



United Way of Greater Houston

IN HOUSTON, WE BELIEVE **IN NEIGHBORS** **HELPING NEIGHBORS**

**Do
something
about it.**



THE UNITED WAY OF GREATER HOUSTON **SUPPORTS THOSE WISHING TO REBUILD THEIR LIVES**

Now, as never before, the people in the Greater Houston area are facing some of the toughest challenges of their lives. The after-effects of natural disasters, a struggling economy and new hardships are leaving many more with the need for help. But in Houston, we come together to do something about it. We tap into our can-do spirit and reach out to help our neighbors. When problems are too big to be handled alone, United Way is there.

THE FIGURES

1
in 3

1 in 3 families in the Houston area have trouble buying groceries monthly

1
in 4

1 in every 4 women reports being a victim of domestic violence at some point in their life

14
thousand

Some 14,000 people are homeless on Houston streets every night

2
in 7

Almost 2 in every 7 families have at least one member with a disability

1
million

1 million people in our community have no health insurance

THE REALITY

There are thousands in our community who are ready to change for the good, but find themselves without a support system or family who can offer aid.

Many more are just one paycheck, one major illness or one tragedy away from needing assistance. In those times when personal or family problems are too big to face alone, United Way is there to give people a hand up so they can get back into the mainstream of life.

Understanding the need

In 2008, our 211 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answered more than 575,000 calls for help, which included:

- 58,515 calls for utility bill assistance
- 67,892 calls for food pantries
- 39,416 calls for housing assistance programs
- 4,200 calls for job search/training
- 6,825 calls for legal aid
- 3,489 calls for mental health counseling
- Between September 1st and October 15th, 2008, more than 94,000 calls regarding hurricane and basic needs assistance were received

A STORY



"United Way gave me the support I needed when I needed it most."

For electric and cable company workers, climbing utility poles is a hazard that comes with the job. For Robert, a drug addict in need of money to fuel his cocaine habit, the risk of illegally climbing a utility pole to steal the copper wire seemed like an easy way to score some fast cash.

Robert looks back now and realizes he had hit rock bottom the day he found himself atop a pole struggling to pluck the copper from its protective perch 30 feet above the ground. "I've been where you are," a voice called up from below. "Great, someone who can help me," thought Robert. But the voice Robert refers to as his "angel" was actually someone who himself had kicked drugs and who was now reaching out to help Robert.

Robert had attempted to stop using cocaine several times before, but never had the internal strength to follow through. This time was going to be different. He was tired of being tired, and he felt this was his last opportunity to get his life together.

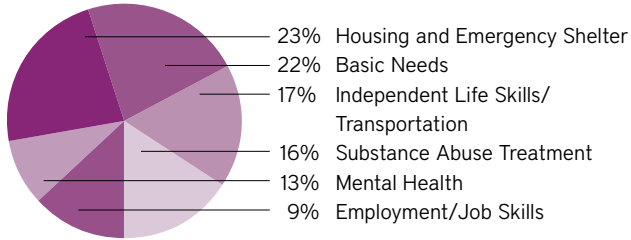
After more than a year and a half in a United Way drug treatment program, Robert knew he was well on his way to a new life – one where he would be clean and sober.

"United Way gave me the support I needed when I needed it most," he says.

Nearly two decades after seeking help from United Way, Robert is now a father, a minister, and more importantly, "a voice in the ear of the neighborhood kids" telling them there are more productive ways to focus their adolescent energy.

OUR INVESTMENT

United Way investment in rebuilding lives



WHAT YOUR DOLLARS CAN DO

\$3 A DAY

Value of a daily cafe latte (\$1,095 GIFT)
CAN PROVIDE:

38 young people with physical or mental disabilities the opportunity to participate in special needs scouting

\$20 A WEEK

(\$1,040 GIFT) CAN PROVIDE:
14 families with basic needs (food, clothing and shelter) for a week

95 individuals can have access to 24-hour counseling and referral services

\$200 A WEEK

(\$10,400 GIFT)
CAN PROVIDE:

Employment services for 141 individuals

WE GIVE A HAND TO PEOPLE REBUILDING THEIR LIVES

Basic needs • Independent life skills •
Transportation • Employment/job skills •
Mental health services • Housing and
emergency shelter • Job readiness •
Domestic violence services •
Substance abuse counseling



THE CHANGE

650
thousand

In 2008, we helped over 650,000 individuals start over after violence, natural disasters, job loss and family emergencies

16
thousand

16,000 women and children received the support needed to escape domestic violence

12
thousand

12,600 persons with disabilities received support

35
thousand

35,600 individuals gained job-readiness skills to help combat unemployment

37
thousand

37,300 people received substance abuse treatment

THE FUTURE

In Houston, we believe that starting over starts with us.

United Way is there when individuals face life's most daunting challenges, lending a hand where it's most needed, helping rebuild lives. With your support, United Way is there with quality services to help people get back into the mainstream of life.

Please stand up for our community and join others who share your can-do spirit by giving generously. Together, we *do something about it* ... the United Way.

