



Brenda Vanoster has lived in McConnellsville for most of her life. She has lived at McConnell's Manor for about 10 years and has made many friends within this community. Due to medical conditions, Brenda is unable to stand for long periods of time without her feet swelling, so she has been a client of the Senior Nutrition program funded by United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties for about 3 years. She enjoys having her independence and space for her family to come visit. Brenda is very proud to share she has been a foster mother and helped raise 3 children throughout her lifetime and is holding a Family Foster Home certificate from Job and Family

Services (pictured). She is grateful the Senior Nutrition program has helped support her in the same way she showed support to others. Brenda enjoys every meal, but she especially loves the homemade baked steak and meatloaf with mashed potatoes!





Bethel Community Center and United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties (MPM) are working together to strengthen the community and provide access to food for all students. Bethel's afterschool program assists students in completing homework in a stress-free environment. Students get a hot meal when they arrive at the center prior to working on homework. Thanks to United Way's investment, students can have a meal and focus on schoolwork. These meals nourish students and keep them from going to bed hungry.

Khloe is enjoying a meal provided by United Way of MPM before she receives tutoring and unwinds from a busy school day.

Amanda Hatfield, Executive Director said, "Without the proper nutrition, students cannot perform well academically. Thanks to funds from the United Way of MPM, Bethel students are fed a

healthy meal each day at our afterschool program which helps them to complete homework more successfully."



Ben is a Zanesville City School student attending Mid-East Career Center. Ben's glasses had broken while playing sports outdoors one day, and he was having difficulty completing tasks in his lab class at school due to not having them or a way to replace them. The Eyeglasses for Education program funded by United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties was able to provide Ben with a new pair of glasses. He is now able to complete his lab tasks well and has more confidence to work hard.



John came to Catholic Social Services (CSS) due to difficulty managing his financial situation. He retired from a municipal job and received a large sum of money from his deferred comp account. The local attorney assigned to his case stated that she was concerned that he would mismanage this large sum of money or be taken advantage of by others. She wanted CSS to become his payee in order to manage his everyday financial needs but also ensure funds would go for his best interests. The CSS caseworker established a workable budget that pays his bills and meets his essential living needs while also allowing some of his wants to be achieved. One such “want” was to purchase a newer truck which he did recently after months of saving. Thanks to the funding provided by United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties, today John is out of debt and has found peace of mind knowing that his finances are managed appropriately.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL
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Ellen is a volunteer in the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen funded by United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties. She enjoys volunteering with the hot meal program because it brings peace to her soul. Ellen is a widow that lives alone and said that experiencing loss like she has is life changing. Volunteering in the soup kitchen allows her to sit down to enjoy a meal with the clients. They share stories about their lives and reflect on memories. This gives Ellen the chance to see people feed their body and soul. Her experience in the soup kitchen helps to fill a void often faced by people after losing a loved one. Ellen is grateful for the opportunity to interact with a diverse population and share her kindness.





When Victoria began working at The Sweet Life Baking Co. as a trainee in the Recovery with Purpose program, funded by United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties (MPM), she had only been clean from drugs for about 8 months. She had little job experience as she was a housewife for 12 years before being widowed at 31 and starting a new life at 35. The combination of training, support, and an understanding that she has received at The Sweet Life through the Recovery with Purpose program has enabled her to grow and thrive in each area of her life. Emotionally, physically, and financially- and of course, the continued gift of watching others grow.

Thanks to the United Way, Victoria was given an opportunity to build a foundation of strengths that she will be able to build upon for the rest of her life. She has a chance to feel useful and productive while also helping others that are facing the same issues that she once thought could not be overcome.





When Abby began her journey, the Naomi House offered her the opportunity to live in a supportive environment that empowered her to make positive changes in her life. She gained transport to support meetings, engaged in fun drug-free activities, and lived in a house that held her be accountable for her actions.

Abby soon learned a new way of life and thrived on her mission to be drug-free. Not only was Abby learning to live a fulfilling life, but she was also a role model for the new women entering the house. The other residents witnessed Abby's dedication to recovery, achieving goals, mending relations, leading house meetings, and regaining visitations and a healthy relationship with her children.

Abby is now the live-in House Mom for the Naomi House. She has many responsibilities and dedicates her time to empowering other women. The United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties with Muskingum Behavioral Health has supported many of the life skills programs that helped Abby and the Naomi House to have the ability to create these positive changes for women.





With funding from United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties, Sweet Life Baking Co. has impacted the lives of 13 local women in recovery in less than 1 year. Shannon Zinn is one great example. Shannon is in the process of completing the Sweet Life Baking Co. training program and becoming ServSafe certified. This will allow her to continue to climb the ranks at Sweet Life Baking Co and Foodworks Alliance and the ability to apply for advance-level jobs. Sweet Life Baking Co and Foodworks Alliance are dedicated to continuing to positively impact the lives of local women in recovery. Thanks to United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties for providing the funds to make our training programs possible! Thank you to all partners and donors to our local United Way!





Tim is a client of the Payee program at Catholic Social Services (CSS). He came to the program because he needed assistance with fiscal issues. He would find himself behind on bills and at risk of disconnections or evictions, and his debt continued to pile up. His caseworker at CSS helped him create a workable budget that ensured that his essential needs were met but also gave him spending money each week for his personal wants. Slowly over time, Tim has been able to catch up his bills and stabilize his financial situation. He told his caseworker recently that without Catholic Social Services, he wouldn't have a place to live or be able to pay his bills. He is so grateful for the service CSS provides and thanks the staff for making his life better. Thanks to the funding provided by United Way of

Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties, clients like Tim can financially be stable.



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Hi, my name is Cylinda Kirkbride. I am truly grateful for the help I have received in a time of need for my four sons and me. With the prices of everything continuing to rise we were making ends meet living paycheck to paycheck. I was in a tough situation and realized we were low on food. Gas prices had skyrocketed, and I found out I needed new rotors, brake pads, and my hot water tank took the plunge. I had to decide between getting these things fixed, putting food in the house, or going to school. I was starting to worry. I saw online through school that there was a

onetime United Way Emergency Grant, and I said this is an answer to my prayers! Today, thanks to United Way of Muskingum, Perry, and Morgan Counties and Zane State College, I was able to get everything we needed, and I can continue my education. Thank you so much!

ZANE STATE COLLEGE

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