

## **EDUCATION MOBILIZATION PROJECT**

January 2011 Report to the Board

### **EDUCATION**

- Tuesday, February 1, Toledo Public Schools (TPS) announced a transformation plan to balance their budget and raise graduation rates. (For more details on the proposal and United Way's position, please reference the United Way talking points.)
  - We're excited the plan included our SEL work which will move forward in 2011 at six schools (five of which are new), though East Side Central Elementary will be closing.
  - Our Schools as Community Hubs program has been approved and will be moving forward as well. However rather than implementing in two middle schools, we will now be implementing in two K-8 schools, which we believe works in our favor.
  - We are also excited about the potential opportunity for us to partner with TPS through the graduation coaches mentioned in the plan. We are re-focusing our *AmeriCorps* program on education, specifically implementing graduation coaches to help graduate our kids.
- Grad Now's post-secondary and career readiness workgroup had their initial meeting on Jan. 27. A second meeting is scheduled for next week.

### **MOBILIZATION**

- United Way Worldwide (UWW) staff had planned to visit Toledo Feb. 1 and Feb. 2; however they postponed their visit until Feb. 28 and March 1 because of weather.
- In preparation for UWW's visit we have decided on the four elements we will focus on during this second performance cycle. The elements/areas of focus are as follows:
  - Building and enhancing key education partnerships;
  - Framing strategies as products;
  - Re-imagine workplace engagement; and
  - Offering and managing strategic volunteer opportunities.
- We have completed 13 education community conversations and 1 health conversation. Safety and a sense of connectedness are still the first topics to come up in almost every conversation.
- The Volunteer Center moved from the Outreach Department to the Engagement Department in an effort to further integrate volunteerism throughout the organization.