

YOUR UNITED WAY GIFT CREATES ANOTHER...

STORY OF SUCCESS



Finding My Happily Ever After



My name is Melinda and I'd like to tell you about how my life was changed when I thought I had lost all hope.

Once upon a time, at 6 months pregnant, I was doing drugs and living in a tent behind a building downtown. A friend who really cared told me I should check to see what the Salvation Army could do for me. His concern motivated me. "If my friend cares about me, isn't it time I care about myself?" The very next day I nervously went to the Salvation Army where I met Anita, who immediately made me feel comfortable. After explaining my situation, she got me started in a shelter program called HOPE (Helping Our People Excel). Getting off drugs was such a struggle at first, I just wasn't ready to quit. But the program helped me realize that continuing to take drugs was not an option. I had already lost custody of my 2 older sons and I *really* didn't want to lose my only daughter. The more I started doing the work it took to get clean, the more I realized that I *could* do this. I *had* to do this.

After my baby was born, I decided to continue the program. My classes, my support group, and my mentor were all at the Salvation Army. I knew it was the best place for me. I actually completed the program—it was the first time I had ever stuck with and finished anything!

I finally have a job that I enjoy, I married my handsome prince and together we are raising our daughter as well as my 2 boys. I owe the Salvation Army a great big thank you for all their help. I could never have done all of this without them and without the United Way who made sure the program didn't cost me a thing. And today, *I really am living happily ever after.*

REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND
INFLUENCE
THE CONDITION OF ALL.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

Because of your donations, area programs like this one through The Salvation Army are able to improve and enrich the lives of so many in our community. Thank you!

LIVE UNITED™