

Real People, Real Results: A Report to Heritage United Way Community Investors

An increase in self-confidence: Jeff's Story

Heritage United Way's community partner agencies work together everyday to address the most critical issues facing thousands of infants, children, teens, adults and elderly individuals in our eighteen communities. Last year, your contributions to United Way enabled those, like Jeff, to find the confidence necessary to lead healthy, productive lives.

Jeff was living with his mother and grandmother. His mother was unemployed but spent little time with Jeff. There was no discipline in the house and this was reflected in Jeff's behavior. He frequently fought with others and never believed that he was in the wrong, even when the evidence was clearly against him. Seeing that Jeff's pattern of behavior was growing worse, he was referred to The Mayhew Program by an individual familiar with his family's history.

The following summer, Jeff's cabin counselor wrote, "We had a few discussions with Jeff about ways in which he could strengthen his leadership and he really seemed to understand and take these discussions to heart." After this, Jeff took off like a rocket.

During work hour, he would cheer the efforts of others. He also became more assertive, suggesting that his group try a cabin mate's idea and serving as a mediator when arguments erupted. In fact, whenever there was an argument or some sort of disorder within the cabin, Jeff would often be on top of it quicker than the staff, explaining to the boys that there were more important things to be done than arguing."

Now twenty-five years old, employed full-time, raising a young family and attending college part-time, Jeff is eager to help others and to continue moving forward. A few months ago, Jeff sent an unsolicited e-mail to The Mayhew Program. In it he wrote, "Without Mayhew, I don't think I would have been able to take as many leaps as I have in life. One of the main reasons I was able to accomplish so much was the mentors around me that led by example. They taught me to believe in myself, to be confident..."

Thanks to you and your support of Heritage United Way, agencies like The Mayhew Program can continue to provide individuals, like Jeff, with the services they need to lead a better life.

collaboration matters. For more information on how Heritage United Way partners in your community every day, please visit our newly redesigned website- www.heritageunitedway.org.