

## Community Impact

### Repair a Car – Secure a Family

To help care for her four grandchildren and daughter who had recently been diagnosed with Bipolar disorder, 51-year-old Sally moved to Columbia and found a job working with special needs adults and children. She obtained a cash advance for \$500, purchased a 1991 Ford Escort, and then spent an additional \$300 making repairs. Running hot and leaking exhaust fumes, the car was on its last leg until the Salvation Army referred Sally to the Emergency Auto Repair Program (EARP), a program of Cooperative Ministry.

Often when a vehicle breaks down, a family is in crisis. To address that problem the Food, Shelter, Safety and Transportation Council of United Way of the Midlands made a \$75,000 Community Impact Grant to Cooperative Ministry to develop a new program that provides emergency car repair for the working poor.

Since her car was repaired, Sally gets to her job and has been able to safely and reliably transport her daughter to medical appointments and her grandchildren to the library, Girl Scouts and other places.

EARP has already helped 36 people like Sally keep their jobs and help their families. The grant also provides emergency assistance, such as bus tickets to people in need of travel to jobs, interviews or services.

Contributions to the Community Impact Fund allow United Way of the Midlands volunteers to focus on the underlying causes of problems for Midlands residents and bring resources to programs that create lasting change.

*United Way of the Midlands is donors, partners and volunteers discovering and responding to the crucial needs of our community—  
then finding resources to address those needs and following up to make sure the work gets done.*

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