



More Than a Building: Henry's Path to Belonging

The place we call home is far more than a building, it's where we feel most safe.

But for some youth in our community, the concept of home has always seemed distant.

In 2023, 16-year-old Henry and his brother turned to their school counselor after their father's alcoholism made it unsafe to return home.

Through support from United Way of Berks County and opportunities made possible by generous donors like you, Mary's Shelter offered the brothers housing, education, and social services.

Soon, they were able to experience many of life's "firsts" like going to the movies, cheering on sports teams, and cooking.

But for Henry, the most important thing was home.

"It was my first time in a place that's safe with friends and people who care. They help me when I need it and are always just 'there' for us," Henry shares.

As an 18-year-old high school senior, he has big dreams to share what he's been given and go to college to become a teacher.

This youth's journey from a homeless teen to a high school graduate applying to college is just one brief snapshot of the power of our community when we come together to support the next generation.



READY TO HELP?

United Way of Berks County brings people together, so no one faces life challenges alone. Scan the QR code to give and help build better a community for all.

