We LIVE UNITED for Desiree
If you ask Desiree what her “why” is—she would tell you that it all started with a pair of shoes.

As a child, Desiree faced numerous adverse childhood experiences. By her early 20s, Desiree had already experienced homelessness and was a single mother to four children. Without a car, Desiree relied on public transportation to get to work to provide for her family. One morning, she found herself looking down and admiring the shoes of the other women on the bus. That day, she set a goal: to own her very own beautiful pair of shoes. This small goal—to afford a nice pair of shoes—was a catalyst for Desiree to seek out development programs to help her move from surviving to thriving.

Today, Desiree is a participant in Aspire, United Way’s Mobility Mentoring®-based program for ALICE—Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed—women. She is able to set smart goals, budget and work with Meredith, her personal coach, to create a brighter and more self-sufficient future for herself.

DID YOU KNOW?
There are 40,000 people in South Hampton Roads struggling to make ends meet.

Learn about our response at unitedwayshr.org