“I support United Way because of the following true story. I was in a local coffee shop with a co-worker and we noticed a woman outside in the cold, crying uncontrollably, and pushing a stroller. The woman told me she had just come from a bank and was denied a $100.00 loan. She needed the money to pay her rent that was due at the end of the day.

She didn’t know what she was going to do or where she would live, if evicted. I told her that I knew of where to get her some help and called United Way’s 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 call operator gave me contact information for local rent assistance and childcare resources.

With hope in her eyes, the woman said she would call the agencies once she got back home. I gave her my phone number and said if she was not able to get rent money by the end of the day, she could call me for assistance. She never called and I can only assume that she was helped after calling the agencies. That is why I give to United Way.”

From: Elizabeth Van Abel