

## United Way of the Piedmont: Focusing on Community Impact

United Way of the Piedmont's "**Promoting Health & Wellness**" Community Impact area provides funding to programs that are centered on the goal that "people in our community will have access to services that support physical, emotional and mental wellness."

Kim was an 18-year-old mother of two when she first entered a drug and alcohol treatment program specializing in treating mothers with substance abuse issues. Kim seemed to be on the right track, until she stopped showing up to her classes at the treatment center. A few years later, Kim gave the program another try. This time, she sought to overcome her addiction to crack cocaine. Again, her addiction was too powerful to overcome. Eventually, Kim's addiction spiraled out of control and her children were removed from the home. "I lost everything," Kim said. "I hit rock bottom." Department of Social Services required Kim to go back into the treatment program in order to regain custody of her children. Kim successfully completed the program and went on to obtain a two-year degree from Spartanburg Community College. "I was finally ready to get the help I needed so that I could be a better mother and a better person," she said. Today, Kim is healthy and so are her three children. Because of the help she received, she has given her family a better life.

United Way's Promoting Health and Wellness priority area focuses on preventative health, mental health services, access to health services, alcohol and drug abuse services, and services for the disabled. By supporting United Way's Community Impact Agenda, you become a part of the solution. Rather than focusing on short-term changes, programs supported by United Way create lasting change through addressing the root causes of issues facing our community.