



## *Heart of Florida United Way and Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, Inc. - Friends for Life*

After her mother's death, 13-year-old Veronica\* sometimes felt so alone she feared she'd just disappear. The oldest of four girls, she spent most of her time helping her father hold the family together, something that became even more difficult after they lost their home and moved into an Orlando homeless shelter.

With family life shattered, no time for herself and little hope for the future, she'd given up believing that life could be any different until the day she began attending Girl Scout meetings held at the shelter.

Sponsored by the Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, a Heart of Florida United Way supported agency, the group helped Veronica make friends, improve herself and find a place she could belong. And thanks to dedicated Girl Scout Leaders, Veronica found adults she could rely on for encouragement, kindness and guidance at a time when it seemed no one else cared.

Now living with her family in a permanent home, Veronica's come a long way from those difficult days. She does well in school and has many friends, but none are as special as the girls and the women she met through Girl Scouting, which continues to be a stabilizing force in her life today and as she plans for a successful future.

\* To protect the client's identity, a different name has been used.

*By supporting Heart of Florida United Way, you help fund nearly 100 local agencies such as Girl Scouts of Citrus Council, whose programs are making a critical difference in people's lives. You also become part of United Way's work to prevent critical problems by focusing on four key areas: Building Safe Communities; Improving Financial Stability; Developing Healthy Children and Families; and Alleviating Hunger and Homelessness.*