



**United Way of
Greater Plymouth County**

Success Stories

John's Story

John's parents were eager to find their son a meaningful vocation that not only appealed to his personal interests but was achievable in light of significant physical challenges. A life-long baseball fan, John uses either a walker or wheelchair to ambulate, has difficulty speaking clearly, and is legally blind. When asked, John would say he wanted to make his living riding motorcycles and selling hot dogs at Fenway Park. With the help of one of our partner agencies and a transition program supported through our **LIVE UNITED Fund**, a mobile hot dog cart that can be transported to baseball games and other events is now a reality and will be open for business this fall! In spite of his health challenges John will soon be earning money while enjoying a growing self confidence and sense of accomplishment.



Jane's Story

Jane and her young son were in desperate need of housing, employment, and child care services after fleeing an abusive relationship and spending months in a domestic violence shelter. Thanks to help from United Way's **LIVE UNITED Fund**, Jane was referred to a job readiness program and then provided an internship at a local agency. Unable to afford a vehicle Jane



purchased a bicycle and a bike seat for her child and then biked to and from her son's daycare center and her internship each day. Several months into her internship Jane was hired by the company and is progressing rapidly along a path toward self-sufficiency and a bright, secure future for herself and her family.

Karen's Story

Karen, an 11 year old girl with autism, requires significant support due to communication and learning disabilities. In the past, her mother, a single parent, struggled to earn a living and provide for the family. With assistance from United Way's **LIVE UNITED Fund**, and in cooperation with one of our partner agencies, Karen has received critical services resulting in enhanced social experiences and important learning opportunities. She is now more independent and eagerly looks forward to her weekly learning program – especially the music and drumming segments of her class.

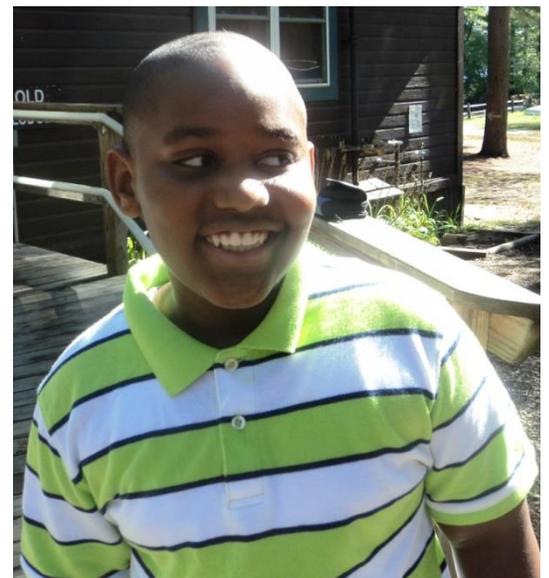


The D. Family's Story

A family of 7, originally from Haiti, moved to Brockton from Florida several years ago. They were looking for better opportunities for their 5 children, 3 of whom have developmental disabilities. The children ranged in age from 6 to 27.

The opportunities they hoped to find in Brockton did not materialize right away, and the family was struggling. The adult children with disabilities, who had worked in Florida, could not find employment and the youngest child was diagnosed with autism. Without family in Brockton, Mr. and Mrs. D. felt isolated and overwhelmed.

Thanks to funding from **United Way's LIVE UNITED Fund**, the family was able to get support from the Brockton Area Arc Family Support Center. With assistance, the eldest son received a job placement and the middle & youngest sons are now getting the services they need. The entire family now attends the Arc's monthly Haitian Family Support group, which they feel has become their "home away from home." All members of the family are now on the path for success with a bright future ahead.



Bill's Story

Unemployed and homeless, Bill was accepted into Father Bill's & MainSpring's WorkExpress program, a highly successful job-training initiative that receives significant funding from the United Way of Greater Plymouth County. After 10 months of intensive on-the-job coaching, personal counseling and lots of hard work, Bill not only obtained full-time employment but saved enough money to purchase a car and move into an apartment. Thanks to the United Way's **LIVE UNITED Fund**, Bill now enjoys a fulfilling, productive and independent life.

Rosie's Story

Rosie is a 60-year-old resident of Plymouth County who has been disabled for more than 20 years due to a progressive neurological disease. She requires a great deal of care and lives with her 90-year-old mother. Mom has made a commitment to care for her "child" at home. Brockton Visiting Nurse Association, a United Way-funded agency, provides home health aide services to offer personal care for Rosie and a needs assessment to ensure that she is safe and comfortable. The United Way's **LIVE UNITED Fund** helps Rosie (and her mother) enjoy a happy and healthy life together in the comfort of their own home.

Mary's Story

Mary came to United Way funded initiative, Penelope's Place in desperate need of support. Facing severe emotional and physical abuse, she fled from another state with her two children, fearing for her life at the hands of her abuser. When she first came to the shelter, she suffered from PTSD as a result of her difficult past. Worse yet, with poor credit and money management skills, she was unable to live independently, potentially forcing her back into the cycle of abuse. Thanks to the **LIVE UNITED fund**, over the next six months Mary and her family received the therapy and intensive case management needed. With support, she opened her own bank account, learned how to budget, and began to save. In June, Mary was able to move into her own apartment with her two children. Her house is full of joy and laughter, and her family is emotionally and financially stable.

Dave's Story

Thanks to help from United Way of Greater Plymouth County's **LIVE UNITED Fund**, formerly struggling students such as Dave can succeed in the Rise Up Program. One parent shared the following testimonial: "My son is more confident when it comes to reading and learning. He started this program last summer at a kindergarten level even though he was entering 1st grade for a second time. He has finished this year at a *third grade* reading level...I'm truly grateful. Thank you for all you guys do!"

Shauna's Story

Shauna came to the Salvation Army of Plymouth facing many hardships. Her husband had recently been laid off, they had lost their home, and they were without food. Thanks to help from the **LIVE UNITED**

Fund, Shauna was able to access the emergency food pantry and was relieved of the stress and worry of "what will I feed my family for dinner?" Shauna's two boys were also able attend summer camp on scholarships while the family worked to get back on their feet. Shauna is now on her way to being self-sufficient and will be moving into a new apartment with her family this month.

The Smith Family's Story

Towards the end of the school year, a local family experienced a large fire in their home. This fire caused the family of seven (single mom with six children) to relocate into an emergency shelter. Thanks to help from United Way's **LIVE UNITED Fund**, the Old Colony Y was able to provide this family with food, clothing, shoes, small appliances, and other resources during this traumatic time. Staff also provided home cooked meals for the family as well as emotional support. This crisis highlighted the Y and United Ways' joint mission of uplifting families in their time of need.

Kelsey's Story

Kelsey has a 2-year-old son who is enrolled in Brockton Day Nursery's toddler program. She is a single mother and her hours at work were recently cut down significantly. Due to this cut, she was suddenly unable to pay for the full price of child care for her son. Kelsey's son had been enrolled in the program since he was 4 weeks old, and he had formed attachments with staff and the other children in his classroom. He was also receiving speech services at the nursery. Kelsey worried that she would not be able to pay for her son's childcare, and that his social skills and language development would regress if she had to remove him. Thanks to **United Way's LIVE UNITED Fund**, an access to care scholarship was able to be used to subsidize a portion of Kelsey's childcare fees. His language skills are nearing age-appropriate as he continues to receive care and to grow socially.