

United Way of the Piedmont: Focusing on Community Impact

United Way of the Piedmont's "**Helping Youth Succeed**" Community Impact Agenda area provides funding to programs that ensure that youth in our community will have every opportunity to succeed in life. By providing funding to programs that focus on academic achievement, alternative education strategies, high school completion, leadership development, and teen risk behavior prevention, United Way helps to provide opportunities for young people.

Coming from a harmful home environment in which she experienced repeated physical and sexual abuse, Amanda had a lot to overcome. At age fourteen, she entered a moderate management residential program which receives support and funding from United Way of the Piedmont. When she first entered the program, she had a difficult time communicating to her counselors, staff and peers. As a result of the abuse she experienced, Amanda lacked self-confidence and found it difficult to concentrate on her school work. One-on-one counseling and group therapy helped Amanda learn communication and coping skills, and made it possible for her to establish trusting relationships with her peers and staff. She has learned how to keep a positive attitude and has emerged as a leader among the other young women in the facility, speaking up in counseling sessions and helping other girls overcome their fears and anxiety. Amanda has hope for the future. She plans to attend college and wants to become a special education teacher.

Your support of United Way's Community Impact Fund ensures that programs like the one that helped Amanda are available to people in our community who are in need.