

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED



He was 15 years old and charged with disorderly conduct. Now he faced a hearing in the Ontario County Youth Court a United Way-funded program. A lot came out in his pre-court interview and again in his testimony at his hearing. Both his parents had changed jobs. Things had gone downhill in their family relationships. He was failing 4 out of 5 classes. He'd been drinking and using drugs. He made lots of poor choices. And then he walked out of school.

Trust had been broken on both sides. Now their communication was

almost non-existent. It was painful for everyone.

His sentence from Youth Court involved Self-Awareness training at GATE Counseling Services. He had to remain in school and seek extra help for his grades. Initially, counseling was made possible by United Way funding. The whole family was involved. And the path to healing was opened.

Now his family is continuing that healing process at their own expense. He's passing all his classes, but even more important – this boy is seeing his future differently. He plans to go on to college. Things at home are a lot better for everyone.

This spring, he'll be taking Youth Court training. Youth Court was the catalyst for the change he and his family needed. Without it, they might never have taken those first steps together toward a very positive outcome.

**When we all work together, we can make change happen.
Together, when we LIVE UNITED, we can make a real difference.**

To give contact United Way of Ontario County, Inc. 585.394.6550