



United Way Fox Cities



United Way Fox Cities helps people like Shanna.

How do you go from having a baby while living in a homeless shelter to establishing a mentoring program at the same shelter?

Shanna, who once lived at Homeless Connections, is a United Way Emerging Leader (a donor who is age 40 or under, giving \$500 or more) at Alta Resources. In 2003, Shanna was in an abusive marriage, mother to two young children, and pregnant with her third child. Shanna had no family in the area. She felt she had no choice but to go to a homeless shelter. What she found there has changed her life.

Homeless Connections, a partner agency of United Way Fox Cities, did not offer Shanna a handout, but a plan, encouragement, and support. She worked two jobs, found an apartment, and began the journey to today. She went from being afraid to look at anyone, speak, or act, to realizing that she could have a dream.

In 2003, Shanna was homeless. In 2012, she was working out of debt. In 2014, she began a mentoring program at Homeless Connections and in 2016 bought her first home. Her son is 18 now and is studying pre-med in college. Grace – the baby that was born when she was in shelter – is bright and happy and a very normal 14 year old. Shanna recently took her second business trip ever. She asked us to tell you – you are the reason.

UNITED WE FIGHT. UNITED WE WIN.