

WHO IS AFFECTED BY UNITED WAY? EVERYONE!

This exercise is a good way to show that *everyone* benefits from a strong community, not just the poor, the homeless or the less fortunate. Almost everyone has been touched by services funded through United Way – either as recipients or through someone close to them.

Start the quiz by having everyone in the room stand up. Explain that you will read a question; instruct participants that whoever can answer “yes” to that question should sit down. More than likely, everyone in the room will be sitting before you have finished reading the list.

Have you or someone you’re close to – a family member, friend or coworker – ever:

1. participated in an after-school program?
2. known someone with Down’s syndrome?
3. had a child receive a free book at school?
4. been a mentor or Big Brother/Big Sister to a child?
5. learned to swim through group lessons?
6. needed employment skills training and placement assistance?
7. received Meals on Wheels?
8. had a parent or grandparent who lived in a residential care facility?
9. been required to take an anger management class?
10. taken a self-defense or safety awareness class?
11. needed day-care for a child?
12. had elderly parents or grandparents who needed help to stay in their own home?
13. participated in an activity or camp at YMCA?
14. had a problem with alcohol or drug dependency?
15. been a Boy Scout or a Girl Scout?
16. needed help to talk to a child about staying away from strangers?
17. needed help to feed their family or pay the rent?
18. experienced a suicide at work or in the family?
19. taken a parenting class?
20. known someone at risk of becoming a gang member?
21. needed an emergency shelter?
22. just needed someone with whom to talk to on the phone in time of crisis?
23. tried to help a parent or grandparent understand their Social Security benefits?
24. needed clothing or school supplies for school-age children?
25. been in an earthquake?
26. been homeless?
27. known a runaway teen?
28. needed to fulfill Community Service hours?
29. known someone with psychiatric disabilities that require supportive housing?
30. known someone at risk for AIDS?

Other things to consider: Even if you have not needed direct financial assistance from a United Way Monterey County partner agency, the program you have participated in might not exist without United Way support. For example, your daughter in Girl Scouts may not need financial assistance to be a member, but without United Way funding, it is possible that many of the girls in her troop would not be there. If UWMC did not support after-school programs, it is possible that some of her classmates might be unsupervised after school, putting them at risk. United Way provides basic funding to agencies, allowing programs to be available to all, regardless of ability to pay.