



Ric has help and hope, thanks to you!

While on vacation, Ric Gadbury went swimming at a nearby river. Ric dove off of a rock and, unknowingly, into a shallow pool. He woke in a hospital, quadriplegic—paralyzed from the neck down. His life changed forever. Completely disabled and alone, his depression was overwhelming.

Help came to Ric from TEAM Center's Family Support Program, funded by United Way of Greater Chattanooga. The help he receives means that caregivers are there every day to get him get around, prepare meals, care for his home, open his mail—anything that has to do with daily living.

Through his struggles, Ric discovered a talent for art. Learning to paint with his mouth, he now sells his sketches to supplement his income. He does as much as he can for himself, but Ric says this

United Way-funded program has done nothing less than save his life.

There are those in our community, like Ric, struggling to make it on their own, but who will always need support. For those, the most vulnerable among us, United Way of Greater Chattanooga is there—*thanks to you!*

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Al is successful again, thanks to you!

Al Scarbrough had it going his way. He was a budding entrepreneur with his own business that was growing every year. That changed dramatically when he was stricken by a rare disorder that robbed him of his eyesight. He sunk into depression that cost him relationships, his business and almost his life.

What saved him was a United Way-funded program at Signal Centers that gave him the help he needed to turn his life around. Through assistive technology, Al was not only able to cope with his challenges, but turn them to his advantage.

Ultimately, Al rediscovered his entrepreneurial spirit and opened his own internet business—selling sunglasses! Because of your support, Al made it back from the brink and turned his disabilities into abilities that once again made him a success. That's what matters!

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The Coles are back on their feet again, thanks to you!

It was almost too much to take. Vernon Cole was left with more than \$50,000 in after-insurance medical expenses accumulated during years of illnesses endured by his parents. Vernon, a 48-year old accountant, found himself with debt that seemed unmanageable.

“Even though I was a professional in the business, I felt like a man drowning,” said Vernon. But instead of filing bankruptcy, he sought help.

He called on Consumer Credit Counseling, a United Way funded program through the Partnership for Families, Children and Adults. Together with specially trained staff at CCC, Vernon developed a plan to pay back his entire debt in less than five years, and made it happen! Thanks to your support, Vernon was able to stabilize his situation and get it back under control, keeping his family from falling through the cracks. Vernon and his family are stable and secure, and that’s what matters.

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Willie and Emily read together, thanks to you!

Mrs. Willie Burris enrolled her great granddaughter, Emily, in Project Ready for School when she was 2 years old and has been reading with her ever since. Mrs. Burris says that Emily loves the free books she receives in every month and can not wait to share them with her great grandmother.

Mrs. Burris says she has always loved books and Emily is the same way. Mrs. Burris believes it's important to spend time with children and that it is the family's job to teach their children and make sure they get attention and love every day.

Mrs. Burris is 86 years old and says her eyesight isn't very good. Despite that, she says she still shares books with Emily. Emily has memorized many of her favorite books and now "reads" them to her great grandmother. Even at such a young age, Emily is already sharing the gift of reading with the people closest to her. Emily has developed a love of reading and is now ready for success in school and life. That's what matters.

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