

# OUR **IMPACT** THROUGH

United Way  
Monterey County



## CALWORKS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



### JACQUELINE'S STORY

Jacqueline, a single mother, wanted to give her daughter a better life, with access to quality education and care. She aspired to improve her employment status and pursue a higher education to be a role model for her daughter. To accomplish this, she has been working with the United Way Monterey County Volunteer Center and Monterey County Social Services' CalWORKs program.

CalWORKs is a public benefit providing cash aid to unemployed parents of young children. As a condition of participation, recipients engage in education, subsidized employment, or volunteer service. United Way, in partnership with the Department of Social Services, matches clients with community service positions to build job skills, references, and make connections.

Jacqueline was placed at Natividad Medical Center, where she started as a receptionist and soon after was promoted to be a team leader. Volunteering at Natividad Medical Center helped advance her social and leadership skills; she gained experience working in a fast-paced environment, had opportunities to use her Spanish language and work with people of different nationalities and cultures. She continues to volunteer, while also making progress towards starting her bachelor's degree to become a social worker.

Jacqueline's experience has also benefited her daughter. She is teaching her daughter how to engage in the community, have more self-confidence, and interact with kids her own age. Now, Jacqueline proudly shares her daughter's progress as she excels at school, makes friends, and independently adapts to her environment.

**CalWORKS**

Jacqueline's story is just one example of the larger community change taking place because of United Way. Last year, 214 people participated in the United Way CalWORKs Community Service Program through placements in almost 30 community agencies. 66 of them became employed, a significant step toward self-sufficiency.



**214** unemployed residents placed in community service

**66** residents transitioned to paid employment as a result

