

“I was worried my son’s life would be like mine - filled with drug and alcohol abuse, surrounded by addicts.”



Cheryl was driven by fear. She feared she would lose her son if she had to serve time in prison. She feared her son’s life would turn out like hers... a life of drug and alcohol abuse in a home surrounded by addicts.

“When I almost lost my son, it was a wakeup call for me,” Cheryl said. “I was on the verge of getting caught and going to jail, and there was no one who could look after him, since his father was also an addict.”

Cheryl was led to a local United Way partner agency with a program for chemically addicted women and their children. During the first six weeks in the agency’s program, Cheryl had no communication with the outside world other than the people in recovery.

“The staff encouraged me to interact with my son, to develop a maternal bond with him,” she said. “With their help, I gradually learned what it was to be a *good* parent.”

Cheryl’s son is now four years old and he attends a daycare affiliated with the program. Despite being a severely drug exposed child with several early learning disabilities, he is now healthy and has mastered age-appropriate skills. He is even ahead of his age level in some areas.

Cheryl learned the importance of being able to provide for herself and her family. She earned her cosmetology certificate and is now employed in that industry. She and her son graduated from the United Way program and soon after moved into their own home. Cheryl continues to receive encouragement and support through the program’s weekly aftercare meetings.

Thanks to your support of United Way’s network of care, Cheryl changed from someone who sought solace in the empty life of addiction into a determined and confident person with a remarkable “can-do” attitude.

United Way of the Mid-South serves Crittenden, DeSoto, Fayette, Lauderdale, Shelby, Tate, Tipton and Tunica counties.

United Way of the Mid-South mobilizes community resources to meet people’s needs.

True events. Names and photos are changed to protect confidentiality.

**IMPROVING EDUCATION,
INCOME and HEALTH**

**United
Way**



TM

**United Way
of the Mid-South**

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.

**Please support this year’s
United Way campaign.**

Visit us online at uwmidsouth.org