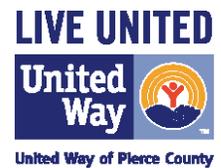


STRONG FAMILIES



MEET TONY

Tony had everything – a nice house, a car, a job. Then he lost his job and everything went wrong. He totaled his car, his wife divorced him and he became homeless. He turned to Catholic Community Services Tacoma Avenue Shelter, an emergency overnight shelter for adult men and women. At first, Tony secretly cried at night in the shelter, wondering what would become of him.

Soon, Tony developed a routine of visiting Nativity House every morning to help out. He began to feel that eventually things were going to get better. Volunteering at Nativity House gave Tony a sense of purpose. He began to meet and share stories with other people at Nativity House and Tacoma Avenue Shelter and realized there were other people with life circumstances more unfortunate than his.

Tony took advantage of all the services provided by Catholic Community Services Homeless Adult Services program – hot meals, safe shelter, case managers, referrals to employment services and mainstream benefits – and finally got back on his feet. Now, he says, he is “living the dream life.” He has a good job and an apartment, and credits Catholic Community Services with making all the difference in putting his life back together.

Providing funding to multiple programs helps families get help with more of their needs. These programs help young children and their families 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.