

# LIVE UNITED

United Way  
of the New River Valley



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## MICHAEL'S STORY

In late March of 2020, after the coronavirus had upended their entire organization, the Community Health Center of the New River Valley got a phone call from an established patient, a man in his mid-30s named Michael. Michael lives in Christiansburg and works in construction for hourly wages when work is available. While on a job that day, he stepped on an old nail and severely punctured his foot. He was afraid to go to a local emergency room due to the pandemic but was also at risk of contracting tetanus if nothing was done.

The Community Health Center had just implemented several extra security precautions, including locking their front doors and requiring patients to call ahead to be screened for the appropriate course of action. After triaging Michael over the phone for symptoms of COVID-19, and determining that he did not indicate any symptoms, they instructed him to come to their front door and told him that no one else would be allowed inside. When he arrived, the staff directed him to the back of the facility to the entrance of their newly fabricated patient isolation area. Once he was inside, they cleaned and dressed his very deep wound and gave him a tetanus shot. Despite these difficult times, the medical home he had grown to depend on was still able to provide the care he needed.

At United Way of the New River Valley, we provide health and crisis intervention to individuals in our community. That's why we support organizations like the Community Health Center of the NRV, which provides health services to any NRV resident, whether or not they have insurance. In these challenging times, CHCNRV is even more vital to maintaining the health of the New River Valley because their services relieve pressure on local hospitals, which allowed them to focus on victims of Covid-19. You can support efforts like these by donating to United Way of the New River Valley by donating today.



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

[www.chcnrv.org](http://www.chcnrv.org)