Melissa’s Story

Since their twins were born, Melissa had stayed home to take of them while her husband’s work provided for their family. When her husband suddenly lost his income, Melissa knew she had to do something.

Her sister-in-law told her about a United Way THRIVE job-training program and Melissa jumped at the chance to gain a skill and help her family. When she showed up for training, Melissa had no idea how much the program would change her life.

As part of United Way THRIVE’s workforce development efforts, it partnered with CHI St. Luke’s Health to provide an opportunity for people to begin a living-wage career in the health care industry. United Way THRIVE and CHI St. Luke’s Health worked together to screen participants, and then THRIVE partnered with Lone Star College to provide in-depth Patient Care Technician training to the selected candidates, helping them gain the knowledge and skills needed to start a new career.

Melissa was one of them.

Melissa was offered a full scholarship to participate, and the program helped cover travel expenses and provided child care so those with children could pursue their studies.

After training, United Way THRIVE and CHI St. Luke’s facilitated job-readiness workshops and interviewed each of the graduates to help place them in positions as Patient Care Assistants within the CHI St. Luke’s system. Melissa got a job right away.

Now, Melissa is a Patient Care Technician at a CHI St. Luke’s hospital. She takes vitals, draws blood, works with IV lines, and makes sure patients’ needs are met. Melissa loves the work she does and loves the opportunity it gives her to provide for her family.

United Way THRIVE continues to provide her with support services, like financial education and coaching, to help Melissa move along the path to financial stability and continue working toward her goals. It’s another way United Way of Greater Houston is making sure everyone in our community has the opportunity to thrive.

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