

LIVE UNITED™

United Way
Metro Chicago



ABOUT 18,000 UNNECESSARY DEATHS OCCUR EACH YEAR BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF HEALTH INSURANCE, MAKING IT THE 6TH LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG PEOPLE AGES 25-64.

Meet **Roxanne.**

In 2006, on her way to visit her sick mother, Roxanne had a seizure that caused her to run into a tree and put her in the hospital. Having taken a leave of absence from her job at that time, she had no insurance, and without the ability to control future seizures, she couldn't find a new job.

A neurologist at the hospital recommended a medication to Roxanne to alleviate the chance of future seizures, but without insurance, Roxanne simply could not afford the medication.

"I didn't know what to do. I had no income, no one to turn to, and nowhere to go. I couldn't do it," Roxanne says.

A social service agency referred Roxanne to a United Way funded program called Access DuPage. The program helped her get her medication for an affordable co-payment and got her in to see a neurologist regularly. And when times got worse and Roxanne needed someone to talk to, they made sure she had the medical support she needed to.

"Nothing was going right for me," Roxanne says. "I had thought about killing myself. I was at the neurologist's one day crying. She asked me what was wrong, and she called for a counselor. She and the counselor really saved my life."

Roxanne continued seeing the counselor, and when her medical condition improved in 2007, she was seizure-free and able to begin working again. Today, she is happily employed as a nurse and grateful for the difference United Way funding made in her life.

"If it hadn't been for that agency, I don't know what I would have done," Roxanne says. "I'm back working now, and I'm on my old insurance. I'm not desperate anymore. I thank God for them. People don't know the importance of having insurance until they're without it. I can't thank them enough for what they did for me."