



2026 United Way/CHAD Campaign Impact Stories

Tamera's Story

(example of a family supported by the Impact Fund)

Tamera never thought she would need help from one of United Way or CHAD's partner agencies, let alone several!

But two years ago, her health took a turn, requiring multiple surgeries and an organ transplant. Her chronic health condition, which she had managed for years with no major flare ups, suddenly got complicated.

Tamera was very thankful that one of her children, Michael, had his driver's license and could take her to and from appointments, including education services from CHAD's partners. Unfortunately, this caused Michael to miss a little bit of school. Worrying about his mom also distracted him from his assignments.

Thankfully, one of United Way's partners helped Michael focus on his academic goals through an after-school program.

Tamera recovered slowly but surely, causing her to miss shifts at work, cutting into her paycheck. It wasn't long before the family got behind on rent.

Thankfully, the family connected to rental assistance from a United Way partner agency. In addition to this stabilization, Tamera and her children often visited another United Way partner for a free meal or pantry items to help stretch their budget.

Today, Tamera is back to working full time and Michael is on path to graduate. He plans to study genetics and hopes to make the world a better place.

Tyler's Story

(example of how ENGAGE.EMPOWER.GRADUATE. is making an impact)

Tyler and his family moved to Lincoln last year from out of state. Tyler began attending Campbell Elementary School in the fall. Because of his experiences at his previous school, Tyler had his defenses up, used behaviors that were disruptive in the classroom.

Thanks to funding through ENGAGE.EMPOWER.GRADUATE. supported by Women United and Emerging Leaders United, Tyler was connected to an onsite therapist helped him set goals and develop a plan to help him feel safe and successful in school. Tyler and his family also began to feel more connected to the school and the larger community through family engagement nights which are also funded through this initiative. These nights allowed Tyler to make friends, and his parents met teachers and other families through these school activities.

Tyler successfully graduated from Campbell in the spring and is feeling confident about Middle School thanks to what he has learned.

Mac's Story

(example of how Labor Partners United is making an impact)

Labor Partners United (LPU) focuses on supporting neighborhoods where Labor communities work and live in Lincoln by addressing: Access to Basic Needs, Youth Behavioral Health, Extended Learning Opportunities, and Workforce Development. At an LPU sponsored family resource pop-up event, Mac, a middle school student, expressed that they had broken their glasses several weeks ago, but their parent was experiencing challenges that made getting them fixed difficult. During the event, Mac and his parent received help making an appointment for new glasses as well as transportation for the appointment. The new glasses instantly improved Mac's effort and behavior in the classroom!

Catalina's Story

(example of a family supported by the Family C.A.R.E.S. Fund)

Catalina is a Lincoln parent raising her daughter, Isabella. She works hard to provide for her family, and recently, several pressures became difficult to manage at once. As Catalina navigated mental health challenges, daily routines became harder to maintain, including supporting Isabella's regular school attendance.

Isabella's school connected the family to Central Navigation (which is partially funded by United Way's Family C.A.R.E.S. Fund) after concerns about attendance grew. Our navigator, Adrienne, helped the family identify their most urgent needs, connect with mental health support, coordinate transportation, and access ongoing parenting coaching. Rather than sending Catalina in several different directions on her own, Central Navigation helped create a clearer path forward.

With support in place, Catalina began rebuilding daily routines that worked for her family. Isabella is now attending school consistently, and Catalina reports feeling more confident as a parent. Through coaching, the family has also strengthened communication, increased connection, and built practical strategies to manage stress before it becomes crisis.

Catalina shared that Central Navigation was “the first time I felt someone saw the full picture of what we were going through.”

Central Navigation isn't just for families like Catalina's. There are individuals and families in our community, who like Catalina, are living above the poverty threshold but who are not thriving. Recent data from United Way's 211 helpline tells us that 83% of all callers from Lincoln and Lancaster County are unable to afford an unexpected \$400 emergency, such as a car repair or medical emergency.

Any family overwhelmed and in need of guidance is encouraged to call Central Navigation by calling 402-969-0319. The phone is answered Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If the line is busy, callers are encouraged to leave a message. All phone calls will be returned within 24 hours on business days.