**South Sound 2-1-1 | Stories of Hope**

**Just in Time**

I am 27 years old and I have two young daughters. Recently I got a 3-day pay or vacate notice and I was not able to pay the full amount of rent. I was a day away from becoming homeless. I called South Sound 2-1-1 and spoke with a housing navigator who told me there were resources and services available that could help. My situation totally turned around for my girls and me when the apartment complex manager confirmed that all was well. I am beyond blessed that United Way has a service that helped me when I needed it the most. Thanks to South Sound 2-1-1 and United Way for giving my family a second chance.—‘*LeAsia’*

**From Homeless to Hopeful**

I’m a single mother of three boys and have been a Medical Assistant for 15 years. When my father needed extra care, I stepped in to help though surgeries, hospitalizations and long-term care. It’s been a scary time, but I was determined to help my dad. I ended up losing our home since Dad’s caregiving had become my full-time job. At my lowest point, we became homeless and we were living in our car. When I called 2-1-1, I heard this soothing voice from the most compassionate, and caring person I have ever met. My family and I are now temporarily staying with a relative and I have new resources and specific goals to help stabilize our situation. That call literally saved our lives and it was a godsend to talk with someone who knew how to navigate through the complicated process. I am so grateful that United Way and 2-11 came to my rescue. –‘*Heather’*

**A Caring Hand in Crisis**

When I lost my job, I thought I’d be able to get another job soon, but instead I had to take on a series of odd jobs to make ends meet. Just when the money ran out and I couldn't pay my rent or provide for my children, I got into a car accident that totaled my vehicle, so I had no reliable transportation to go to interviews or a job. I found out about resources and supportive services, so I was able to buy a car and I worked out a deal with a friend—my kids slept in her children’s room while I slept in my car in her yard. When I saved up enough to rent our own place, I was turned down by the first few places I applied-- which was discouraging and costly. When I called 2-1-1, they started working with landlords and I was accepted into a townhouse within a few days. That first night in our new place, we had no food or furniture but we had a home to call our own and my kids were happy. The sympathetic person at 2-1-1 was instrumental in helping us through a situation I hope I never have to face again. My dignity has been restored.—‘*Michael’*

**New Start**

South Sound 2-1-1 helped my family and me, restart our lives by assisting us with furniture and household goods for our new apartment after we were homelessness. We lived at a local shelter and now we can see our way to a better future together. – *‘Brandon’*

**Plans Don’t Always Go As Planned**

My wife, our toddler and I ended up homeless after relocating to Washington. We came here with big dreams and a plan to start a new life together. Initially, we had a place to stay and support to get settled all lined up, but everything fell through once we arrived. We ended up living on the streets in Tacoma.  2-1-1’s housing navigator was able to provide us with bus tickets and food so we could get back to our family in California where we had warm beds and a job waiting to help get back on our feet. –*‘William’*