

## Partners for Success

Formerly homeless individuals face plenty of challenges on their journey to self-sufficiency. Some people may have experienced homelessness for as little as a few nights, whereas others have experienced homelessness for over ten years. Regardless of amount of time spent on the streets, rejoining society can present several struggles, including social connections and personal interaction. These things may be taken for granted by some, but for others are hard to achieve.

Through **Partners for Success**, formerly homeless individuals have the opportunity to get paired with 2-3 United Way volunteers and form a mentor and mentee relationship. Offering friendship, support and listening ear can make a significant difference in a formerly homeless individual's growth and journey. The relationship that forms between the mentees and mentors can provide the confidence and support that the mentees need to stay the course in achieving their goals and reaching full self-sufficiency.

### How does it work?

Formerly homeless individuals who want to participate in the program along with United Way volunteers are paired into small groups. From there, they begin their relationships and learning experiences. Volunteers are asked to spend at least six months with their group members, build a trust and participate in fun activities together.



**Mentors and their mentees getting to know each other**



**Mentors and their mentees at the movies**

- United Way staff matches groups of at least two volunteers with one formerly homeless person
- Each volunteer commits a minimum of one or more hours per month to the program for at least six months
- Structured orientation/trainings and the first monthly meetings provide opportunity for the volunteers and clients to get to know each other
- After the first few meetings, the rest is left to the group's schedule. Activities include going to lunch, movies or shopping. Be creative!

### Think you're interested?

The commitment is six months but the relationship and the memories can last for a lifetime.

If you would like to participate in this program, please contact Terri Crouch via email at [tcrouch@unitedwayatlanta.org](mailto:tcrouch@unitedwayatlanta.org) or via phone at 404.527.7297.