



**I WAKE UP EVERY MORNING
HAPPY THAT I AM HERE.**

Merrill arrived in Olympia a few years ago, homeless and with nowhere to turn. Not knowing what to do, Merrill called **2-1-1**, South Sound's phone number for health and human services information. Merrill was connected to **SideWalk**, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness by helping people to build incomes, access services, and find homes. Merrill is now living in transitional housing and is enrolled at South Puget Sound Community College. She also does outreach and public speaking, telling her story and serving as a mentor for others transitioning out of homelessness.

"Now, I have a life," she says, **"I love waking up in the morning. I wake up every morning happy that I am here."**

2-1-1 and SideWalk are just two of the many great programs that you will invest in when you give to **United Way's Community Care Fund**. Every day these programs are uplifting the lives of people like Merrill.

**PLEASE GIVE ONLINE TODAY AT WWW.UNITEDWAY-THURSTON.ORG.
GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.**

United Way of Thurston County
www.unitedway-thurston.org

Promotional space provided by The Olympian

LIVE UNITED

