



Kira's Story



Driven by the need for safety after escaping domestic violence in Virginia, Kira and her three children returned to her hometown of New Haven. They moved in with Kira's sister, who has four children of her own. While the kids loved being with their cousins and Kira appreciated the support of being close to family, the living situation soon became overwhelming. With nine people, including young kids, crowded into a small house with one bathroom, the lack of space and privacy quickly took a toll.

Starting over in a new town meant finding work, child care, and housing all at the same time. Through United Way, Kira enrolled her 2-year-old son in quality, affordable child care, and she was able to find work as a CNA, but finding permanent housing remained a challenge.

"The affordable places were either too small or in unsafe neighborhoods. It felt like I'd never find the right place."

With the help of United Way, Kira was able to qualify for housing assistance that allowed her to finally find an apartment that provided the privacy and stability her family needed.

United Way also helped her with funds to buy new furniture such as beds for the kids, as many of their belongings were left behind in order to move to safety.

"When we finally moved in, it was a huge relief. My kids had their own rooms for the first time in months, their grades started to improve, they didn't feel cramped or stressed anymore. They're happy to have a place to call home again."

With a stable home, Kira could focus on her goals, including returning to school to pursue nursing. She is grateful for the assistance that helped her find affordable child care and a place her kids can call home. Without these resources, she believes she might still be struggling. Now, with her family thriving, Kira feels at peace and is focused on building a brighter future.