



Creating

# LASTING IMPACT

## PEACE OF MIND FOR SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA PARENTS, AND SAFE CARE FOR CHILDREN

For many families, the COVID-19 pandemic meant that their children had to adapt to remote learning formats and stay in a childcare center during the day instead of being in their usual classroom setting. This new obstacle proved to be an added expense for families that many could not afford because of loss of jobs or lack of funding.

United Way of Southwest Virginia partnered with Washington County and Tazewell County to provide tuition assistance at childcare centers called CARES Act funding. This funding provided tuition assistance and allowed families to be able to work even though their children were completing remote learning due to COVID-19.

One parent whose children were at a licensed childcare center in Abingdon, VA, struggled to make ends meet and considered making the tough decision to remove her children from childcare. She was income constrained and struggling to



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afford tuition for both of her kids at the childcare center. “This funding has been such a blessing to us during these trying times. I don’t know what I would have done without the tuition assistance for my kids,” said the parent. The CARES Act funding allowed people like her to keep their children in childcare and stay in the workforce, which results in continuing economic stability in the region.

“This funding was so important during the trying times of the pandemic, and it allowed many parents to stay in the workforce while making sure their children were taken care of,” said Travis Staton, president, and CEO of United Way of Southwest Virginia.

For more information contact  
[donations@unitedwayswva.org](mailto:donations@unitedwayswva.org)  
276.525.4071

United Way of Southwest Virginia | 276.628.2160 | Abingdon, VA



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Southwest Virginia