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INVESTING IN EARLY-CHILDHOOD CARE FOR LIFELONG SUCCESS

Because all children deserve the opportunity to realize their full potential, Greater Twin Cities United Way works to ensure families and caregivers have what they need to thrive. Children's experiences in their first three years have a significant impact on their long-term health and wellbeing. That's why we partner with early childhood care and education organizations whose work demonstrates their care for young children and their families.

Four Directions Center is a therapeutic preschool in South Minneapolis that provides culturally responsive early childhood education. They offer full-day, year-round education and care for children ages six weeks to 12 years, with a whole-family approach.

Our partnership with Four Directions supports their holistic programming, including family essentials like housing, mental health services and food, parent education and systems navigation; training for educators in trauma-sensitive caregiving through our 80x3: Resilient from the State initiative; and support toward the recruitment and retention of child care professionals. Together, we ensure children and their caregivers have the tools they need to realize bright futures.

“Partnering with United Way has helped us tremendously with the families in the community we work with,” said Kelly Suzick, assistant director at Four Directions Center. **“We’re all there doing the same thing, so it’s like we kind of build on each other.”**

