

## United Way of Greater Philadelphia & Southern New Jersey

### Meet Cynthia\*

With the support of United Way, Cynthia went from a senior in need to helping other seniors in need.

Cynthia had lived with her son for many years until he became ill and passed away. Cynthia soon found it difficult to continue living independently. She had fallen several times and needed housing and food assistance, and also support in managing the grief of losing her son. Cynthia found a United Way partner, a full service community center. The center's staff helped Cynthia to gain access to food and housing assistance, in-home services and bereavement support. The center became "a place of healing, a place of hope, and a home away from home" for Cynthia. She regained her independence and has given back to the center as a volunteer for more than 25 years! Cynthia currently maintains the center's program that provides seniors with access to food and is she a "grandmother" to many of the center's pre-school children.

*\*Name has been changed for privacy reasons*

### Meet Alice\*

With the support of United Way, Alice went from dreaming to save to saving for future dreams

Alice is a mother of two young children who dreams of saving for their college education. She works as a nurse's assistant and earns a little more than \$11,000 annually. Since she doesn't earn a lot of money, Alice is not able to save for her children's college education as she would like. She went to a library in her community to participate in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, an IRS-supported tax preparation service through which trained volunteers prepare taxes at no cost for qualifying individuals and families. At the library, Alice had her taxes prepared by a representative of a United Way funded partner agency and learned that she was eligible for valuable tax credits. To her surprise, she received a refund of nearly double the amount she expected. Alice decided to purchase a \$500 savings bond for each of her children, making the dream of investing in their education a reality.

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