

# SUCCESS STORIES



## SingleCare

"Medicare would not pay for a medication. My mom is on a fixed income, elderly and the medication would have cost her close to \$300 a month. With SingleCare, we were able to get it for a manageable \$70/month. Fantastic!"  
– participant of United Way partner SingleCare

## Health Care Network, Inc.



"Recently, one of Health Care Network's health educators was able to speak with a community member who was hesitant to get the vaccine because of a fear of needles and other medical complications that made it hard for her to leave her home. After discussing some of her fears, she decided she wanted the vaccine but could not leave her home to go get the vaccine. HCN staff was able to arrange for the vaccine to be brought to her and administered in her home where she felt comfortable. After, she was thankful that we were able to take the time to talk to her about some of the things she was anxious about."  
– Alison Sergio, executive director of Health Care Network, Inc., a United Way impact partner

## LIFT Community Schools

United Way's community school model offers targeted on-site resources and support tailored to the specific needs of the neighborhood it serves. This includes everything from in-school mental health clinics to on-site food pantries and after-school programming. According to Julian Thomas parent Shania, the resources offered through the community school model are much needed in a community still feeling the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



"Everyone needs help," she said. "I try to sign up for everything." One of the resources that Shania's family used recently is the winter clothing giveaway – a partnership between United Way and the City of Racine to provide much-needed winter clothing gear to students at all three community schools last December.

"This year, I did not have money for a coat for Malakai. The winter gear giveaway helped us tremendously. I was not able to find these items on my own." – Shania, Julian Thomas Community School parent

## Imagination Library

"Since receiving Imagination Library books, my child shows more interest in reading and asks to be read to more frequently. My child spends more time looking at books alone and is better prepared for kindergarten." – Jacqueline, Imagination Library parent



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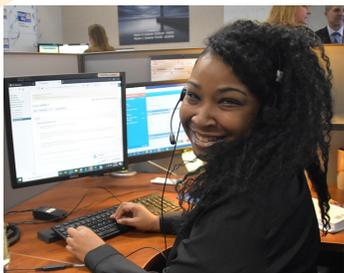
## HOMLESS ASSISTANCE LEADERSHIP ORGANIZATION (HALO), INC.



HALO is a nonprofit organization in Racine County dedicated to serving those who are experiencing homelessness. United Way played a large role in the creation of HALO. "We have had a number of clients who successfully

achieved self-sufficiency and housing stability and returned to HALO to help others in their struggle. F.P. is a great example of this. F.P. was a HALO client for many years. After successfully moving into housing, F.P. was elected to sit on the HALO Board of Directors. His experience with homelessness helped us understand what was important to our clients as we developed our new strategic plan. F.P. often addressed organizations and donors on our behalf. He spoke honestly about moving from homelessness to being housed, from despair to hope and finally to success." – Holly Anderle, executive director of the Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO), Inc., a United Way impact partner

## IMPACT 2-1-1



"I'm a veteran, but when I returned home, I had trouble finding the resources that were available to me. I called 2-1-1, and the person I spoke to helped me access my medical benefits and find other resources, like counseling and help finding a job." – Client of United Way partner IMPACT 2-1-1

## VITA



United Way's VITA program strengthens the financial stability of everyone in Racine County by helping low-to-moderate income individuals and families get their taxes done for free. When Lisa Damm's mother passed away from complications of COVID-19, she was left with a lot on her plate as she attempted to navigate her mother's finances and expenses.

Thanks to VITA, she was able to get her mother's tax return done for free, eliminating any additional financial burdens. "VITA saved a lot of stress and time since my mom recently passed, and the service really helped me reduce that stress." – Lisa Damm, United Way of Racine County VITA client

## Financial Empowerment Center

"I have gained so much confidence in knowing I have better control in my finances ... This program empowered me in becoming more confident in managing my finances. It taught me so many things that I did not know before ... We grew up not knowing a lot about credit, and this makes it difficult when we become adults. We realize that it would have been nice to have someone who could have provided us with these tools. This program helped me save more money to lower my credit usage and improve my credit score. This will help me get closer to my goal of becoming a homeowner. I highly recommend it to anyone. It's never too late to begin your financial journey and gain freedom from all the financial burdens that are holding you back." – Yesenia, client of Financial Empowerment Center, a program of Housing Resources Inc., a United Way impact partner





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## Training and Technology Fund

"BeLEAF's former laptops and docks were outdated and outside of the peak efficiency zones. Many were more than six years old. This caused delays to services as staff was frequently involved in troubleshooting software and tech issues. This was especially noticeable during the pandemic when staff relied more than ever on technology to remain connected to clients. The nine new Dell laptops have allowed staff to do all their work – from training volunteers to providing educational presentations to counseling virtual clients to convening board meetings – more efficiently." – Karen Fetherston, executive director of BeLEAF Survivors, a United Way impact partner and Training and Technology grant recipient



## Women United

Women United is a group of dedicated female philanthropists who are committed to giving back to the Racine County community. Through the Brighter Future Fund, Women United offers grant opportunities that support the financial stability and education of women and children in Racine County. "Women United's support allowed for the expansion of our mission-focused programming aimed at increasing financial wellness for women in our community. Our financial workshops and one-to-one coaching provide tools

for informed financial decision making, along with woman-to-woman support aimed at making matters of money more approachable."  
– Robin Balfanz, program proposal manager for YWCA Southeast Wisconsin, a United Way impact partner and Brighter Future Fund grant recipient

