

University of Rochester
United Way/Red Cross Campaign
Beneficiary “Stories”



"Without the help of Hillside and the wonderful people affiliated with them, our family could not have made it through this past year, nor would our son have much to look forward to in the future."

"God Bless Hillside, its family of agencies, the wonderful individuals who make up their staff, and the generous people in the Rochester community who support the work they do for children. Our children are our future, even our "special" children who need help."

Kathy Adamski, Offices for Medical Education

Hillside Children's Center and the Hillside Family of Agencies assist Kathy and her family to deal with their special needs child, Jared. Adopted into Kathy's family from a neglectful and abusive background, Jared suffers both mental and emotional difficulties. Through the continued support of Hillside, Jared now has the opportunity for a better quality of life.

Without the United Way, the Alzheimer Association support groups would not be available, and without the Alzheimer support groups, I'm not sure where my family and I would have turned for help when we needed it. We are able to cope and stay a united family."

Marcia Chiappone, RN - Nursing, Oncology

Marcia and her family appear in the 2006 United Way/Red Cross Campaign film. Facing the challenge of a mother with Alzheimer's, Marcia turned to the Alzheimer's Association to provide the information and support she needs to provide for her mother in the best way possible.

"The Alzheimer support group gave me many hints on obtaining the necessary help from other organizations to help care for my mother at home and to obtain financial support. I found she was eligible for Medicaid and that opened more doors for my mother and allowed her to remain in our home until her death."

Jean Whitmore, Pediatrics

Jean received information and support from the Alzheimer's Association as she coped with her mother's dementia. This information helped Jean obtain the available services to properly care for her mother at home.

"Every parent wants the best for their children and we know we found the best for our daughter at School of the Holy Childhood."

Marianne Oehlbeck, Cardiac Rehabilitation

Born with Down's syndrome in 1985, Marianne's daughter, Tracy, will be graduating this year from the School of the Holy Childhood at the age of 21. The school has been an integral part of Tracy's life and the life of her family.

"People often overlook the times these [United Way] agencies touch their lives. But I have seen it in action and I am thankful."

Sheryl Hennekey, Biostatistics & Computational Biology

Sheryl received information and services from numerous and varied United Way funded agencies in her battle with an autoimmune disease, which, on separate occasions, caused heart failure and acute renal failure.