

When you make a gift to Heart of Maine United Way, your support helps improve the lives of 122,748 individuals in need across Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, Somerset, Waldo and Washington counties.

Thousands of people in the Heart of Maine United Way service area receive help through the 40 programs funded by your generous gifts.

Good Samaritan Agency located in Bangor, runs one of those funded programs, providing high quality daycare. Heart of Maine United Way and Good Samaritan have been partnering to help the community for more than 85 years.

At Good Samaritan, the staff aren't just watching your child, they are paying attention, improving the lives of one child and one family at a time. Aurora and Miranda know first-hand how that level of care can make a difference in one's life.

Aurora started attending Good Samaritan 5 weeks into her life, and her mom Miranda started working there at the same time. It was a perfect package of employment and daycare required to make things work in Miranda's life when she needed help and support.

However, the story doesn't end there. The staff at Good Samaritan, while caring for Aurora, noticed that she needed help with her gross motor skills. Staff perform age-based screening tests for children attending daycare. The early intervention helped Miranda seek timely assistance. Further, once a treatment was determined, Aurora was provided physical therapy right at the daycare, meaning Miranda didn't need to leave work. The help Aurora received significantly improved her growth and development.

"Good Samaritan made such a difference for us, I'm not sure where we'd be without them," Miranda said.

Aurora started school in the fall of 2021 in the Bangor School System, and now Miranda works for the school system as an ed tech. They both left Good Samaritan at the same time, but Good Samaritan gave them both a hand when they needed it.

Funded programs like Good Samaritan focus on Opportunity 2028 bold goals: **meet basic need and promote self-sufficiency for all; prevent, treat, and support recovery from substance use disorder; and ensure all children have quality early learning experiences.**

Your gift to Heart of Maine United Way will help fund programs that provide these services and also assist with numerous UW initiatives that positively impact the lives of individuals help our community.

To learn more about Aurora and Miranda, or about Heart of Maine United Way, visit our website at www.HoMEUnitedWay.org/videos.

