

**Sheboygan & Plymouth Area United Way**  
**Sheboygan Press Column for Week of November 9, 2009**  
**By Nancy Jusky**

**Children's Service Society's Programs Need United Way Support**

*Without United Way support*, our affiliated agencies would have a difficult time continuing to provide quality services to individuals and families in need. As often as I keep repeating this simple fact, it takes the eloquence of John Green, the executive director of Children's Service Society, to equate his agency's needs with the importance of having a successful United Way fundraising campaign. John has shares the following case studies, changing the names to protect the anonymity of those involved.

- *Without United Way support*, Children's Service Society could not provide counseling services to little "Alyssa", age 8, who has witnessed domestic violence perpetrated against her mother by her father as her parent's marriage has come to an end. Alyssa has fears and difficulty sleeping alone at night. Her mother's health insurance has such a high deductible for mental health coverage that using it would put her further into debt. Alyssa and her mother are able to be counseled on a sliding fee schedule.
- *Without United Way support*, Children's Service Society would not be able to provide the services of a parent aide to "Tom" and "Bridget", a developmentally disabled couple who are struggling to parent their 11-year-old son, "William", as well as manage their home and finances. In the past the couple has thrown up their hands in the face of Billy's refusal to obey rules. They've tried "renting" a TV from an appliance store and tried to apply for a credit card even though they have limited financial resources. The parent aide visits their home, provides child management advice and support, and assists them in handling their money.
- *Without United Way support*, Children's Service Society would not be able to provide supervised child exchanges on behalf of "Kayla", age 9, whose parents are in the middle of divorce proceedings. They are having a hard time transferring their daughter between them for visits without resorting to arguments as they begin to set up two separate households. Their visitation facilitator helps them exchange their daughter in a neutral location where they don't have to interact.
- *Without United Way support*, Children's Service Society would not be able to provide the Options for Families (OFF) parenting class to concerned parents who are confused about raising children in a complex society that presents many pitfalls. The class also provides valuable information to parents who lack basic skills and are required to obtain parenting education.

***Without your support,*** United Way cannot continue to help families and individuals in need of guidance as they attempt to put their lives back together. Your help is needed this year more than ever.