

Success Stories



United Way
of Portage County

Education

Travis' Story

Little Brother “Travis” started his community based match with his Big Brother at the age of 12. Prior to his match, Travis did not have a male role model in his life. He was failing in school and had little ambition towards life. He had no idea what he wanted to do when he grew up. Travis lives with his mom and two younger brothers. His mom struggles to support the family after losing her full-time job and having to work two part-time jobs. Travis has very little support from his family and no contact with his biological father. He was not allowed to participate in any school sports because of his poor grades and behavioral challenges at school. The police had been called to school several times because of fights that he had been part of at school. At the age of 13, he was at risk of being expelled from school. Travis is now 16 and has been matched with his Big Brother for four and a half years. Throughout the match, his Big Brother became more involved with his teachers and encouraged Travis to do well in school. Travis is now working part-time for a local auto repair shop and saving money to attend a technical college after graduation. Best of all, he is on track to graduate on time with the rest of his peers.

Income

Shana's Story

“Shana” is head of her household with two children living in Plover. Upon enrollment into the CAP Services Skills Enhancement Program she was working as a waitress 30 hours per week and earning \$7.25 an hour with no benefits. She was receiving BadgerCare, FoodShare, WIC, and child care assistance. She attended MSTC, earning an Associate's Degree from the RN program in March 2010. She obtained two jobs—one a corporate health care position and the other as an RN, working a total of 40 hours per week, earning an average of \$23.92 an hour along with benefits. This is an increase in her earnings of \$16.67 per hour and \$38,444 annually. Skills Enhancement assisted with tuition, supplies, mileage, and child care totaling \$2,054.34, as well as providing case management and supportive services to this participant.

Health

Rhonda's Story

“Rhonda” came to the Family Crisis Center with her two young children after leaving an abusive situation at home. While at the shelter she and her children attended support groups and received support from staff as she developed a plan for leaving the abusive home permanently and moving into transitional housing. She came to understand the issues of power and control that define domestic violence and began to build her own confidence and skills to overcome many challenges. Her own words indicate the impact best:

“The staff is supportive and importantly in my situation, proactive in finding solutions for my unique circumstances. I really appreciate the sincere support and sense of safety provided by the shelter. It is one of the best places to think, process, begin healing and having a game-plan...Being here made me visible, even to myself. Knowing that this places exists and that I have a group of people who feel passionate enough to advocate for the unseen needs of this community is very important. I believe that the services, resources, belief, support and outreach offered by the Family Crisis Center and their on-going commitment to offer continued advocacy is essential in this community. My life, the lives of my children, and others whose lives are impacted will forever be changed.”