When Steven arrived at the Lena Pope Early Learning Center (ELC) at the age of 2, it was apparent his young life had been a difficult one. He had no structure and both parents had experienced drug use and spent time in jail. Initially, Steven had many severe behaviors including physical and verbal aggression, lack of focus, severe impulsivity and poor knowledge of academic basics. Steven received counseling services from Lena Pope and was assessed for additional interventions making it easier for him to focus and meet his potential. The ELC also provided counseling and academic support as well as parenting support to Steven’s great-grandfather, who is raising him. Now in the second grade, Steven is bright, on target academically and is involved in extracurricular activities including baseball.

The United Way of Tarrant County is pleased to provide funding for the Lena Pope Early Learning Center to help change the lives of children like Steven.