

# MEET MYA

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M

ya has known about 211, a free and easy information and referral line that connects callers with health and human service resources in communities across the nation, for many years. That's why, when she had questions about starting an in-home day care after moving to La Crosse in 2016, Mya called 211.

Our local call center, Great Rivers 211, is one of Great Rivers United Way's 27 certified partner agencies. They referred Mya to The Parenting Place, another local nonprofit supported in part by Great Rivers United Way! In addition to offering many programs for caregivers and kids, The Parenting Place conducts certification and licensing for childcare providers.

When she called The Parenting Place, Mya learned about the other services they offer that her family would benefit from. Her two youngest children were in diapers at the time, and The Parenting Place's Diaper Bank made a big difference for Mya as a single mom of four and full-time college student.

At first, Mya says she was hesitant to accept help and immerse herself fully in all of

The Parenting Place's programs, fearing she would be judged. "All parents are doing the best they can with what they have," Mya says. "And getting help takes vulnerability." The other thing it takes, according to Mya, is the ability to advocate for yourself.

Mya was able to navigate our region's vast network of social services, but that's not always the case for everyone – this is why she co-founded Hope Restores. Hope Restores works to uplift, empower, and restore La Crosse's African American community. For those who are less able to advocate for themselves, Mya and Hope Restores' other staff and volunteers are there.

Mya and her family have also sought out and received help from the Boys & Girls Club, Couleecap, The Salvation Army, WAFER Food Pantry, Workforce Connections, and the YWCA, all of which are United Way funded partners. Their programs helped Mya address a unique and critical need on her journey toward success.

One dollar, one donor, one donation. You can make Every ONE Count with your gift to Great Rivers United Way.

21.8

The average  
number of times  
the individuals &  
families served  
last year benefited  
from GRUW-funded  
programs



Great Rivers United Way