UNITED WAY
Greater Cleveland

HOUSING STABILITY | FINDING SAFE, STABLE HOUSING AND PATHWAYS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

United Way has helped thousands of families acquire or remain in safe, stable housing.

- 22,000 families stayed in safe housing supported by United Way's leadership in programs such as Lead Safe CLE, Right to Counsel CLE, and the Family Stability Initiative.

- More than 15,000 families found shelter and avoided homelessness.

- 24,000+ healthier lead-safe homes and 5 lead-safe childcare centers available for our city's most vulnerable children (5-year result).

In their words:

Ms. Dillard, a 62-year-old retired school cafeteria worker, has called the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood home for over two decades. For years, she and her adult son rented a duplex. She lived on the first floor, while he occupied the second.

She had watched properties around her change hands and accepted long ago that homeownership wasn't in the cards. But when she was introduced to Make It Home, a partnership between United Way and Enterprise Community Partners, that mindset began to shift. Make It Home offered something different – a pathway to ownership that recognized her long-standing commitment to her community.

Through Make It Home, Ms. Dillard received one-on-one support, homeownership education, financial counseling, and repairs to make the home safe and livable.

Now Ms. Dillard is a homeowner for the very first time. During her closing appointment, Ms. Dillard shared a moment that brought tears to everyone's eyes. She spoke about her church community – a tight-knit group that had been praying for her throughout this journey. For months, her fellow congregants had supported her, encouraged her, and believed in her dream. When she signed her closing paperwork, her first words were, "I can't wait to tell my church – I'm a homeowner!".

Ms. Dillard was just one of over 100 tenants in tax-foreclosed properties that were offered new opportunities for affordable home ownership last year because of United Way's investment in this innovative solution.

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