

## CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**Impact Area:** Ready Children

**Subject:** Supporting Young Children with Autism and Their Families

**Body:**

When Tricia's son, AJ, was still an infant, she sensed he was developing differently than her other children. By 18 months old, he had not yet said "mama" or "papa," made limited eye contact and was non-verbal. That's when Tricia was connected to United Way Ready Children Impact Partner Autism Community Network, where A.J. was evaluated and diagnosed with autism.

Early intervention at just 18 months old connected AJ with critical services and support during a key stage of development, when the average age of autism diagnosis for children is 4-years-old nationally. AJ has made tremendous progress with the support of therapy, finally calling Tricia "mama" almost a year after his diagnosis. "I just broke down," Tricia said. "Without those resources, I wouldn't have ever known what my child's voice sounded like."

Your support helps young children like AJ get early intervention and support that sets them up for future success. Most of all it gives a voice to the voiceless and makes struggling families feel heard during difficult times.

**[insert link here]**

CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**Impact Area:** Safety Net

**Subject:** When What You Thought “Couldn’t Happen to me” Happens to You

**Body:**

Paul never imagined he and his young daughter would experience homelessness. After losing their housing Paul turned to United Way Safety Net Impact Partner Haven for Hope. With only a backpack of clothes and no identification documents, the two spent their first week sleeping on mats before eventually moving into temporary housing directly funded by United Way. That’s when Paul was finally able to rebuild his life.

Through United Way’s Safety Net support, Paul was able to replace important documents, create a resume, find employment and finally secure a apartment for his family to live in.

Your support helps single fathers like Paul regain stability in times of crisis. Most of all, this investment gave them back what they feared they might never have again: a safe place to call home.

Please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign. **[insert link here]**

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# Email Short Stories



**Impact Area:** Successful Students

**Subject:** Connect Opportunity Youth back into their education and career: Jareli's Story

**Body:**

Just three years ago, a staggering 43% of students at Dwight Middle School were chronically absent, putting their academic success and future opportunities at risk. That's when United Way Successful Students Impact Partner ChildSafe implemented their Trauma Sensitive Training program in the school.

This support equipped teachers, counselors and staff with the tools needed to recognize signs of trauma in students and taught them how to respond with empathy and understanding. By learning on how to better support their students during difficult times outside the classroom, the team at Dwight Middle School dramatically reduced the rate of at-risk students to 22% in only three years.

Challenges like homelessness, food insecurity, abuse and mental health can affect a child's ability to attend and learn in school. Your support empowers students to stay engaged in their education so they can have a brighter future.

Please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign.

CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**Impact Area:** Strong Individuals and Families

**Subject:** Connect Opportunity Youth back into their education and career: Jareli's Story

**Body:**

Tasha always dreamed of creating a better future for her family but faced a major obstacle: affordable child care. As a single mother working part-time jobs and struggling to cover basic expenses, returning to college felt out of reach. Through the United Way Child Care Scholarship, powered by Women United, Tasha received free child care, mentorship and support while pursuing her education.

This allowed her to focus on her career, obtain her license to become a Chemical Dependency Counselor and earn her degree. She no longer worries about living paycheck to paycheck. Tasha is living proof of the change that United Way's Strong Families and Individuals Impact work can have for individuals trying to achieve economic stability through job training and education.

Your support helps families and individuals achieve financial security, advance their careers and provides a foundation for success for future generations. Please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign.

CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**United Way Program:** Dual Generation

**Subject:** Mother and Daughter Achieving Their Dreams through United Way: Crystal and Penelope's Story

**Body:**

20 years ago, Crystal put her education on hold to provide for her young daughter Penelope. As a young single mother, she struggled to balance work, parenting, and school while facing the high cost of child care.

Today, Crystal is achieving her dream of graduating college with the help of United Way's Dual Generation Initiative. The no-cost, high-quality child care she receives through Dual Generation ensures her children under 5 years old are thriving in child care during the day while she focuses on her education.

