Your investment directly improves the lives of thousands of children today and into the future.

The African American Leadership Society (AALS) of United Way aims to mobilize both people and resources to improve African American lives in our community. By focusing on our core community priorities — education, income and health — and with leadership development and diversity, equity and inclusion as integral parts of all the work we do, AALS addresses racial, economic and academic divides that exist within our community.

Our society focuses on fostering the next generation of African American leaders all while contributing to a more vibrant and inclusive Quad Cities. AALS members will address the needs of the African American community by mobilizing people and resources to reduce systemic inequities in the region and create powerful pathways to success.

As an AALS member, you’ll enjoy these benefits:

► Be a Community Impact Leader: Share your ideas and build relationships with group members.

► Lead Change: Be a part of United Way’s movement to create conditions for every Quad Citizen to live their best possible life. You have an opportunity to support a generational change.

► Stay Connected: Receive monthly AALS updates regarding upcoming events, volunteer and philanthropic opportunities.

► Engage: Socialize and network at events that help you connect and give back to our community.
AALS INITIATIVES

Building Bridges
Too often Black-led organizations miss out on opportunities, funding and professional networking and development due to lack of visibility and access, making it difficult to scale their organizations at the rates of their white counterparts. Building Bridges will help close these gaps by equipping local Black organizations with resources, networking and professional development that traditionally are not readily accessible to African American populations.

Targeted Impact Grant
United Way’s AALS will partner with elementary schools in Scott and Rock Island counties to address disparities in education; more specifically reading proficiency and mathematics for African American students.

Community School Partnership: Girls’ Mentorship Program
Preadolescent girls face a variety of problems that drastically differ from their male counterparts. Social media and pop culture are placing more pressure on girls, earlier in their lives, to look and act like adults, creating new levels of anxiety and self-consciousness that, in turn, interfere with the students’ education. The Girl’s Mentorship Program aims to provide a safe space for young girls to convene and discuss the ongoing struggles of being an adolescent in a society saturated by distorted, unrealistic social media standards.

Black Leadership Development: Black & Giving Back
AALS honors its commitment to developing African Americans of all ages to secure management and leadership roles. Leadership positions in business, government, academia and the community will create opportunities for growth, independence and having a voice in our outcomes.

Annual Scholarship and Recognition Luncheon
Hosted by AALS, this inaugural gathering will award brilliant African American students and honor community members that embody the AALS mission and vision.