

everyone deserves a

YOUR GIFT CAN DO SO MUCH

# change

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## ELIJAH AND ALEYA

At 17, Aleya had already lived a hard life. Her mother was diagnosed with cancer and passed away and her father had problems with substance abuse. When she became pregnant, she knew that she wanted a better life for her son Elijah.

Aleya is determined to break the cycle of poverty and provide Elijah with the stability she did not experience as a child.

That's where the DOCK, one of United Way of Brevard's funded partner agencies, comes in. The DOCK contributes to family stability and the economic vitality of the residents of the Booker T. Washington neighborhood. It provides a safe gathering place and nurturing center for neighborhood youth after school and during the summer – the hours when they are most likely to get in trouble. Staff and volunteers emphasize academic achievement and model and encourage healthy life choices, with a goal of encouraging youth to see themselves as productive citizens in the future.

**Elijah attends the DOCK every day after school where he participates in educational opportunities and character building. He's a smart, cheerful, 8-year-old who's making all B's on his report card at school.**

With the encouragement of the DOCK staff, Aleya has started college at Eastern Florida State College. She is striving to raise Elijah as a good man who is spiritually fit. She is determined to be the involved parent that she never had.



United Way of Brevard

Changing Lives and Strengthening Communities