INTED for Emerald & Alayna



United Way of Greater New Haven

YOUR IMPACT: Helping parents build a brighter future for their children

When you're a teen mom, there are a lot of people telling you what you can't accomplish. Emerald realized that if she wanted to build the kind of life that she and her partner Dominic dreamed of for their daughter, she needed to surround herself with people who believed in her and wanted what was best for their family. She found that support through United Way.

"Because of United Way donors, I was the first one in my family as a teen mom to graduate high school. They helped me get certifications as a CNA and a phlebotomist, and most importantly, my baby had a safe environment at Early Head Start where I could spend time with her between classes while finishing my degree. I plan to start college next fall to become a nurse. If it weren't for United Way, our lives would have turned out completely differently."

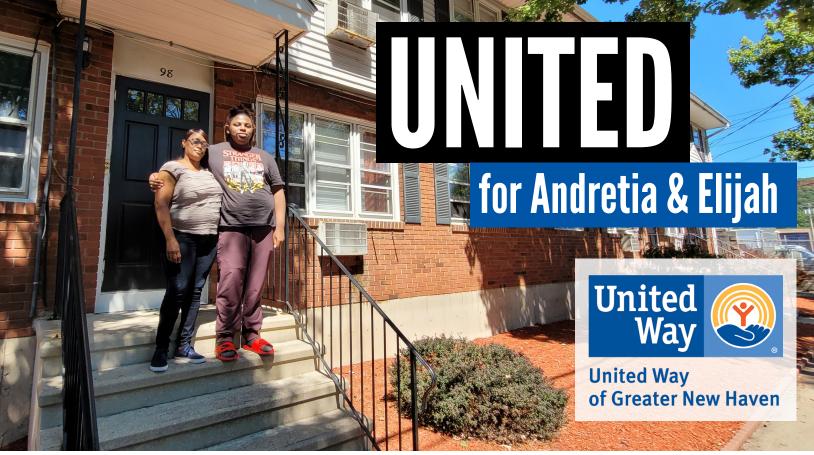
Alayna graduated from Early Head Start last Spring and is now in preschool. Emerald and her partner Dominic dream of one day owning a house with a yard where Alayna can play. Because of the crucial support they accessed through United Way, they are on the path towards the life they dreamed of.

"I want to thank the donors. You made a real difference in our lives."









YOUR IMPACT: Helping families in crisis find stable housing

With the help of United Way of Greater New Haven, Andretia was able to find an apartment after losing her housing while her teenage son was fighting for his life while undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer.

"My son Elijah had thyroid cancer and was fighting for his life. It was the scariest moment of my life. Then on top of that, we had no place to stay. With United Way's help, we were able to get a home. Which is what we needed more than anything at the time. If we didn't get this apartment, we would have been living in a car. I don't know what I would have done. Thank God for the United Way."

Elijah is doing much better now and was able to graduate from high school despite his health challenges. With a stable place to call home, Andretia says her physical and mental health have improved drastically. She is now attending Gateway Community College and pursuing her dream of becoming an artist and art therapist. Because of donors like you, Andretia and Elijah have been able to grow and thrive with the stable foundation of secure housing.





