



United Way of Greater Houston

Some situations in life – such as rebuilding lives after a natural disaster, escaping from abuse, overcoming addictions, and starting over in a struggling economy – simply cannot be handled alone. That’s why United Way provides solid opportunities for individuals to reshape their future. By making sure resources, people power, counseling, job training and case managers are always in place, we lead the community in helping our neighbors turn challenges into positive possibilities.

In Houston, we make fresh starts
POSSIBLE



THE REALITY

1 in 4 individuals in our community is affected by alcohol or drug abuse.

1 million people in our area have no health insurance.

1 in 3 families has trouble buying groceries once a month.

1 in 4 women reports being a victim of domestic violence at some point in her life.

UNDERSTANDING THE NEED

In 2009, our 2-1-1 Texas/United Way HELPLINE answered more than 732,500 calls for help, which included:

- 89,798 calls for utility bill assistance
- 81,488 calls for food pantries
- 41,348 calls for housing assistance programs
- 3,516 calls for job search/training
- 9,846 calls for legal aid
- 7,168 calls for mental health counseling

There are thousands in our community who are ready to change for the better, but find themselves without a support system or family that 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 provide a helping hand and help them go from problems to possibilities.

DID YOU KNOW? In 2009, we helped over 700,000 individuals start over after job loss, family emergencies, domestic violence and natural disasters.



Elizabeth has a lot to be proud of – a good job, a 4.0 grade point average and a healthy four year-old son. But just a few years ago, Elizabeth's life wasn't so stable.

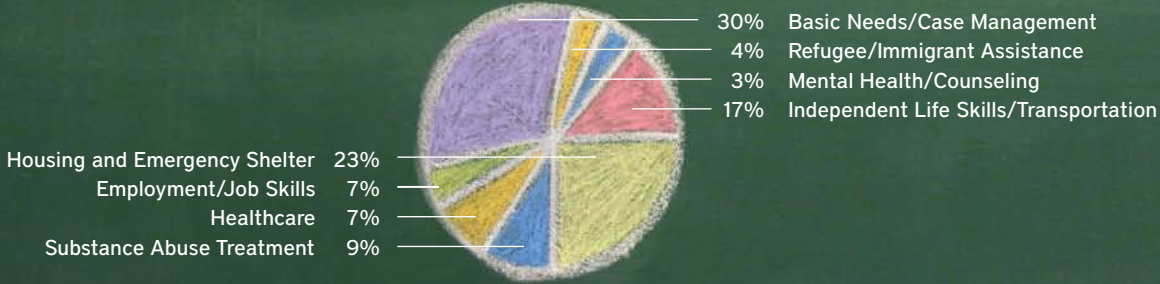
In fact, life had never been very stable for Elizabeth. Her parents divorced when she was young and Elizabeth spent much of her childhood being shuffled between her mother and her grandparents. When most kids her age were riding bikes and playing sports, Elizabeth was caring for her brother who has a disability – and often, her mother. When most kids her age were learning to drive, Elizabeth was losing control of her life to drugs.

In high school, Elizabeth started hanging out with a bad crowd and using heroin. She became addicted. She fought her addiction, tried rehab but ended up in jail after continued drug use.

With United Way's help, Elizabeth is in recovery today. United Way was there to help her find medical assistance, counseling, insurance, and the support she needed to rebuild her life. Now, Elizabeth beams with pride as she talks about her career, earning her degree and creating a brighter future for herself and her son. United Way was there when Elizabeth needed someone to count on, and we'll be here to provide a stable foundation for others struggling to rebuild their lives.

OUR INVESTMENT

United Way investment in rebuilding lives



WE MAKE FRESH STARTS POSSIBLE

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

\$3 a day (\$1,095 gift) can provide

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

\$20 a week (\$1,040 gift) can provide

32 families with basic needs (food, clothing and shelter) for a week, or 95 individuals can have access to 24-hour counseling and referral services

\$200 a week (\$10,400 gift) can provide

Employment services for 66 individuals



THE RESULTS

700,000 individuals were helped after violence, natural disasters, job loss and family emergencies.

22,000 tax returns helped families receive \$32 million in refunds.

17,700 women and children received the support needed to escape domestic violence.

43,500 individuals gained job-readiness skills to help combat unemployment. 26,550 received counseling.

In Houston, we believe that starting over is possible.

United Way is there when individuals face life's most daunting challenges, lending a hand where it's most needed, and helping rebuild lives. With your support, United Way is there with quality services to help people make a better future possible.

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.



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50 Waugh Drive
Houston, TX 77007
713-685-2300

www.unitedwayhouston.org