

**Shawn's Story:
A 72 Hour Respite Turned His Life Around**

Disruptive behaviors and substance abuse were causing Shawn to lash out at his family. He was facing legal charges for his drug habit and his family felt unsafe in their own home with him around. Shawn was referred to 72 hour respite care at Child Saving Institute, funded by United Way. During his stay at the shelter, he began working with his family and positively interacting with his peers. Shawn was able to sit down with his parents and Child Saving Institute staff members to work toward a solution for his negative behaviors. It was determined that therapy services would be a beneficial resource for Shawn to assist him in a positive transition back into his family home. With the help of a therapist, he was able to move back into his home and, with continued assistance, has grown into a more positive person. In only 72 hours, he was able to begin turning his life around, thanks, in part, to United Way donors.

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**Audrey & Claire's Story:
A Mentoring Program Gave Them a Lifelong Friendship**

As a 14-year old, Audrey knew she wanted to make a difference in another girl's life. She applied to be a mentor at the Ollie Webb Center, Inc. for a girl with disabilities and was paired with Claire, a girl with Downs Syndrome. Their relationship was special because both had attended the same elementary and middle schools, and Audrey had always been there for Claire. Both had gone to different high schools, and this United Way funded mentoring program gave them the chance to become closer. Audrey became a staple in Claire's life, always motivating her to work hard in school. They spend hours together each week and have become best friends. Claire's family sees a noticeable difference in the way she perceives the world and her schoolwork. She is more motivated, and is excited to hang out with Audrey. As a mentor, Audrey has forever impacted Claire's life and she's excited to continue their friendship into adulthood.

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**Thomas' Story:
A Counseling Program Helped Him Build Relationships with His Children**

Thomas was a single father struggling to maintain relationships with his two teenage children. He only saw them once a week and his difficulties in communicating were causing him frustration and anger. He had become isolated and didn't have many friends. When he came to Catholic Charities, he was desperate to learn how to build a better relationship with his children. During the course of therapy, he learned that he was communicating with his children in the same unhealthy way his own father had communicated with him. A therapist taught him how to build upon his communication skills and slowly, his children began opening up to him. He learned that his anger was holding them back from having a meaningful relationship. As he worked with his children to build new trust, his therapist began seeing measurable differences in his interactions with others. He learned necessary coping skills and talks openly about himself and his family. Thomas summed up the effect this United Way funded counseling had on him, stating "Things have never been this happy in my life."

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