

United Way Makes a Difference Every Day!

United Way of Central Massachusetts touches the lives of more than 66,000 people every year.
Angelica is one of those people.

United Way Makes a Difference in Our Community!



Angelica's Story



CONNECTING PEOPLE AND RESOURCES TO IMPROVE THE COMMUNITY

ANGELICA'S STORY



In 2011, Angelica and her 18-month old daughter found themselves homeless with no family or personal resources to assist them. After spending two weeks in a hotel, they were placed into a congregate shelter with seven other families. It was eye-opening for Angelica to live in a situation without privacy or anything that belonged to her, but she was grateful that she and her daughter had a roof over their heads and food to eat.

Her caseworker recommended her to Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance's POWER Program, one of the many programs funded by United Way of Central Massachusetts. The POWER Program is an individualized job-training program for families in homeless shelters. Angelica had previous college experience, having attended Franklin Pierce College for 1.5 years, and she was motivated to go back to school. Once she entered the POWER Program, she found the safety net and the second family she needed to get her life back on track. The POWER program director showed her that she could set goals and reach for them. The program helped her brush up on her math and English skills and obtain a scholarship to return to Quinsigamond Community College for a degree in Business Administration.

The POWER program helped Angelica find subsidized childcare, obtain an internship at the Mayor's office in Worcester City Hall, open a bank account, and brush up on her job skills, including resume building and interviewing. In addition to helping Angelica become self-sufficient, the program director also reminded her that she is special and has a lot to offer her family and the community.

Angelica is now employed at Reliant Medical Group, attending her last year of college, and living in an apartment. Angelica says tearfully that "when you don't have the support that you think you will always have and no one to really turn to...they didn't look at me like I was just another homeless person not trying, a mother who wanted to live off the government. That's not who I am and not how I saw my life, not how I saw my life with my daughter. She has been so sweet and so special and she is now able to do things that kids her age should be able to do and she can say I have a home and I have toys to play with and books to read."

Angelica is so thankful for the support the POWER program provided her at the time when her life felt hopeless. She and her daughter now have a bright future to look forward to, a future full of possibilities. United Way is the single greatest funder of Central Massachusetts Housing Alliance's POWER Program. This program is just one of dozens of programs made possible by your donations. Angelica and her daughter are just two people of the thousands whose lives have been powerfully changed by your donations. Thank you!

ABOUT THE POWER PROGRAM: POWER stands for Personal Opportunities for Work, Education, & Renewal, providing education and training for homeless families so they can increase their employment options and/or income to become stabilized.

To view Angelica's interview on Vimeo, go to <https://vimeo.com/102645436>

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