

Spotlight On Success

Funds raised by United Way of Ocean County (UWOC) are invested in addressing the most critical needs of our community. These funds are allocated annually to our partner health and social service agencies that deliver direct services to the neediest residents in our county. Here is one story that shows how our donors helped a desperate teen escape an extremely abusive situation and how the provision of shelter, education and counseling resulted in the promise of a bright future.

Your Donations Make a Difference

Sixteen-year-old Jane's serious altercation with her mother along with police response resulted in a brief hospital stay during which Jane finally revealed a history of maltreatment including physical, verbal and emotional abuse. The abuse had escalated to the point that Jane no longer felt like she was a member of her own family. Upon her discharge from the hospital Jane entered the Harbor House Youth Housing Program (HHYHP) with the goal of family reunification. Ocean's Harbor House has been a UWOC partner agency since 1989.



Providing Appropriate Interventions

Unfortunately, Jane's mother would not participate in parent groups or family counseling. Not only did her mother state that "Jane does not belong with us," but she adamantly did not want Jane placed with any relatives. However, she signed her daughter into the SHORE House (Supportive Housing Opportunities through Rehabilitation and Encouragement.) This 12-bed, fully supervised site in Toms River allows youth to stay for up to 18 months while they receive supportive services, case management, counseling, employment and vocational services towards the goal of self-sufficiency.

Jane was extremely pained and saddened to learn that her mother did not want her back home and would be withholding money due to her from her deceased father. Despite what was surely a heartbreaking time for her, Jane enrolled in high school, found a job, and even began putting money into a savings account within her very first month at SHORE House.

Life Changes for the Better



With the support and training received from HHYHP, Jane persevered and continued attending school and working, while preparing to be on her own by age 18. While in the program, she made honor roll every semester in school, obtained her driver's license, and was accepted into a prestigious university in Pennsylvania – all stellar achievements considering her challenging circumstances.

Jane is now an independent young woman who, in addition to completing all her HHYHP goals, managed to save over \$10,000 to help start her new life as a self-sufficient and contributing citizen of our community.

Sidney Colvin, Executive Director of Ocean's Harbor House, says "We may have been the program to assist this determined young woman achieve her goals, but it is those who support us who make the program possible. Thank you United Way of Ocean County and UWOC donors for helping us to be there for her and many others."

A Home for the Holidays



For too many working poor families in Ocean County, the arrival of the holiday season is particularly anxiety provoking. Since January of this year, a staggering number of people have become unemployed for the first time, often resulting in eviction from their homes. UWOC has fielded countless emergency calls since being granted federal funds through HPRP, Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Rehousing Program.

UWOC caseworkers recently helped one young family on the road to financial stability. Dad was just starting a new job, while Mom was struggling to complete her education and caring for their 18-month-old daughter. When the place where they were staying was deemed uninhabitable due to safety issues, they found themselves on the street within three days.

Mom reports that her pleas for help to several agencies essentially went unanswered as she tried to find a place for her family to live. The distressed and hopeless couple made the call to the UWOC HPRP hotline when they were reduced to living out of their car. A meeting was set up for the next day.

UWOC caseworkers identified an affordable unit within hours. They assisted the family with necessary paperwork and temporary shelter until they could move into their new housing. In addition, UWOC enrolled the baby into a childcare program so now Mom can finish school while Dad is working at a job he thoroughly enjoys. Their biggest dream for the Holidays is simply to provide all the necessities of life for their child.

Mom says, "After so many rejections, it felt so good when Jackie, our case manager really listened to us and understood what we were going through." Dad adds, "We couldn't be more thankful for the help we received from UWOC. We couldn't have made it without them."

How Can You Help?

You have the power to help turn extreme distress into a gift of hope for a neighbor in need. In the spirit of the Season, please visit our website @ www.uwocnj.org and click on GIVE.

Don't know what to give that certain person on your list? Please consider making a donation to UWOC in his or her name. Just a little generosity on your part can go a long way in making the holidays a little brighter for our neighbors who are struggling to get by.

For details about donation gift cards, please call 732-240-0311.

GIVE.



RAISING FUNDS WITH GALA! GLITZ! & GAMES!

This year's Gala was our biggest fundraising event of 2010. Over 200 supporters, a record-breaking number, purchased tickets to take part in Gala! Glitz! & Games! held at Laurita Winery in New Egypt.

All proceeds raised will help struggling families, the homebound elderly, the working poor, ailing residents with no access to healthcare, and disadvantaged children of Ocean County throughout the year.

Guests enjoyed music, magic, merriment and marvel while participating in a silent auction, games of chance, palm and card readings, henna tattoo applications, and 50/50 raffles. Prizes included a \$5000 Hearts on Fire diamond ring from Corinne Jewelers, exclusive Carrie Underwood concert seats and backstage tickets with round-trip limousine service, a one-week St. Croix Caribbean vacation for 10, and a private four-course dinner for up to 20 guests at Laurita Winery, to name just a few.

We wish to give special thanks to the volunteers who came early and stayed late to ensure that all our guests had a fun and memorable time.

Our heartfelt appreciation to: Drew, Lon, Warren A., Sue, Nichol, Latoya, Christine, Emily, Harriet, Roberta, Ann, Deby, Coca, Mary Beth, Jane, Buddy, Warren, and Jay.



Nominees Sought for 2011 YAP Awards

Do you know someone age 40 or younger who deserves to be recognized for his or her philanthropy or volunteerism? If so, please let us know! United Way of Ocean County is seeking nominations for its second annual YAP Awards. Five Yappies will be chosen - Young Altruistic Professionals who are doing good deeds for their communities in a big way.

Please visit <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DVYQMNN> to submit your nominations. Nominations must be submitted by Friday, January 14, 2011.

The 2011 YAP Awards will be presented Friday, February 11 at Hemingway's Cafe in Seaside Heights, during a fun and casual event that includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer. Tickets are \$30 at the door, or can be purchased in advance by calling UWOC at 732-240-0311.



The 2-1-1 Helpline will take tens of thousands of calls from Ocean County residents in distress.



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Communicating with our supporters *electronically* means more dollars available for our needy neighbors. Please stay informed about how your support helps keep our County healthy, enlightened and safe. Visit us @ www.uwocnj.org to sign up to receive your newsletters online.

GIVE securely online: www.uwocnj.org

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