



Maria's Story

Maria wanted the best for her kids.

She had her first child at a young age and needed guidance with being a first time mom. As her daughter grew, Maria struggled to find ways to help her daughter learn at home.

That's when Maria turned to Gads Hill, a United Way partner agency that provides early learning programs, for support. She enrolled her child in a home visiting program where a teacher came to the home to work on identifying shapes and colors and other language building and developmental exercises. The teacher also worked with Maria on parenting skills and taught her how she could help build her daughter's skills at home. Maria began to see her daughter blossom and felt much more confident in her parenting skills.

When Maria had another child, she enrolled him at Gads Hill programming as an infant. He is now a toddler and Maria said she can already tell that he is talking sooner and that he is interested in books and reading. She says her children are thriving, and she credits Gads Hill and United Way with helping her children accelerate their learning and be prepared for kindergarten and beyond.



Maria's story—and thousands more like it—changed because of people like you.

Through proven strategies and quality programs, United Way measurably improves lives for individuals, families and entire neighborhoods across the region. Join us and change the story for those in need in greater Chicago.

Go to LIVEUNITEDchicago.org to give and learn more.



Maria's story changed because of people like you. Help us continue to *change* the story.