

Because of United Way...



of Gloucester County

...Kyle's life is greatly enriched



Thanks to support from the United Way, Kyle spends each day in a program that offers care, companionship and hours of stimulation and social activity.

Born with significant physical challenges,

Kyle "aged out" of the public school-funded program that first brought him to HollyDELL, the former Cerebral Palsy Center.

Kyle looks forward to coming to the program each day and feels that the HollyDELL staff are his home-away-from-home family. Because of the Twenty One Plus (TOPS) program, Kyle is part of the community and is able to attend ball games, bowling, picnics and social outings-activities enjoyed by other young adults his age.

Without HollyDELL, Kyle's mother would not have been able to work and the family would have experienced financial hardships, adding to the family's already significant responsibilities. Knowing that their son is among people who care about his well being in an environment that provides a sense of belonging and meaningful activities is, according to his parents, "...the best feeling in the world."

United Way funds support nursing care, allowing Kyle and the other adults in the TOPS program greater access to activities and events.

...Kirsten can read to her children

Kirsten was a healthy 35 year old mother and nurse anesthetist, looking forward to the birth of her second child.

During delivery, Kirsten suffered a life-threatening brain aneurysm. In a coma for three weeks, when she regained consciousness Kirsten was unable to walk, talk or perform most of the common tasks we take for granted. After three months of care and physical rehabilitation, she was still unable to read.

Kirsten's sister Larissa suggested that Literacy Volunteers of Gloucester County might be able to assist her in regaining her ability to read. She was matched with a volunteer tutor, Peg, who began spending several hours a week with Kirsten and, two years later, Kirsten can again read bedtime stories to her children.

Kirsten calls Peg her "other Mother" and acknowledges how important Peg's patience and encouragement... "she's a pusher and I need a pusher..." were to her recovery.

Literacy Volunteers' executive director Trudy Lawrence says that because of United Way support, her agency has been able to expand its services and offer adult literacy tutoring to clients of other organizations that need help.



...Mom overcomes tumultuous roller coaster of life

When she became the single mom of three, Nicole didn't have a high school diploma.

To ensure her children's security and well being, she began pursuing the education & skills she would need to succeed & her search led her to the Center for People in Transition (PIT), located at Gloucester County College.



While earning a G.E.D., Nicole enrolled in workshops offered by PIT. Career counseling led her to a Social Work goal, a computer class helped her develop the skills needed for work & school, a financial management class helped her budget her resources & a mediation class aided her through her divorce.

When she started attending GCC, PIT staff & volunteers were there to offer help & encouragement & Nicole earned her Associate's degree.

Nicole continued to set her goals higher & earned her Bachelors' in Social Work from Rutgers in May 2011 while her eldest child simultaneously received her AS degree. Nicole is anticipating opportunities to "pay it forward" to others in similar life situations.

According to Jeanne LaBuz, Director of People in Transition, United Way funding makes it possible for the agency to provide life skills workshops, career counseling, computer and financial management training and other programs and support to assist displaced homemakers and others making significant life changes.

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Because of United Way...

United
Way



Because of United Way...

...more than 800 low and fixed income families received free income tax filing assistance from specially-trained AARP volunteers, saving them over \$100,000 in tax preparation fees.



...the annual Gloucester County Cares About Hunger Food Drive collected more than 16,000 pounds of nonperishable food for distribution to thirty-six local food pantries.

...an emergency grant provided funds to assist local victims of house fires & natural disasters.

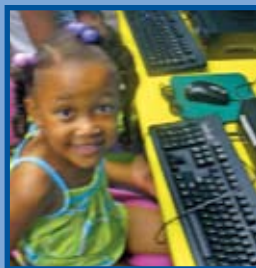


...an emergency grant kept the 24-hour emergency shelter hotline operational when state funding was cut.

...funding for additional mental health counseling services reduced the time people have to wait to receive care.



...nurses visits were scheduled to local senior citizen apartment complexes to conduct wellness programs and health screenings to help seniors manage chronic medical conditions and avoid hospitalizations.



...a computer lab was funded for the children of a local day care center and parent enrichment programs for their caregivers.

...a strategic plan to increase volunteerism in Gloucester County communities has been created and implemented to encourage more people to donate their time and talents to help others.



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Way



of Gloucester County
454 Crown Point Rd.
Thorofare, NJ 08086
856.845.4303
www.uwgcnj.org

454 Crown Point Road ♦ Thorofare ♦ NJ ♦ 08086
856.845.4303 (phone); 856.384.1812 (fax)
www.uwgcnj.org