



**UNITED WAY**  
Greater Cleveland

## WORKFORCE STABILITY | MOVING FROM CRISIS TO STABILITY TO OPPORTUNITY

United Way provides a suite of services to keep working people working. Nearly half of working families still cannot meet basic needs. United Way is opening doors to opportunity for upward mobility.

- Through programs such as Real-Time Relief Fund and Bridges@Work, 500 essential workers overcame unexpected challenges from car repairs to credit issues and were able to stay focused and productive on the job.
- 18,000+ families prevented utility shutoffs, keeping their homes warm and lives stable.
- 10,000+ working families with stronger household budgets—\$11.7M in tax refunds, \$1.2M in prescription drug savings.

### In their words:

Tanya is a single mother earning \$55,000 as a civil servant, financially stable on paper, but like so many hardworking families in our community, always one unexpected expense away from crisis.

When her car's alternator failed, the \$550 repair bill threatened to derail everything. She couldn't afford to fix it and without a car, she couldn't get to work or get her kids to school.

**That's when she remembered her mother's advice:** "Call 211 — it's the first call for help."

Through United Way's Real-Time Relief Fund, designed for families like Tanya's who don't qualify for traditional aid but still need support, help arrived. Within hours, she was approved for the full amount. No paperwork. No red tape. Just relief, right when it was needed.

Because of this support, Tanya got her car repaired, stayed on the job, and kept her kids in school — all without falling into a financial spiral.

This is what it means to have a safety net that catches everyone — not just those in deep crisis, but those working every day to stay afloat. United Way made sure Tanya's setback didn't become a breaking point.

