

# A LITTLE HELP A BIG DIFFERENCE

*it starts with U*



Brenda is grateful to United Way agency partner, **Easterseals**, for the early intervention services that help her four year old daughter, **Renna**. Renna struggles with developmental delays, and the United Way funded programs shared techniques and strategies to help the family learn more about Renna's diagnosis and to tackle the challenges. Renna also learned how to use an assistive technology communication tablet, which helps her connect better with family and therapists.

**Victoria and Juan**, a two-parent working household, faced financial hardship when Victoria fell ill with esophageal cancer, leading to job loss and a single income. Struggling to make ends meet, they sought assistance from United Way agency partner, **The Salvation Army**. The agency provided case management, ongoing support and enrollment in the Adopt-a-Family program. With this support, the family regained stability and expressed gratitude for the help received.



**Mariam** was committed to providing a safe and stable home for her family because she experienced a period of homelessness as a child. To help achieve that goal, she enrolled in **Habitat for Humanity's** First Time Homeowner Program and successfully completed the program and volunteer hour requirements - - all while working two jobs. She attained her goal and now owns her first home and is providing a bright future for herself and her child. She is grateful to the United Way funded program in helping her achieve this milestone.



**Luz** was determined to improve her English to create a career path and be able to provide her daughters a better life. Through United Way funded programs at the **Literacy Council for Reading-Berks**, she progressed from basic to high-adult secondary educational levels. She also earned her High School Equivalency Diploma. While raising her two daughters, Luz then completed her Medical Assistant Certification Program at RACC, and she now works as a medical assistant at Tower Health. She wants to inspire other high school equivalency students and help them achieve their goals.

**Kenai and Rick** were matched through **Big Brothers Big Sisters**, a United Way agency partner, four years ago. Rick joined the program to offer guidance and support, aiming to make a positive impact on a young person's life. Kenai, an active participant in the program, was looking for a Big Brother to have fun with and learn from. Since being matched, they've built a strong relationship, considering each other family. Now 13 years old, Kenai has been showing more interest in school. He has also become better at communicating his thoughts and emotions.

