



"You may not always have a comfortable life. And you will not always be able to solve all the world's problems all at once. But don't ever underestimate the impact you can have, because history has shown us that courage can be contagious, and hope can take on a life of its own."

**MICHELLE
OBAMA**

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO, SHARLA MYERS

The last year and a half has severely tested even the most serene of us. Here at Community Council, we have seen it all. The impact of the pandemic, racial injustice, lost jobs, division, fear, and hate have been felt across our community and especially by our most vulnerable neighbors. We see it every day and the fact of it makes many people uncomfortable. For them, it is easier to turn and ignore the problem, because it is too painful to face.

At Community Council, we think differently. We know we cannot solve all the problems in our community, but that doesn't mean that we don't try. Every single day, we are helping those in need, whether it is because they need a job, need help with bills, are older and alone, are a caregiver needing respite or a hungry family needing to be connected to resources. Whatever the problem, we help people, regardless of their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status or disability.

When I talk to our staff and see the difference they are making, and the lives that we are impacting, I am reminded of starfish story.

A young girl was walking along a beach upon which thousands of starfish had been stranded after a terrible storm. When she came to each starfish, she would pick it up and throw it back into the ocean. After some time, a man approached her and said, "Little girl, why are you doing this? Look at this beach! You cannot possibly save all of these starfish! You can't begin to make a difference!" She looked at him for a moment, then bent down, picked up another starfish and hurled it back into the ocean. She looked at the man, smiled and said,

"Well, I made a difference for that one!" *

One by one, we are making a difference for citizens in our community and their families. Just this year, we have impacted over 150,000 lives, one person at a time. For almost 80 years now, Community Council has been showing courage and giving hope.

If you need help, you will find it on this website. And if you want to give hope, you can do that by going to our Get Involved pages. Together we can provide leadership in moving individuals and families from surviving to thriving. We can continue to improve quality of life by alleviating poverty, fostering independence and wellness, and connecting people to the resources they need.

We can make a difference!

**Adapted from "The Star Thrower" from THE UNEXPECTED UNIVERSE by Loren Eiseley. Copyright © 1968 by Loren Eiseley and renewed 1996 by John A. Eichman, III.*