

United Way of the Piedmont: Focusing on Community Impact

United Way of the Piedmont's "**Strengthening Adults & Families**" Community Impact Agenda area focuses funding to programs that ensure adults and families in our community will have access to the support necessary to build stable lives. By providing programs and services which include adult education, financial literacy, employment skills training, domestic violence and sexual assault services and parenting skills education, United Way and its partners make our communities safer and our families stronger.

By late 2005, Carol and her husband found themselves deep into credit card debt by trying to provide for their daughter and three grandchildren. Not only were they providing basic needs, but they were also facing expensive medical bills. Carol attended a "Lunch & Learn" workshop at her workplace that was coordinated by United Way of the Piedmont. She learned about a local program that partners with United Way and was immediately put in touch with a case manager. When Carol went into Compass/CCCS for her first session in March 2005, her credit card debt had surpassed \$90,000 and was spread over thirty-six cards. Compass/CCCS provided Carol with counseling and found that she and her husband desperately wanted to pay their bills and turn the tide on the mounting debt. Compass/CCCS helped them to fine tune their spending and secured concessions from their creditors. The journey began to get the thirty-six cards paid off. Carol and her husband have stayed focused on their goal despite hardships along the way. In September 2009, they will have paid off all of their remaining debt.

Carol now helps others who have found themselves in the same situation. She talks to groups about her experiences and informs others about the resources that are available in our community through United Way.

Your support of United Way's Community Impact Fund ensures that programs and services are available to people in need throughout our community.