

LIVE UNITED

United Way
of the New River Valley



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LINDA'S STORY

In May of 2019, the Homeless Prevention program screened Linda, a young mother of two who had moved to the New River Valley from Washington, DC to flee domestic violence. Although she was working, her employer did not give her enough hours to maintain her rent, eventually leading to her receiving an unlawful detainer for eviction.

Upon meeting with her, the New River Community Action (NRCA) staff learned that she did not have any local resources or family to support her, and she was struggling to find childcare while trying to work and meet family expenses. Linda's only means of transportation was the bus, adding to her barriers for stable housing and employment. The Homeless Prevention program assisted her in paying the rent arrears and provided financial assistance and case management for the next several months.

Each month, she paid as much of her rent as possible, while the Homeless Prevention program continued to provide rental assistance to cover the difference. Over the next six to eight months, she gradually paid larger portions of her rent, and was eventually able to secure more stable employment that included benefits. As of the time of this report, she is continuing to work on her transportation barrier, including saving a portion of her income for a down payment that will allow her to purchase a vehicle through Responsible Rides. Now stably housed, the family is now paying rent without any further Homeless Prevention assistance.

At United Way of the New River Valley, we help families achieve self-sufficiency. That's why we support programs like NRCA's Homeless Prevention program that provides financial assistance, counseling, and workshops to help low-income people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. By supporting United Way of the New River Valley, you are giving women like Linda a chance to thrive.



www.newrivercommunityaction.org

Donations like yours help New River Community Action and other United Way partner agencies do meaningful, life-changing work around the New River Valley.