

MEET JOAN.

UNITED WE FIGHT.
UNITED WE WIN.

LIVE UNITED®

Joan grew up in the Coulee Region. The only child of a hardworking single mom, Joan's childhood was loving but lacked the accountability she needed. Joan experienced trauma throughout these formative years, and she began using drugs and alcohol to cope with mental illness as early as age eight.

In adulthood, Joan seemed to have it all – the husband, the house, and four kids. She remained sober for long periods of time, but substance use eventually continued, causing her relationships to suffer, and in some cases, end. Joan continued to struggle with substance use for years, eventually leading to dependency and behavioral changes. She wanted to change, but never quite found the solution... until 2019.

Between July 2018 and January 2019, Joan was arrested 12 times. It was during this time a nurse referred her to Great Rivers HUB. The HUB is a systems change initiative implemented by Great Rivers United Way with help from several critical funding and operational partners.

Joan was newly sober and residing at Ophelia House, a supportive living facility, when she met her HUB-assigned Community Health Worker (CHW), Abby. Abby is an employee of United Way-funded partner Family & Children's Center, and as a CHW, she uses her lived experience to help clients.

Shortly after meeting Abby, Joan was asked to leave Ophelia House for bringing alcohol on premises. Together, Abby and Joan worked to complete Joan's first HUB "Pathway" – finding safe and stable housing.

Since then, Joan has accomplished goals that, in the past, were very challenging. With Abby's help, Joan started treatment, has maintained sobriety and housing, and has been working on reappearing relationships. Most importantly, Joan regained the sense of self that she had been losing to trauma her entire life. She is now accountable to someone very important... Joan!

Great Rivers HUB connects the most at-risk individuals and families with the resources they need to better their lives. To learn more, visit www.gruw.org/hub.

3,120

the number of
Pathways completed
by clients with
help from their
CHWs since the HUB
launched in 2017



Great Rivers United Way