



(L-R) Patricia Shelton, Mariah Denham. Photo by Vanderveen Photographers

# TWO PATHS - ONE GOAL

## **“I FEEL LIKE UNITED WAY IS A GUARDIAN ANGEL FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP.” - PATRICIA SHELTON**

Everyone has their own definition of success and everyone takes a unique path to achieve their dreams. For many dreamers, the path to success is hard to find and follow.

That's why United Way created the Family Success Center. It offers bundled services that are tailored to meet the unique needs of individuals and families. Services focus on employment, education, financial skills, health and wellness and basic needs and are provided in one location with the help of over 30 partners.

Thanks to the Family Success Center, Patricia Shelton and Mariah Denham have found their paths to success.

Patricia was employed for nearly 11 years and unexpectedly lost her job. She quickly discovered without a High School Diploma, it was hard to find another job at the wage she had worked so long to reach. Patricia has three children who love and depend on her.

A friend told her about the Family Success Center and now Patricia is half way through her GED program, landed a job at a local school and has opened her first bank account.

“I feel like United Way is a guardian angel for people who need help. Our community needs programs like this for people who want to do better,” says Patricia.

Mariah tried many times to earn a GED, but without a car and child care for her son, classes were next to impossible to attend. After learning about the Family Success Center, Mariah enrolled in GED classes and received the transportation and child care assistance she needed.

Thanks to the Family Success Center, Mariah graduated with her GED, earned a CNA certification and is employed by a local health care system.

Mariah says, “I've faced a lot of barriers, but I got through them with the help of the Family Success Center. There are many others like me facing obstacles, who just need a little help reaching their dreams and United Way is making that happen.”