**
UNITED WAY OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA**

**Sample Financial Stability Impact Email**

**Subject:** Financial Stability Impact Area

**Body:**

**One of UWSWMN’s priority areas is financial stability. Within that priority area the goal is to improve financial stability and independence by:**

* ****Increasing financial literacy skills for youth and adults.
* Helping individuals and families move toward financial stability.
* Increasing access to education, employment and/or job training.
* Assuring community members have resources to overcome disasters and emotional or financial crises.

A few examples of local programming include: Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, The Refuge Emergency Shelter, and Junior Achievement of Lyon County.

Learn More: <https://www.unitedwayswmn.org/CI>

Following are some examples of lives effected by these programs:

* *One amazing example is a single mom named “Miranda.” She came to our program fleeing domestic violence with her eight children and needed emergency shelter. Miranda was very motivated and worked closely with her case manager. Within ten days, we were able to located and have her accepted into new housing. She also had found a job. Within a very short time, Miranda had left homelessness, had stable employment, and gained access to a rental subsidy that will make her unit affordable for several years. Miranda and her kids are doing great.* – The Refuge Emergency Shelter
* *Another example is “Sarah” who had three children but was currently living on cash assistance through the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP). Sarah was unable to work in 2021 and did not file a 2020 tax return. When the Advanced Child Tax Credit payments started coming out from July-Dec 2021, she did not receive any payments. Normally families with no earned income would not be eligible for the Child Tax Credit, but there were no such restrictions this year. Through meeting with UCAP staff, she was connected with our VITA program and had volunteers prepare her return. Upon filing, Sarah was able to receive several thousand dollars thanks to this special credit. This allowed Sarah to get caught up on several bills and even buy a few extra needed things for her children. She learned about this through some special marketing we were able to do this year. These efforts were to help families know to contact us even if they normally would not need to file a tax return. Sarah was very grateful for the service, and we were so glad to help.* – Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

**If you would like your donation to support the financial stability focus area, please check the “financial stability” box on your pledge form!**