

FINANCIAL WELLNESS



United Way of Tucson
and Southern Arizona

United Way's **Financial Wellness** programs work to improve the equity of employment and financial wellness outcomes of adults and families. Programs and partnerships are focused on improving employment and Financial Wellness for life-long well-being.

The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program provides free tax preparation to households earning up to \$66,000. **The Siemer Family Stability Program**, in partnership with Our Family Services and the Siemer Institute, seeks to help families in crisis stabilize and position themselves to improve their quality of life. **Prosperity in Schools**, in partnership with the Community Schools Initiative, Higher Ground, and AmeriCorps, helps connect families to human service resources in the community.



TO LOW-INCOME ARIZONA
RESIDENTS





MEET THE SCHMIDT FAMILY

Sonia is a 33-year-old mother of two, Ikuzo and Michael, and helps support Savannah, her step daughter, with her husband Jeffery Schmitz. Sonia moved to Tucson four years ago from Rwanda and is currently employed as a Direct Care professional and enrolled in the LPN course at Pima Community College. When she first moved to America with her husband, it was at first difficult to communicate and transition from life in Africa to life in America as a new mother. Looking for community support, Sonia's family became involved with Healthy Families, a program sponsored in part by United Way of Tucson, which provides free in-home support and education on parenting techniques from Family Support Specialists. "I was a new Mom and had no family to help. Healthy families came to our apartment and gave me information on what to expect for every trimester and techniques to help raise and play with the kids. United Way is important because it helps parents raise their kids in a healthy and safe way and helps keep families United."

When Sonia first enrolled in the LPN Program at Pima Community College, she was unsure if she would be able to find affordable daycare for her three children so she could attend classes. Quality First, a program funded by United Way of Tucson, was there to step in and provide a scholarship to Sonia's family to provide free Child Care while she works towards earning her degree. "I gained a lot of support from United Way of Tucson, so much useful information for me and my family but mostly I now have scholarships for my kid's daycare. Nursing school is intense, but I am happy my husband and I have day care to help so we won't be worried about having to pay. I hope everyone will know about the many benefits we received from United Way and I hope they can receive help like we did. I would like to thank each and every person who is working hard for the best interest of our community. Thank you, United Way, for caring. I appreciate the love and support you have provided to me and my family."