



United Way
of Roanoke Valley

Just a sandwich among friends

Ann pulled into the food line at the Franklin County feeding mobile, looking only for a lunch.

She was surprised when a United Way staff member brought her not just a sandwich, but a fresh box of produce from the Community Giving Gardens. She declined saying, "I can't have all of that. It's too much for me. I'm all alone." Surprising even herself, she began sobbing.

Ann explained that her husband had died just weeks earlier. Because of COVID, there was no funeral and she was alone in her grief. But just a few cars back, other Franklin County residents recognized the distraught woman and approached her to offer their condolences. They were there for sandwiches too and invited Ann to eat with them. Since that day, Ann meets these friends at the food bank regularly, with many now volunteering at the site to help others in their own times of need.

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THIS LIFE-CHANGING IMPACT MADE POSSIBLE BY UNITING THESE PARTNERS:

Healthy Franklin Co.

Franklin Co. Public Safety

Franklin Co. Parks & Rec.

and YOU!

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These are true stories of what your United Way can do with your help! All names are changed for privacy.



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Not a handout. Just a hand up.

When a global pandemic took her job, your United Way was there to help keep her family nourished.

Veronica is a Hispanic mother of five. Already living on the edge, Veronica's financial situation became dire when she lost her job at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. When schools closed, her children were without the hot meals at school that had kept them nourished.

Veronica had never reached out for any kind of assistance. She is proud and does not want to be a burden to her community. Through your United Way, Veronica found the life-saving help of a food bank. She now knows that when times are tough, she can rely on a community that cares.

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Healthy Franklin County Heavenly Manna Food Bank Carilion Clinic
Franklin County Sheriff's Department **and YOU!**

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An abundance of gratitude

"I'm just so hungry," she said. "I didn't know what else to do." Your United Way did.

Marjorie arrived at the Stepping Stones Soup Kitchen, apologizing. As she ate, she revealed she'd always lived month to month on her social security checks, but said that due to COVID, she hadn't been able to cash the checks. In hearing the news of the Governor's stay-at-home order, Marjorie believed she could not leave her home. She thought all businesses and government offices were closed, and didn't attempt to cash her checks.

Through United Way, Marjorie was matched with a system of support to assist with overcoming mental barriers and extreme anxiety, and now has her checks deposited directly to her bank account. Marjorie says she is "abundantly grateful" for the kindness of our community.

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Stepping Stones Soup Kitchen Carilion Clinic Healthy Franklin County
Wells Fargo Piedmont Community Services **and YOU!**

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Time to get moving

With his physical challenges, getting healthy food was more than difficult. It was nearly impossible.

Mark is a 57-year-old man with COPD. He lives alone, and while he has a car, he has difficulty managing the steps to leave his home for groceries.

He's now receiving food deliveries through a program funded by United Way, but in talking with a Community Health Worker through the Pathways Hub, Mark has come to the realization that he can no longer care for himself. Through the HUB, he's working to move to an assisted living facility for a safer, more secure environment.

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Carilion Clinic Health & Outreach, Family Medicine
Healthy Roanoke Valley Pathways HUB 211 **and YOU!**

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PAST DUE

Digging out of debt

Sometimes finding the right path just takes a little guidance.

William dreaded opening the mail. He'd been inundated with unpaid medical bills, after losing his job and health insurance. He reached out to a Community Health Worker through United Way's Pathways HUB to figure out a plan to survive his new economic hardship.

William was matched with employment resources, as well as a medical financial assistance program. He's proud to report he's now working again, with a clear path to self-sufficiency.

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Carilion Medical Financial Assistance Program Freedom First Virginia Career Works
City of Roanoke Financial Empowerment Center Carilion Clinic **and YOU!**

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Taking the first next step

Your United Way is helping people from all walks of life get back on their feet.

Following his recovery from years of addiction, Gary was left with partial paralysis due to intravenous drug use. He was primarily bedridden and depended on various relatives for his care. He reached out for help just to find a shower chair to make bathing easier.

