

IMAGINE

WHAT WE CAN DO TOGETHER

LIVE UNITED®



Vincent was born in Chicago. He grew up in low-income housing and saw many of his peers make what he calls the “easier choice.” By the time he graduated from high school, Vincent says that half of his classmates were no longer around. Some were incarcerated, and others, sadly, had lost their lives.

Vincent moved to La Crosse in 2013. At first, he stayed with friends. His desire for change, including a safe and stable place to live, led Vincent to United Way funded partner The Salvation Army. He lived in the shelter for 18 months, and it was during this time that he was referred to another United Way funded partner, Couleecap.

With help from his new case manager, Becky, Vincent moved out of the shelter and into an apartment. Couleecap utilizes a “housing first” approach that prioritizes providing permanent housing to people experiencing homelessness. Once Vincent had housing, he could begin to focus on other needs, like employment.

Vincent was very dedicated to finding a

job. With Becky’s help, he filled out more than 40 applications and was eventually hired at a local restaurant. With permanent housing and employment secured, Vincent successfully exited Couleecap’s program.

Vincent has remained housed since that time. He has also held a steady job, that is – until the pandemic hit. When the restaurant where Vincent worked temporarily closed and he started to struggle to meet basic needs, he knew just where to turn: Couleecap.

Becky was once again there for Vincent. Together, they secured unemployment benefits, coordinated meal and grocery drop-offs, updated his rental agreements, and paid off his outstanding rental debt.

Vincent’s story is a great example of the strong relationships that grow within United Way’s funded programs. When people need a support system, our programs are there.

Imagine a Coulee Region where Vincent and others like him have a place to call home and someone to turn to when challenges arise. It’s possible with a gift to Great Rivers United Way.

40

The number of supportive housing units Couleecap provides case management to – all of which are full



Great Rivers United Way