



Micheala is a 35 year old single mother of two. She recently returned to college to get a nursing degree. She dropped out 10 years earlier then suffered substance abuse and raising two children on her own. She works two jobs to support her children and was thrilled to receive straight A's on all of her midterm exams, and was looking forward to earning her degree and starting her career. She really felt that she was ready this time and had found her career path.

Unfortunately, just when she had hit her stride COVID upended her life. The restaurant she worked at closed, and given that much of her job was off the books, unemployment wasn't going to close the gap. Despite these challenges she continued her schooling and teaching her children who are now home. Her landlord began to threaten her as she was struggling to pay rent. Unfortunately, she has a tenuous relationship with her family due to her past drug use. She had now been sober for two years, but they still had reservations about rebuilding their relationship with Micheala. She did not have the option to call them for help.

Micheala was distressed and had nowhere to turn. Her student advisor recommended that she work with United Way. We were able to help Micheala remain safely housed and secure with her children through the Student Emergency Fund. It was a huge weight off of her shoulders and she rounded out the semester with straight A's. Recently, Micheala sent us a letter that said "because of United Way's help I was able to pay my rent, focus on school and be there for my children. United Way is truly a lifeline in our community."

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