



New Directions Success Story

Why Income?

Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life—a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

Metro United Way works to ensure families are strong and self-sufficient by:

- Supporting programs that help families meet their basic needs for food, shelter, and other necessities.
- Improving access to quality financial information and services.
- Helping families develop a financial path to a good life by maximizing income, increasing savings and developing assets.

When people have adequate income, savings, and long-term assets, they are financially stable and have more opportunities for a better life.

Measuring results... 2018 Goals and Indicators:

MUW Goal:

Increase by 5,000, the number of families who are financially stable.

Indicators (Why this is important):

Financial stability is defined locally as a household income below 200% of the federal poverty level (\$44,000 for a family of four.) *Currently, it is estimated that there are over 30,000 families in Jefferson County with incomes less than this threshold.*

- There are 7,600 homeless children in the Jefferson County Public School system, projected to be 9,000 this year.
- 14.3% of Metro Louisville residents have incomes below the Federal Poverty level.

- 63% of lower income working families do not have resources saved to weather an emergency that might require even \$300 in unanticipated expenses.

New Directions Success Story-Sharon's Story

Sharon, a young mother of six-year-old twin boys, Ricky and Rocky, has lived in a New Directions housing community for almost five years. Since completing high school, Sharon held various jobs, but had not worked for over two years when she began participating in programs at a New Directions Learning Center. She wanted to work on building her resume and to begin searching for a job.

Carol, a Family Services Specialist with New Directions, helped Sharon create her resume as well as apply for jobs in the community. While working on these goals, Sharon was also able to build computer skills, set up an e-mail account, and become familiar with various computer programs. Carol also told Sharon about the after school programs provided by New Directions in the Learning Centers. Carol thought that this may be of interest to this caring young mother, and Sharon was in fact, very interested!

Sharon was drawn to the after school program because it prioritizes homework completion, academic activities and computer skill building. The program also provides a six-week summer day camp to engage the children while school is out of session. Sharon loved the idea and enrolled Ricky and Rocky. Sharon also began to volunteer at one of the Youth Learning Centers.

When a position at the Learning Center opened up, Sharon wanted to apply for the job. She worked with Carol to submit a resume, even sending the resume via her e-mail account! Carol staged mock interviews to help Sharon prepare for the potential interview. One week later, Sharon secured an interview for a New Directions Neighborhood Mentor position. As such, Sharon would work with the children enrolled at the Youth Learning Centers to assist them with their homework, help build life and social skills, and act as a mentor for the youth. She'd help to coordinate volunteer visits and field trips, too.

Two weeks later, Sharon was thrilled to receive a call. *She was offered the position!* Sharon was very excited and called Carol to express how thankful she was for the support and motivation she received at the Adult Learning Center.

Thanks to your contribution to Metro United Way, New Directions Housing Corporation has been instrumental in Sharon's progress toward self-sufficiency and as well as Ricky's and Rocky's success in school.

New Directions is the region's largest nonprofit affordable housing provider, with 1,066 households living in housing communities in 22 Kentuckiana neighborhoods. New Directions also assists elderly or disabled homeowners, through the rehab, repair and volunteer-driven Repair Affair programs.

Additionally, the agency works with grassroots leadership to support neighborhood revitalization, and has been selected to serve as part of the Gheens Bridges to Tomorrow initiative.

One of the most important services New Directions offers is the Resident Services Program, which includes a transitional shelter for homeless families as well as the unique Lifelong Learning Center Program, which is specifically designed to attract young parents and older, disabled residents. Metro United Way contributions help ensure that all Lifelong Learning Centers are equipped with computer labs that provide new technologies to seniors, children and their families.

Here's how you can help:

- Give. A donation to Metro United Way helps support a strong network of quality agencies to serve people who need help right now and to create long-lasting changes that prevent problems from happening in the first place. For more information please call (502) 583-2821.

To live united is to understand that we are all interconnected. Metro United Way is working to advance the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. For more information, volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, please visit us at metrounitedway.org or call (502) 583.2821.