



Ivelisse

Helping a Family During the Pandemic

Ivelisse worked hard to find a job. She diligently went through workforce training and resume-building workshops and even had a business coach. She ultimately received a job with a school, tutoring math, reading and social studies to students from second grade through high school.

Then due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Ivelisse lost her job – and just at the same time as her husband losing his job in the hospitality industry. The couple, parents of two children, were left without any income to pay for rent and other household necessities.

Ivelisse and her husband each filed for unemployment, but were waiting for word they had been approved. In the meantime, they reconnected with the CWF for help. A case worker provided information about the closest United Way of Broward County Project Lifeline food pantry and helped Ivelisse apply for SNAP benefits. Then she received financial rental assistance from United Way of Broward County's COVID-19 Campaign, along with a financial coach to help with budgeting.

Soon, Ivelisse and her husband were able to find employment. CWF continues to follow their progress so they can provide additional support if needed.

Help change lives like Ivelisse's by donating to United Way of Broward County at UnitedWayBroward.org/donate.



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Andrew

A Son and His Mother Find Assistance

Andrew, a 17-year-old American citizen, left Canada to find a better life for his mother, Liliana, who was in an abusive domestic relationship. After working a few restaurant jobs in Fort Lauderdale, he was able to save enough to bring his mother to Broward County. The two lived together in hotels for several months – until Andrew lost his jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The two quickly found themselves homeless and in desperate need of help, especially because Liliana was an insulin-dependent diabetic.

Fortunately, Andrew was put in touch with local organizations receiving extra support from United Way of Broward County's COVID-19 Campaign. Liliana got her insulin and the family was given an Uber ride (loaded with groceries and supermarket gift cards) to a hotel room with a kitchen. Andrew and Liliana were able to stay there for a week while case workers helped them get permanent housing, connected Andrew to resources for GED enrollment and employment assistance, and more.

While the COVID-19 pandemic continues, Andrew and his mother are now in safe housing with the assistance they need to face the future together.

Help change lives like Andrew and his mother by donating to United Way of Broward County at UnitedWayBroward.org/donate.



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Dwight

Homeless Veteran Becomes Home Owner

Six days before his 39th birthday, Dwight received the keys to his first home. It was a big day for the veteran, an Army Sergeant on disability who worked hard to bring himself up from homelessness.

For nine years, Dwight experienced a variety of difficulties that resulted in his living in homeless shelters. Then, in September 2019, he was referred by a Veterans Affairs social worker to United Way of Broward County's MISSION UNITED program, which helps Veterans acclimate to civilian life.

Dwight loved his United Way program case manager, who assisted him without judgment. With her help, Dwight was placed into an apartment and received furnishings and rent subsidies as well as payment of his electric bill. While receiving case management services, monthly home visits and weekly supportive phone calls, he set goals to save money, pay bills and improve his credit score. And with mental, emotional and physical support, he was able to stop smoking and save for a home.

On June 10, 2020 – just nine months into the program – Dwight realized his dream of home ownership. He received the keys to a three-bedroom, two-bath house.

Help change lives like Dwight's by donating to United Way of Broward County at UnitedWayBroward.org/donate.



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Mary

A Lifeline for Mary

Eighty-year-old Mary never imagined that one day she would need assistance from the community. But with her adult children living out of state, she lives alone and has limited mobility due to health issues. Then the COVID-19 pandemic happened, and Mary was afraid to leave her home – including being unable to go to the local grocery store. She reached out to her pastor for food assistance, and he turned to United Way of Broward County's Project Lifeline.

Project Lifeline is a year-round program created and operated by United Way of Broward County that purchases and distributes fresh, nutritious food -- fruits and vegetables, meats, dairy products and packaged foods -- to food banks across Broward County.

Fortunately, since COVID-19 began, Project Lifeline also has partnered with a national food delivery company to bring fresh food to homebound clients. That was a great relief for Mary, who was able to have regular no-contact deliveries of foods to keep her pantry stocked and her body nourished. "I am so grateful," she says. "It is truly a blessing to be able to receive this food from the community. Thank you."

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