Working with a Community Health Worker through the Pathways HUB, Gary found he qualified for Medicaid, as well as some home health assistance. After months of physical therapy, Gary was able to use a walker, and then progressed to requiring only a cane. He's now working on walking unassisted, an ability he thought he'd never have again.

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Free Foundation

On Our Own

Carilion Clinic

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The best is yet to come

When the pandemic threw a monkeywrench into his childcare, it almost cost Tom a career.

Tom is a divorced, single father. He was just beginning a new career as a plumber, working in an apprenticeship. When COVID-19 hit though, his son was suddenly home from school, requiring round-the-clock care. As he lost hours at work, he got so behind on his rent that he worried he and his little boy would soon become homeless.

But thanks to United Way funds, Tom paid his landlord everything he owed and was able to enroll in a new job training program. He's taking classes now and is excited about the many job opportunities now opening up for him.

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Total Action for Progress

OnRamp

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On the road to a paycheck

Your United Way knows that sometimes all it takes to make a change is the right pair of shoes.

Chris was a dislocated railroad worker and had been out of work for months. Finally, he found a new job, but with a catch. He'd need to travel. His new employer provided Chris with the necessary transportation, but Chris still didn't have the appropriate safety shoes and clothing he'd need.

Thanks to United Way funding though, Chris was able to secure the required footwear and the work attire he'd need to start his new job on the road.

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Meeting people wherever they are

When difficulties start to add up, your United Way is there to help with the bottom line.

Until recently, Melvin had been able to support himself as a handyman, but when his work dried up, he lost his apartment. His unemployment case was pending, and the payment on the van he'd been living in was past due. Melvin only needed help getting caught up on that one account, which bought him the time he needed to go back to living on his own.

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A fresh start

**Christine never thought she'd end up homeless.
So she hit the ground running.**

Christine was staying in a hotel after leaving her home abruptly, fleeing domestic violence. When COVID-19 hit, though, she lost her hours at work, and found herself homeless. So, she hit the pavement with new resolve. She was determined to find a new job, and secured an interview, but didn't have an appropriate outfit to wear to the meeting when her money ran out.

Thanks to United Way funds, Christine got an interview outfit – and a new job! She's finally safe and secure, living on her own.

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A call for help

For want of a cellphone payment, a small business was nearly lost.

Tony worked as an independent food vendor, earning just enough to get by with his small operation. In the wake of COVID-19, he knew the only way he'd be able to stay in business was to resume call-ahead To Go orders. But his cell service had been shut off when he got behind.

He reached out for help though and got that bill paid. Tony is now taking orders and adapting his business to a new normal.

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Up to the test

Keeping her career meant keeping her career skills up-to-date. Your United Way was there!

Shirley may have been born in the 1950s, but she wants to continue supporting herself and isn't ready to retire. Years ago, she'd worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and hoped to resume her old career. She knew there were many new guidelines she'd have to learn in order to pass the state boards. And she admits she's not the best test-taker.

Thanks to United Way funds, she was able to afford and enroll in a refresher course to prepare her for her renewed career. We'll soon find out if she passed her test!

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TAP's Adult Education & Employment Programs | OnRamp | **and YOU!**

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Adjusting after an accident Jared's life seemed to be unravelling.

Jared suffered a traumatic brain injury from a fall, and the accident left him with a seizure disorder, as well as behavioral and memory issues. A relative recently had to call police for help after a violent outburst, yet Jared barely remembered the event.

Jared didn't have a primary care physician, a medical home base, or a way to pay for his ongoing care because his application for disability had been submitted incorrectly. That's how he met a Community Health Worker with United Way's Pathways HUB, who was able to straighten out his disability application, and match him with ongoing medical care, counseling through Blue Ridge Behavioral Healthcare and the necessary transportation he'd need since he could no longer drive. Jared is now working with a judge through the City of Roanoke's Therapeutic Care Court, where he's eager to be accountable for his progress.

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Bradley Free Clinic Blue Ridge Behavioral Health Care SOAR Works
City of Roanoke Therapeutic Care Court **and YOU!**

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