



Emily is a second-grader who was struggling with schoolwork and getting into conflicts with her classmates that often ended with her being suspended. Aware of her mother's struggles with addiction and homelessness, Emily's emotions ranged from sadness to anger; she felt her mother abandoned her. A United Way-funded after-school program became her lifeline. Trauma-informed staff devised a plan, helping Emily open up gradually. She was able to catch up on all her assignments and gradually began participating in leadership projects and community service. Since starting the program, Emily has not had a single in or out of school suspension. Emily's grandmother credited the program with enhancing her self-esteem and confidence.

United Way of the  
Dutchess-Orange Region

