, access resources, and rebuild their lives.