

INCOME

You help people achieve financial stability through United Way



Last year, 43,863 people were unemployed in our region. In 2000, it was only 9,895.

We are all trying harder these days to make ends meet. It can be a challenge to just get by sometimes, paying for basic needs like housing, utility bills and food.

Some families need a little extra help to make it through these tough times. They may have never needed help before, but a job loss or unexpected illness may have put them at risk of losing their housing. Other families have been struggling for a long time and need support to obtain food, clothing, shelter and employment.

These are all hardworking people who deserve the opportunity to take care of their families and get back on their feet. That's why, with your help, United Way is working to ensure that the most vulnerable among us have help.

United Way support and services encompass:

- **Preventing housing and financial crises before they happen.**

When someone is in crisis, they can find out where to turn by calling our Information & Referral Center, reached by dialing 2-1-1. Also, as part of the Greater Richmond Earned Income Tax Credit Coalition, United Way helps families access that federal tax credit and receive refunds that help them pay today's bills. In the 2010 filing season, returns filed by the coalition brought almost \$2.5 million into the community.

- **Supporting job training and employment programs.**

Being employed is at the heart of financial stability. United Way funds programs that provide job training and assistance with finding employment.

- **Funding the safety net of services to get people back on their feet.**

Our region needs a safety net in place to catch those who experience a crisis. That's why United Way supports programs that provide domestic violence shelter, substance abuse recovery, and medical respite. United Way also funds emergency and transitional shelters for men, women and children – so when housing is lost, people have the support they need.

YOUR GIFT CHANGES LIVES



Sheila, the mother of two young teenagers, has turned her life around. She once struggled with substance abuse, and she lost her housing and her children. She knew that her life had to change. She gained her sobriety, then found emergency sheltering in the single adults and families programs at CARITAS, which are supported by United Way's **Community Action Fund**. There, Sheila received help to regain custody of her children and find a permanent home. Sheila is now an active mom who is close with her kids. She says that CARITAS made her whole again — and your United Way gift made that possible.



YOUR GIFT MAKES AN IMPACT

Your donation of **\$5 per week** funds more than 18 hours of employment training for people who are experiencing unemployment, underemployment, disability or another disadvantage. With the right job, they can stabilize their finances and start to build savings.

Your contribution of **\$7 per week** sponsors one week of care for a resident of an emergency shelter for women and children who find themselves homeless. Support services are available, along with help to find jobs and housing.

Your Leadership gift of **\$20 per week** provides 27 people with emergency financial assistance for basic needs like rent, utilities and food – which keeps families together and helps them move out of crisis.



GIVE.

Make an investment in our community. Through the Community Action Fund, our gifts, whether \$5 a week or \$20 a week, are pooled together and invested to make lasting change.

ADVOCATE.

Champion the cause and speak out. Everyone in our community needs to know y j gtg vq "hpf 'tguqwtegu"vq] gr people who are struggling.

VOLUNTEER.

Give the gift of you. To find ways to get involved, visit our website at www.yourunitedway.org or call 2-1-1.