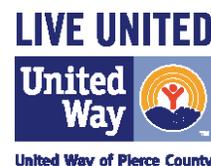


SUCCESSFUL KIDS



MEET DALLAS

Growing up, Dallas' family didn't have the money to buy basic school supplies like a backpack, paper or even pencils. Many times, Dallas failed school assignments because she didn't have the supplies to finish them. She would go to the library to "borrow" the short stubby pencils to do her school work. When her classmates recognized those pencils as the handouts from the library, she started skipping her classes out of embarrassment. Dallas' educational future was at high risk.

In seventh grade, Dallas's received a backpack overflowing with brand new school supplies from United Way of Pierce County. Having these supplies changed everything for Dallas. She didn't mind going to school anymore and she stopped ditching class. She was able to get all of her assignments done because she had the supplies to do so. Even more, she began participating in class more because she was not embarrassed anymore.

"Not only did I have the supplies now, but I actually looked and felt like I fit in with all the other kids." With this new self-confidence she joined a variety of clubs and realizes now that it had an affect on her entire life. She remembers clearly what it was like to be "that kid," and now Dallas and her husband collect and donate backpacks to the United Way so she can help change the story for children that were just like her.

By focusing on programs that help young children and their families, we can remove the barriers preventing them from breaking the cycle of poverty.

Providing the basic needs and support that helps people get on their feet and move toward stability.

Why It Matters

144,000 people visit food banks each month. Nearly **half** of those are working families

It is estimated that **2 in 5 homeless** in Pierce County are children.

33 percent of callers to South Sound 2-1-1 lived in homes with children under the age five.

Food, shelter and utility assistance, basic needs, are the top resources needed by callers to South Sound 2-1-1.