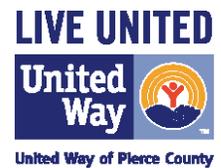


STRONG FAMILIES



MEET MARISOL

Marisol had just moved to Washington from New Jersey and needed help. Not only was she suffering with domestic violence herself, her daughter had growing mental disabilities that needed attention. Being new to the area and completely alone, she had no idea where to turn to for support. One day while riding the city bus, a woman reached out to her.

“It’s like she could tell that I was sad and needed help,” Marisol recalled. “She told me that if I needed anything at all I should call 211 and they could find what I was looking for.”

Although Marisol felt ashamed to ask for help at first, she gave them a call. 211 changed everything for her. They set her up with organizations that could help her daughter, and got Marisol connected with support groups for those who had gone through domestic violence.

“I can’t believe I was ashamed to make the call. I am so grateful for all of their help; they got me back on my feet and helped me grow to the person I am today.”

South Sound 2-1-1 is operated by United Way of Pierce County. 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.