

it starts with U



United Way of Berks County

Meet Some of the People You've Helped



Benny is a smart, fun-loving five-year-old with cerebral palsy who does not let his diagnosis get in the way of what he wants to accomplish. He first came to **Easterseals** at the age of 21 months for outpatient physical therapy where he has learned to sit up, crawl, stand and walk. Recently, Benny achieved an exciting goal: he jumped for the first time!

He continues to receive physical therapy, along with occupational therapy and overcomes each obstacle with confidence through the support of his family and therapists.

Benny's journey is a reminder that progress, no matter how small, is worth celebrating. The future is brighter for him, thanks to YOUR support every step of the way!

Through the support of United Way, **New Journey Community Outreach** serves Berks County's most vulnerable by providing 400 hot meals daily and assisting over 125 families weekly through its food pantry.

Fourteen years ago, **Antonio**, struggling with addiction and homelessness, found hope and support at New Journey. With compassion and encouragement from the staff, Antonio took the first steps toward reclaiming his life. Today, he proudly shares that he's been clean for nine years. Now serving as Program Assistant at New Journey, Antonio helps others on similar paths, offering food, clothing, and emotional support. Grateful for the community's generosity, he now thrives with a loving family and continues to give back to the community.

United Way's phonics-based **Read Alliance** program brings together teen tutors and struggling first grade readers to transform lives.

When **Abby** joined Read Alliance in first grade, she was reading below grade level. With support from the teen tutors and her teachers, she tested as an above-level reader by the end of the school year. Abby now lights up when asked to read and has exceeded expectations.

When you support United Way, you help kids like Abby discover a love of reading and learning that gives them greater opportunities for success in school and in life.



Sonia (name changed) and her children had to flee their home because of domestic violence, leaving all of their belongings behind. Sonia found help through **Boyetown Area Multi Service**, a United Way agency partner. Services through the agency's workforce program, food pantry and rental assistance paved the way for Sonya to start a new life for her family. They were able to move into a new apartment and start the new year on a bright note.

YOUR United Way support restores stability to families who have endured unimaginable hardship. Hope starts with U.