

**From:** Superintendent  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 7:25 AM  
**To:** EPS.MailList  
**Subject:** United Way Needs Our Support, Please

Dear Colleague:

As I've been thinking about a holiday message to send in this last week before we depart for the holidays, I've become aware that our United Way campaign is falling behind last year. Our donation level at this point is down about 11% compared to last year's district wide, record-setting donation of \$123,000.

Sue and I are committed supporters of United Way because students and families in Everett Public Schools directly and indirectly benefit from the agencies supported by United Way. We know from personal experience that community generosity helps change the lives of so many young men and women like Dominick. You can read Dominick's story and those of others on the [United Way of Snohomish County](#) website – and see how United Way makes the most of your donations on behalf of others.

Because so many in our community still need our personal support, ***I urge you to double check to see if you have returned your United Way pledge form for this year.*** If you haven't, please put it in the district mail to our Everett Public Schools Foundation *by this Friday*. They'll take care of it for you. If you have returned your pledge form, thank you so very much. And thank you for all that you give our community's families in your work each day, and the ways you help brighten the world for our students.

Warm wishes,

Gary



#### **Dominick's Story**

If you've ever made a big change in your life, you know that old habits can be hard to break. This is Dominick's story. At 17, Dominick had dropped out of school, and became involved in drugs and a gang. Dominick knew his life was headed in the wrong direction, and when he reached rock bottom, he knew it was time to make a lasting change. Slowly, Dominick separated himself from the negative influences in his life, but was often tempted to fall back into a life of drugs and violence. Then, he was introduced to Cocoon House's U-Turn program, a drop-in center for at-risk teens and a United Way funded program. Soon, Dominick was volunteering many hours each week at U-Turn, and was amazed at what a deep impact he was able to have on each teen in the program. "I understand what they're going through. I've been where they are," Dominick says. This perspective gave Dominick a unique connection with each teen he mentored. Dominick was also amazed at the deep impact volunteering at U-Turn had on

him. "Volunteering with these teens has shown me that I'm a positive influence in their lives. That's so rewarding, and has reinforced my decision to change my life. I'm on the right track now, and I know I'll

stay that way,” says Dominick. Today, Dominick attends Everett Community College and is planning to transfer to the University of Washington where he wants to pursue dentistry. Thanks to your donations to United Way of Snohomish County’s Local Community Fund, Dominick now has direction, and a bright future.

*“Volunteering changed my life. I’m on the right track now, and I know I’ll stay that way.” –Dominick*