

# United Way funded program assists individuals in finding better jobs

Grace, a single mother of twins, enrolled in CAP Services' Skills Enhancement Program in 2011. At the time, she was working as a certified nursing assistant at a nursing home 32

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hours per week, earning \$10.50 per hour without benefits, and receiving BadgerCare, WIC, and FoodShare assistance to help her

make ends meet.

With assistance through funding from United Way of Portage County, the Skills Enhancement Program provides one-on-one management and support, along with financial assistance, for working poor individuals to receive training to increase their skills and attain a career job with increased wages and access to employer-sponsored benefits.

Working with a case manager, Grace enrolled at Mid-State Technical College to earn an Associate's Degree in Respiratory Therapy. The program was able to assist her with the cost of tuition, books, training-related mileage, and child care expenses while she was in school.

After three years of attending school, working as a CNA, and caring



*Preston deBol completed CAP Services' Skills Enhancement Program, helping him gain a steady job and increase his wages.*

for her children, Grace graduated in May 2014. Following graduation, she was hired at a large hospital as a respiratory therapist for 32 hours per week, earning \$21.32 per hour with employer-sponsored benefits.

No longer on public assistance, Grace increased her annual salary by \$17,988 and her hourly wage by more than \$10.80.

More information about how you can help United Way through donating or volunteering is available online at [www.unitedwaypoco.org](http://www.unitedwaypoco.org), by calling 715-341-6740, or by emailing [uway@unitedwaypoco.org](mailto:uway@unitedwaypoco.org). More information about how to receive help is available by calling 2-1-1, United Way's free and confidential information and referral service.