



Heart of Florida United Way and Harbor House of Central Florida - A Safe Place for Carlos

Carlos* is only 8 years old, but he looks out for his mother and 5-year-old sister. He was the one who bravely dialed 9-1-1 the day his father's temper flared and his mother was injured.

After the police arrived, Carlos' mother told him that they were going to a safe place where they wouldn't be hurt anymore.

At first he was frightened about leaving his home, friends and school. But when the family arrived at Harbor House of Central Florida, Inc., a state-certified domestic violence shelter that receives United Way funding, the staff did everything possible to make them feel welcome and secure.

In addition to receiving new clothes, toys and other daily comforts and necessities, the children and their mother are taking part in counseling, advocacy and education programs that are helping them heal and rebuild their lives.

As Carlos told his counselor, "Harbor House is a nice place, and they have really helped my mom. She doesn't cry at night anymore, we all just sleep like we are supposed to."

* 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 Harbor House, 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.