



NIA'S SUCCESS STORY

My first child knew his alphabet and numbers at an early age and he continues to excel in school. He might get one B on his report card, but the rest are A's. When my daughter Nia was born, I quickly found out that God has his own design plan with each child.

Nia struggled learning the alphabet and numbers. My husband and I would often ask ourselves, "Why?" We read to her as a baby and even in the womb. She had a bookshelf full of books in her room. Despite of our efforts to help her academically, she was not catching on.

She had the unfortunate luck of losing her teachers during the school year in kindergarten and first grade. In second grade, she was recommended for an early literacy afterschool program made possible by the United Way of Pitt County. We jumped at the chance. I was elated to find out my daughter could get help.

Nia was a child that was at risk of failing the first grade and is now a B/C student. She once had a reading level well below grade level, but is now a few points away from reading on grade level. ***She is proof of the difference community, schools and families can make when they work together.***

Even though I haven't received a raise in years and the cost of living continues to climb, when I was asked to give to the United Way, I knew I had to because I wanted this program to continue. Thank you to the United Way for making programs available to all families in our community.

~ Latonya Nixon-Vines, parent of two children, 8th Grade Team Leader and English Language Arts teacher at Farmville Middle School



RONDA'S SUCCESS STORY

I want to tell you about a program that has changed my life, the STRIVE of NC Program. This program is made possible by United Way of Pitt County.

I received the opportunity to go through the program in 2003. At that time, I was receiving public assistance from the state. The assistance included food stamps, work first, daycare assistance, Section 8, and Medicaid. I had 2 children and was a single mother. My highest level of education was a high school diploma. I had a very hard time finding a job and did not know why. I used excuses like my race, being "too real", or "I keep looking but, there are no jobs out there." I was less than motivated to find a job.

When I entered the program, it changed my life. Through addressing the common issues of being tardy to the job and at job interviews, as well as my attitude, the program gave me a reality check. It put me in my own face and gave me the tools needed to deal with very tough issues. My self esteem was rebuilt and I was pointed in the right direction to set goals and strive to do better for myself and my children.

As a result of entering this program, today I have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, a Master's Degree in Administrative Leadership, I am no longer on public assistance, and I am currently employed at a job that I have held for 9 years.

This program has impacted my life and the lives of so many individuals who at one point could not see a way to success. **Without United Way of Pitt County and STRIVE of NC working together, I would not be where I am today!**

~ Ronda E., mother, graduate of STRIVE of NC, Pitt County resident



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DANIEL'S SUCCESS STORY

Daniel was homeless for quite sometime before he came to the Greenville Community Shelter in November of 2013. He is a Bronx native and traveled to Greenville because he wanted a fresh start.

Daniel spent about five months at the Shelter. During that time, he was able to find a part-time job which qualified him for the Solid Ground program. Solid Ground allows each resident to pay rent based on his or her income and provides case management and home visits to encourage success.

On a hot, humid day in late June 2014, Daniel stopped by the Shelter to visit. He wanted to let us know that he had a new job as a laborer with the new parking garage project. **He was sweaty, dirty and tired, BUT he had a HUGE smile on his face.** Daniel is a sincere man who wanted to prove that he could be a productive Pitt County resident. It was a good day for all of us when Daniel stopped by to share his good news. **United Way of Pitt County and the Greenville Community Shelter's partnership makes good news like Daniel's possible for countless residents in our community.**

*~ To protect Daniel's anonymity this story was submitted by
Bob Williams, Executive Director, Greenville Community Shelter*



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