

Personal Stories

Chris* & Fred*

Fred's kids are grown and on their own now, so he had a little time to give back to a young person. Through Big Brother/Big Sisters of Lapeer County he was matched with a boy named Chris* who lived with his brother and single mom. Once BB/BS staff saw what a great big brother Fred would be, they asked him and his wife Linda if they would be willing to mentor Chris' younger brother too. They found lots of things they had in common. They loved to fish together, ride bikes, hike, and just "hang out". Fred was able to mentor both brothers until their mother remarried and the family moved out of town.

Brian*

Brian says that everyone expects him to be "bad." Last year, he was proving people right. He began picking fights and having problems in school. His worried mom started looking for help. The family found that help at KIND a United Way partner agency. A KIND caseworker met with Brian and his mom to talk about what was happening at school. Together they worked out a plan to help Brian cope with some of the pressure he was feeling at school, and how best to deal with his feelings. Mom learned some problem-solving skills that helped things run more smoothly at home for both Brian and herself. Brian's teacher was included in the plan so that she could help Brian reinforce some of the new problem-solving skills he had learned. Through several weeks of home and school visits, Brian is feeling better about himself and his relationship with his mom, his teacher and his classmates.

Mari*

Mari's call to the Family Economic Crisis Center, a program of the Hispanic Service Center, a United Way of Lapeer County partner agency, provided the help she needed when she was about to lose her home. United Way funded programs like FECC can fill the gaps when extraordinary circumstances turn a life upside down.

The threat of homelessness is terrifying, and sometimes the sudden loss of a home or income, or the inability to pay for food, utilities or medical supplies is beyond a person's control. Your generous gift to United Way of Lapeer County helps people like Mari survive emergency situations and become self-sufficient, productive citizens.

Grace*

Grace has been living alone since 1983 when her husband of 56 years passed away. Macular degeneration had robbed her of most of her eyesight. She had been living with diabetes for more than ten years and was finding it difficult to keep her blood sugar under control. Grace's doctor referred her to the Geriatric Assessment Program. GAP sent a case worker and registered nurse to Grace's home to visit and assess her physical and emotional condition. Once the GAP team had determined her needs, they helped Grace access programs that could help her. She began receiving food through the Department of Senior Activities mobile meals program, her GAP nurse brought her a new glucose monitor that was easier to use, and a medication minder to keep track of her medicine. A chore worker now comes in once a week to help Grace with the things she can no longer see well enough to do. Grace is now doing well and still living independently in her own home.

You can download these stories from our website!
www.unitedwaylapeer.org

*Names have been changed.