

WHAT THIS PLACE NEEDS IS...



...MORE STRONG FAMILIES

Julie had been married for 25 years and suddenly found herself a single mom. She didn't know how she would support her three boys and provide for her family.

"I had the wind knocked out of me. What I had planned for my life was gone," said Julie.

She knew she needed to brush up on her skills and turned to Washington Women's Education & Employment (WWEE) for computer classes, but what she gained was much more than computer skills.

"It's not just about computer skills. It was about learning how to dress, learning how to present yourself as a professional and finding your self confidence," said Julie.

With the experience she gained at WWEE, Julie not only got the skills needed to find a good job and support her family but she's set her sights on a college degree and a new career.

"I came out of the program with the confidence that I am college material. I am in charge of my own happiness and I can be an excellent example for my children. For that I will be forever grateful."

Washington Women's Education & Employment is just one of the many programs receiving funding from 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 support that stabilizes families with young children, ensuring their kids thrive.

Why It Matters

Washington **ranks 28th** in economic well-being.

In Pierce County, a single parent earning minimum wage has to work **80 hours** to support a family of two.

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

In Pierce County, **21 percent** of children under age 5 live in poverty.