

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY
PARTNER AGENCY: MARY KENDALL CAMPUS**

Over the years the Mary Kendall agency has helped hundreds of Kentucky youth suffering from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse and neglect. Recently, we had the opportunity to extend our services to a young Hispanic girl who suffered horrific abuses not only crossing the border, but also since she arrived in our country. When she was only five, Ana was passed around and “given” to adult males for their pleasure in exchange for safe passage into our country. She was told this was her service to her family and made to feel it was honorable and necessary in order to keep her family safe. Now, ten years later, Ana struggled with flashbacks, multiple triggers, and as a youth who speaks English as a second language, felt she had to take on the adult world in a country in which she felt betrayed because she was in a lose-lose circumstance: she lived in fear that she could not tell her story and receive help without her family being deported. It is an understatement that Ana lived in fear every day of her young life. She was understandably guarded and had a deep mistrust of adults. Ana’s brother was in prison for gang involvement because he and Ana, as children, trusted an unsavory group of criminals because they provided food and clothing to Ana’s family. Later, she witnessed her brother become increasingly involved in gang activity and ultimately take someone’s life when he was only 16. Now Ana was virtually alone, only left with her parents who were trying to make a new life in a world where they did not speak English: Ana found herself in a situation where again, her family’s survival was dependent on her. Over time, the Mary Kendall agency was able to build trust and establish rapport with Ana and her family, offer her Trauma Focused therapy, and connect her and her family with needed resources to break the pattern of dependency on gangs, stealing, and a budding dependency on drugs. By the time Ana graduated the residential program, she was set on a path of hope and security. We were able to assist with transportation for family visits, provide her with much needed medical and psychiatric care and establish a path of educational success with the financial help of United Way. Ana represents one child who ultimately made a vow as an adult, she wants to work in the American justice system to “repay” the help she received in a country she now calls her home.

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?

With your investment of \$100 **Mary Kendall Campus** can:

- Provide ten clients school laptop rental for one month
- Provide seven clients recreational activities for one week
- Provide ten clients a weekly allowance for personal use

