

COMMUNITY IMPACT STORIES



1 in 3 Oshkosh area residents are impacted by **over 40** local programs. Our approach to this impact is intentional: We listen, ask questions, analyze data, and measure outcomes. This ensures that we have the latest information on our resident's needs. Utilizing the information, we invest in our community's most pressing issues.

There are four panels of volunteers who review all Community Investment grant applications, interview programs, and allocate funds to programs in Oshkosh and the surrounding area. This in-depth process results in real life stories of change. Change that starts with you!

TRI-COUNTY DENTAL • EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Jenny is an 11-year-old girl who attends an elementary school in Oshkosh. She has been a client of the Robert Glass Focus on the Children program since 2015. Each year, Jenny is screened during phase I of the program. During phase II, she had X-rays, an exam, and cleaning completed and it was determined that she needed treatment. During phase III, Jenny's fillings and sealants were completed.

Looking back at when she first started the program, Jenny had a lot of work that needed to be completed. Having access to the mobile clinic, Tri-County Dental providers were able to attend her school for all three phases and complete her treatment. With the proper at-home care and patient education provided by the program's doctors and hygienists, Jenny has improved tremendously and every time she has been seen, they are all amazed at how well she is doing with her oral health care.

The Robert Glass Focus on the Children program, funded through Oshkosh Area United Way, can see improvements in other children just like Jenny. Your game-changing gift has impacted **1,766** Oshkosh students.



The individual in this story is an actual recipient of services. Their name has been changed to protect their identity.

Oshkosh Area United Way



OshkoshUnitedWay.org
(920) 235-8560



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211 • MENTAL HEALTH

In 2021, an Oshkosh resident called for help with his substance use but he did not have any income or access to insurance. Specially trained 211 operators were able to get him an assessment appointment with Winnebago County. During the follow-up, they learned he had already been placed in a local inpatient program with financial assistance through Winnebago County Behavioral Health.

This highlights the importance of the Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline powered by 211. Most callers have given up hope when they call 211 — they have called around themselves only to find that most private providers cannot take uninsured or even those with state insurance like Badger Care or Medicaid. They usually don't realize that they can receive an assessment through Winnebago County and, in some cases, even qualify for financial assistance to pay for their room and board at inpatient programs across the area.

Because of game-changers like you, the Oshkosh Area United Way-funded 211 handled more than **3,214** requests in Oshkosh and the surrounding area, connecting folks with critical health and human services through a robust database system that provides access to over **326** services currently available.



SKILLS ENHANCEMENT • STEPS TO A LIVING WAGE

At 22 years old, David had been working primarily in Food Service since graduating from high school 4 years earlier, making \$9 per hour with no benefits. He was interested in welding but didn't think he could afford to go back to school to obtain the necessary skills. A friend of his who had previously received help told him to call about the Skills Enhancement program. David qualified and was enrolled in the program. Despite having to work long hours at a low paying job and the challenges of Covid-19, David graduated from Fox Valley Technical College with a Technical Certificate in Applied Welding. Within a week of graduation, he was offered a job with a large manufacturing company as a welder. He went from earning \$9 per hour with no benefits to \$19.80 with a sign on bonus, health insurance, other benefits, and regular hours in less than 18 months.

Because of your generosity, David and others like him, are able to participate in programs like this that are funded through the Oshkosh Area United Way and are improving the lives of your friends and neighbors, allowing them to thrive.

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