Crystal isn't alone: Her first daughter Penelope, now 21, is also working toward her degree with the support of Dual Gen. Together they are building a better future for their families that Crystal once thought might never happen.

United Way's Dual Generation Initiative is strengthening entire families and creating opportunities that will benefit Crystal, Penelope, their children and future generations to come.

Your support helps families like theirs achieve their dreams and end generational cycles of poverty. Please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign.

# Email Short Stories



**Impact Area:** Strong Individuals and Families

**Subject:** Helping Families Overcome Substance Abuse. Jeremy's Story.

**Body:**

After growing up watching his father struggle with substance abuse, Jeremy found himself trapped in the same cycle of addiction as he became a father himself. He kept finding new ways to hit rock bottom until a close friend died of an overdose. "I knew that could have been me," Jeremy says. "That pain pushed me into sobriety."

Suddenly, Jeremy found himself as a single father just 10 days after his son's birth, after escaping an abusive relationship. He knew he had to get sober to build a foundation for his son's future. That's when he found United Way Strong Individuals and Families Impact Partner Lifetime Recovery. With support, he found structure and accountability with his counselors that have helped keep his sobriety on track. "It wasn't just therapy. It was learning how to live again. They gave me a chance—and I used that chance to build a new life."

Both Jeremy and his father are sober today, and his father even helps co-parent his son. Jeremy's life is back on track, including his career and education. He has a full-time job and is attending college in hopes of earning a bachelor's degree in cybersecurity. With United Way's support, Jeremy was given the tools he needed to regain his sobriety.

"Giving to United Way is the start of a better story for somebody," Jeremy says. "You're not just giving money. You're giving someone a chance at freedom. You're giving them a future."

To support families like Jeremy's, please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign. **[insert link here]**

CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**United Way Program:** Dual Generation

**Subject:** Giving Parents the Chance to Improve Their Economic Mobility. Kandayce's Story

**Body:**

Kandayce was on the verge of “dropping out” of college because she couldn’t balance having children and her classes. A mother of two with no family nearby or support, she applied for United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County’s Dual Generation program which she says now became her family.

With support from Dual Gen like subsidized child care, rent assistance, food and even Christmas gifts, Kandayce has achieved her career goals while her children have excelled in their education.

Today she has her Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and is working toward becoming a full anesthesiologist. “I used to think life was just bills and survival. But now I see a future.”

With United Way’s support, Kandayce is building a better future for her family. “United Way has granted me the life I have now, without those resources I wouldn’t be here today,” Kandayce said.

To support families like Kandayce’s as they level up their career and their family’s future, please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign. **(insert link here)**

CAMPAIGN LEADER

# Email Short Stories



**United Way Program:** Military/Strong Families Strong Forces

**Subject:** Providing Mental Health Resources to Veterans. Cassandra's Story

**Body:**

A veteran and mother of three children, Cassandra felt burnt out and was experiencing a mental health crisis. She was spiraling out of control and contemplating suicide until she had a traumatic episode in front of her children. "I still remember how terrified they looked," Cassandra admits.

"That was really the point when I was like 'I need help'". Her husband called United Way's 211 Helpline, which connected Cassandra and her family to military-serving programs that offered mental health services, including counseling. This included the Strong Families Strong Forces program, which provides in-home counseling that strengthens communication, connection and co-parenting skills for families. "It helped my kids understand our military experiences, why certain things trigger us and how to relate to us on a different level," Cassandra said. Without United Way's support, she doesn't believe her family would have been able to move on. "I tell everyone I can about United Way. I know how much they helped me, and I know they can help someone else who's on the edge, like I was," she says.

Today Cassandra has a stronger grasp on her mental health and a more positive outlook for her family's future.

Help veterans like Cassandra improve their mental health and their personal stability. Please give to our 2026 United Way Campaign. **[insert link here]**