

# OUR **IMPACT** THROUGH

United Way  
Monterey County



## ANNUAL WORKPLACE CAMPAIGN



### PATTY'S STORY

Patty is a Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP) staff member, supporting the Environmental Services department as a Senior Administrative Assistant. She started giving to the United Way Workplace Campaign over 14 years ago when she first arrived at CHOMP and was selected to serve as a campaign coordinator. Her campaign duties included preparing information packets and coordinating the Annual Campaign Kick-Off events.

Patty's passion for giving comes from a personal place – the love she has for her family. As a young mother, Patty balanced family life and a budding career with enthusiasm, but aspirations of a safe and stable home turned to worry as her teenage son found himself making bad choices and struggling with school. With the guidance of a school counselor, the family was referred to Rancho Cielo Youth Campus. This new environment of learning and support gave the family the hope they needed to reconnect and become a thriving household once again.

Many of the agencies in our community, like the one that helped Patty's family, can be found in the United Way Monterey County 2-1-1 referral system. 2-1-1 is a free, easy-to-use source of information and referrals that connect you to the services you need in Monterey County. Serving our community 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, in 170 languages.

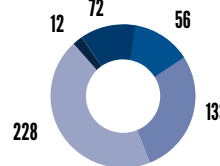
Patty and her family continue to give to United Way and often tell the story of how one referral gave so much hope.

2-1-1

2-1-1 is available by phone, text, and web. A toll-free call to 2-1-1 or a text to 898-211 connects you to a community resource specialist who can help you find services and resources that are available locally and provide critical services that can improve—and save—lives.



**45%** service requests in 2017 were for housing, utilities, food and transportation



#### 2017 Crisis Calls

- Disaster
- Mental Health or Suicidal
- Medical (unrelated to mental health)
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual Assault/Rape

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## CALWORKS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



### JACQUELINE'S STORY

Jacqueline, a single mother, wanted to give her daughter a better life, with access to quality education and care. She aspired to improve her employment status and pursue a higher education to be a role model for her daughter. To accomplish this, she has been working with the United Way Monterey County Volunteer Center and Monterey County Social Services' CalWORKs program.

CalWORKs is a public benefit providing cash aid to unemployed parents of young children. As a condition of participation, recipients engage in education, subsidized employment, or volunteer service. United Way, in partnership with the Department of Social Services, matches clients with community service positions to build job skills, references, and make connections.

Jacqueline was placed at Natividad Medical Center, where she started as a receptionist and soon after was promoted to be a team leader. Volunteering at Natividad Medical Center helped advance her social and leadership skills; she gained experience working in a fast-paced environment, had opportunities to use her Spanish language and work with people of different nationalities and cultures. She continues to volunteer, while also making progress towards starting her bachelor's degree to become a social worker.

Jacqueline's experience has also benefited her daughter. She is teaching her daughter how to engage in the community, have more self-confidence, and interact with kids her own age. Now, Jacqueline proudly shares her daughter's progress as she excels at school, makes friends, and independently adapts to her environment.

**CalWORKS**

Jacqueline's story is just one example of the larger community change taking place because of United Way. Last year, 214 people participated in the United Way CalWORKs Community Service Program through placements in almost 30 community agencies. 66 of them became employed, a significant step toward self-sufficiency.



**214** unemployed residents placed in community service

**66** residents transitioned to paid employment as a result



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## PROSPERITY PLANNERS



Since working with the Planner, Nicole has been promoted and has received help in setting up an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for her daughter, who is now performing better in school. Nicole and her fiancé both established retirement plans and developed a financial cushion, so that they can take some time off when their new baby arrives.

Becky, the Prosperity Planner has been more than a financial coach to Nicole; she was a guide, navigator, and partner. She encouraged and supported them to be resilient to setbacks and be accountable to their goals as they worked towards defining their future and reaching success.

Nicole's accomplishments are not limited to her career and financial advancement. As a result of her work with a Prosperity Planner, Nicole has an established career path, can provide for her family, and has plans to continue her education after family leave. For these reasons, Nicole views United Way's prosperity platform as a vital change in her life.

## NICOLE'S STORY

Nicole works at Goodwill Central Coast. Although she and her fiancé are both employed, they still struggled financially to provide for their growing family. They began working with Becky, a Prosperity Planner funded by United Way Monterey County in partnership with Goodwill. Becky has been working closely with Nicole to chart out her goals, provide career counseling on job advancement strategies, reduce debt, and build credit.

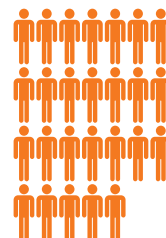
### Asset Building



**139**

residents living below federal poverty level received personal finance training

Prosperity Planners are one step in United Way's efforts to support the financial stability of people across the County. Other asset building programs funded by United Way include Financial Literacy Workshops, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, and Financial Coaching.



**2,633**

low income residents received support in completing their taxes

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## SUMMER BRIDGE



### PATRICIA'S STORY

As a preschool teacher, Patricia knows how important early education is. However, even she did not have access for her children. Her 5-year-old daughter did not have the opportunity to attend preschool, where social, emotional, and language development leads to kindergarten readiness. Unfortunately, Patricia's daughter is one of many children in Monterey County who are unable to receive quality early learning opportunities.

Patricia was excited to learn about the Summer Bridge Program, funded by United Way Monterey County in partnership with the North Monterey County Unified School District. The program's objective is to increase school readiness for incoming kindergarten children and prepare them academically, socially, and emotionally to achieve success in kindergarten and beyond. Summer Bridge provides five weeks of school experience, so kids feel ready for the first day of kindergarten.

Research shows that quality pre-K programs can have a significant positive impact on the lives of children, especially those in low-income families. It can also benefit parents, other family members, and the community at large. A recent study correlated high quality pre-K education and enduring positive effects on future earnings, health, mental intelligence, and crime reduction. Moreover, when children have access to quality care and learning, parents have the freedom to pursue education, work experience, and increased earning capacity through participating in the workforce.

### Summer Bridge

The Summer Bridge Program benefitted Patricia's daughter immensely. She has become more independent, easily makes friends, and most importantly she has the skills to have a great start in school. Last year, the program at Castroville served 28 children; 30% displayed increase in kindergarten readiness.



**28** children  
attended a five  
week kinder prep  
summer program

**30%** showed  
improvements  
in kindergarten  
readiness skills

