



# ADVANCING THE COMMON GOOD BY FOCUSING ON THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR A BETTER LIFE

United Way recruits people and organizations from all across the community who bring the passion, expertise and resources needed to get things done.



Laurie had talked with our domestic violence crisis center for over a month before arriving at the shelter door one morning with a few bags containing all her belongings. Asked if she wanted to talk, Laurie said no; she would like to be alone. She stood crying in the foyer for a few moments then went up to her room. As her story unfolded we learned DCYF had removed her 2 children because her partner (and father of the children) would not allow her to cooperate with DCYF case workers; he became physical if she tried.

Laurie settled into the shelter. A parent aide came to the shelter so Laurie could visit with her children. The crisis center volunteer worked with Laurie on housing, financial assistance, and how to begin healing. Soon, she no longer cried. Laurie's focus became her life with her children. She grew into a woman who was resolved, resilient, determined, and sometimes angry that her partner had almost caused her to lose her children. Laurie learned to advocate on her children's behalf at school. Helping Laurie to see that not only could she advocate on her behalf, but for her children as well, aided in raising up her self esteem and self confidence. It was amazing to see this transformation!

A few months after this client arrived at our shelter, her perpetrator found her. We notified the Laconia Police for safety reasons, supported her as she filed for a stalking order of protection, and worked quickly with other domestic violence crisis centers in the state to get her into a shelter with a secret location. Laurie has now been reunited with her children and has full custody; she is working on housing, getting a car, and employment. Our ability to work directly with this client's DCYF case worker, parenting aide, and other service agencies offered Laurie a chance at independence and a new life free from violence.



It was because of the collaboration of various support systems that enabled the client to start on this journey of recognition, healing, and transformation.

*“Reach out a hand to one, and influence the condition of all.”  
To learn more, or to show your support, visit [www.LRUW.org](http://www.LRUW.org)*

