**United Way Success Stories**

1. Hunger Coalition – Produce Giveaway (Spring 2015)

A lady named Ruth called the office asking when the next produce giveaway would be. She said she was 90 years old and lived on a small pension and social security, and has very little left after paying for rent and utilities. She told me the food giveaways were a Godsend, and that she and her daughter were so thankful for the food and fresh fruits and vegetables that were given away each month in town. She said it helped her make it through each month with healthy food to eat.

1. Patty’s Scoutreach Boy Scout Program

A first grader from Mt. Logan was attending his first few meetings before sadly sharing his parents wouldn’t let him join the Scoutreach program. Patty called his mom at home and learned that the reason was purely financial. Patty learned that the dad recently left a military career and remains unemployed and mom barely earns enough money from a side job to keep food on the table for the boy and his two siblings. They didn’t have enough money for scouting fees. Patty then explained that the United Way of Ross County funding would eliminate any direct cost of scouting to the family. No uniform to buy, no event fees, no education program fees. The mom cried when Patty shared the good news. With the help of UWRC, the mom is now hired as a part-time assistant with the program, and the parents are both volunteer scout leaders that help with the pack.

1. Carver Community Center

A young 5th grader named Kelly transferred from the city school to a county school. After her first quarter her parents realized she was behind the other students. On her grade card she received an F+ in math and a D in Social Studies. Her parents made the staff aware, and they began working with Kelly to bring her grades up. The staff contacted her teachers and worked with them to obtain materials to help Kelly after school. Kelly worked hard and received a B in Social Studies and a C- in math. She received extra work from her teachers and continued to work with the staff at Carver. Her self-esteem improved and she was working toward an A in Social Studies and a B in math at the end of the school year.

1. Solace (Counseling for Families and Individual impacted by Addiction)

“Thank you United Way for providing and making a way for these meetings to be possible. I am thankful for the support and the encouragement they give not only to myself but the many others in the community that we all need in our recovery process.” Anonymous

“I am very happy I have solace I get so much out of the meetings I can talk freely and not be scared of what anyone thinks. (Its) been very helpful with me and my God. I love it here.” A thankful friend at Solace

“I have experienced a lot of joy, love and the (presents) of the Lord here at Solace. They have helped me with clothes and other items. If I’m struggling with life on life’s terms I can come to the Mon night and Tue night meeting and receive (guidance) and support. Thank you.” Koneta E.

1. Discovery Garden

“We moved to Chillicothe last winter and soon learned of the Discovery Garden program. We began attending in January and it has become a highlight for our family’s week. We think Miss Maryjo is a community treasure for what she brings to the children and families of Ross County! She has helped me think about new ways to parent my small children and has connected me with other parents and grandparents in the playgroup. In bigger cities we would be charged a lot of money to participate in such a terrific program. My children are so excited to come to Discovery Garden each week. They play with peers, make art, and enjoy puppet stories and games. I get perspective and new ideas by talking with other parents. We love Discovery Garden!” A.T. mother of 3, ages 4, 3, and 1

1. Ross County School Based Mentoring – Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Sister Audrey and Little Sister Samantha have been matched in a Ross County School Based Mentoring program for the 2014-15 school year. Little sister is a 5th grader and came to the program to build confidence and learn to feel ok about asking for help. Big Sister is a good role model for Little Sister because of her homework habits, demeanor (very well-mannered and polite); she excels in school work and if very friendly and outgoing. BS is very responsible and always follows through. She is happy to be a BS because she wants to be a teacher an thinks this will help her meet her goal.

1. Baby Steps Program

Teen parents that had been in the program for several years said they were not having second children until they had graduated and had good jobs. They had been working with Kelli, the counselor and she was happy to hear they had made this decision.

1. Seeds of Hope

Ariel is just one of the many success stories from here. She came to us on January 30th, and like so many others that walk through the door, she was more than just homeless. She laced self-esteem, motiviation and most importantly, love. In just 30 days Ariel was able to use Seeds of Hope resources to move into her new home. She was motivated to attend college where she is now enrolled to become a social worker. She volunteers many hours at Seeds of Hope to give back to the foundation that she says ‘gave her a good start’.

1. Youth Crime Watch

A young member found hout about a mutual friend’s house being destroyed by fire and was able to talk to the advisor and get donations of clothes. Washed everything and personally dropped these off to the friend. She later received a Facebook message thanking the Youth Crime Watch team. Then, she saw another family needing help and collected more donations to help them. She felt good that her organization could help these families in need.

1. Homeless Shelter

Mr. John Heigley came to the shelter in February. He was in trouble and had a drinking problem. For the two months he lived in the shelter, he went to AA meetings and didn’t drink. After getting in trouble, he continued to work every day at Walmart, even on his days off. He had some legal problems that were straightened out with the help of the shelter manager, and then the manager contacted the Carriage House where they were able to rent Mr. Heigley a sleeping room. Mr. Heigley moved in April and to date is still there and doing well.

1. Salvation Army After School Care

A young girl Hannah, was held back and not doing well in school. The staff have worked with her so her behavior has dramatically improved and her reading is now on par with the other children in her class.

1. Big Brothers Big Sister Match

Brittany is the second child in a family of four. She has an older sister that was matched and two younger special needs brothers. Her family cares for a special needs Aunt. Brittany was feeling left out and had no contact with her father. She was feeling lost and never had one on one time with an adult. Brittany’s mom called and enrolled her, and was able to match her to Gerri, an only child that went off to school and returned after college. Gerri always wanted a younger sibling. They have a lot in common and talked endlessly once they met. They were perfect for one another. They go to the park, attend movies together, and Brittany has become part of Gerri’s family. Both are very thankful to be matched.

1. Hope Clinic

Medical – a 35 year old male with Type 1 diabetes and kidney failure visited. He had no insurance and could not afford insulin. He could not receive a kidney transplant since his diabetes was out of control. He was treated and was able to obtain insulin though the medical assist program. He found people who cared about him and helped him. He now has insurance and a doctor and is waiting to get a transplant. Finding people to help him get started on his road to health has changed his life.

Dental – a 50 year old Christian woman came in with very bad teeth. They were yellowed and rough and many needed extracted. She was able to get fillings and needed extractions and was fitted with a partial set of dentures provided by Dr. Watson, who provides dentures at no cost. She is very happy she can smile again without embarrassment and is thankful to United Way and Hope clinic.

1. YMCA 4th Grade Water Safety

“I liked the class because I got ot learn how currents affect you and how they can push or pull you and how to try to stay in a group and conserve heat in cold water. It was fun for me because there were nice lifeguards and a good staff to work with. They made it easier to learn and for my friends to learn. “ Andy Blum

1. Goodwill Workshop Services

United Way helps here more than you may know. Without the funding, Carolyn would seldom get out of the house. You see, she is only 57years old but has had a stroke and lost her ability to walk. She lives with her sister and they have a motorized wheelchair they share. When she isn’t at work, her sister has the wheelchair so she sits in a chair most of the time at home. One of the employees had an extra manual wheelchair that she used to get around the house now. Carolyn sorts clothing in our workshop as often as she can tolerate. She loves her job and is being productive.

1. Assistance House

C.D. had been without a car for almost a year, making it difficult for her and her son. She works at a local restaurant 6 days a week and took the bus or walked. Finally, she found a car and was able to make the downpayment but could not pay the first month’s insurance premium. The assistance house was able to pay that for her. She also needed new uniforms for work at the restaurant. The assistance house was able to purchase 2 white blouses, black slacks and shoes for her job. She has been maintaining employment and doing well as far as we know.