

**UNITED WAY OF THE OHIO VALLEY  
OWENSBORO-DAVISS COUNTY  
PARTNER AGENCY: THE SALVATION ARMY – HUMAN NEEDS**

August, 2015, a woman came into our office seeking assistance. Shelley was married with two children, one of whom had multiple disabilities. In late June 2015, Shelley's daughter who already had a weak immune system came down with a horrible infection was admitted to a local hospital and then needed to be transferred to a hospital in Louisville. Shelley spent four weeks at the hospital by her daughter's side. Prior to her daughter's ill turn, Shelley had a part-time job working nights because she needed to be with her child in the daytime hours and spent most of her time attending to her needs while her husband worked the day shift. When Shelley entered our doors seeking help she was a broken woman. Exhausted, devastated, full of hopelessness, despair and hurt. After a long hospital stay her daughter became well enough to be released and the family was ready to return home. The family was excited to return home and to have some "normalcy", a sense of a safety and to be reunited with her husband. Upon their return they walked into a house that looked nothing like the home they left and they were shocked at what they saw. While Shelley and her daughters were in Louisville at the hospital Shelley's husband took all of his belongs, drained a large majority of their bank account and left Shelley and his two daughters. Shelley was alone and left to fend for herself and the girls. Shelley produced all of her daughter's medical paperwork showing how long her daughter had been in the hospital, she produced copies of her bills and even had pictures on her phone showing their half empty home as her husband took most of their furniture and other personal belongings. Her husband left without paying any of their monthly bills. Everything was due to be shut off which left her trying to find a way to pay these bills in order to have basic utilities for her family in order to live. Shelley wept in our Social Service Director's office as she did not know what to do or where to begin. Shelley had previously never been in a position where she had to ask for help. This experience was new to her as well as being very scary and unfamiliar. Shelly was a humble and proud woman and seeking out help was not easy for her. Because of our generous community who donate to the United Way and through The Salvation Army's Social Services program we were able to assist Shelley in her time of need. We paid Shelley's electric bill and gas bill in order to keep the family comfortable especially during the hot days of summer. We also provided her with food and clothing for her and her children as her youngest daughter was days away from starting school and Shelley had no extra money for school clothes. All of the services we provided Shelley with were possible due to the support of the United Way donors. February 17, 2016, Shelley again entered into our office. This time Shelley came strictly to visit and share good news. Shelley stopped by to thank our Social Services Director and let her know how grateful she was for the help that The Salvation Army provided her six months ago. Again, Shelley broke down in tears, but this time they were tears of joy. Since August many things have changed for Shelley and while she is not 100% back on her feet she expressed that she is doing much better and many things have turned around for the "better" in her life. She again thanked us as she said "I don't know where I would be right now if it wasn't for what you did for me and my children, you gave me hope in order to move forward."

**WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL YOUR INVESTMENT MAKE?**

With your investment of \$100 **The Salvation Army** can:

- Feed a family of four for two weeks
- Pay a portion or a full bill for a needed utility such as a water, electric or gas
- Provide 32 items of clothing which could clothe a family of four from the assistance of our Thrift Store

