

# GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED



**G**avin O'Leary is a vivacious 9 year old boy with bright eyes, a smile that radiates and a personality characterized by curiosity, charm and great empathy. Gavin creates complex structures with Legos and loves the Discovery and History channels.

Within a two-year span of time, Gavin faced his mother's battle with cancer, the destruction of the family home by fire, his oldest brother's deployment to Iraq and his father's automobile accident. These events created emotional turmoil for Gavin. At Cuyler Elementary School in Red Creek, he had trouble socially and academically.

Gavin was referred to the Early Intervention Program of Catholic Charities of Wayne County, a program which receives significant funding from United Way of Wayne County. The program counselor, Andrea Herbert, met

with Gavin for weekly individual counseling sessions and worked closely with school staff and Gavin's parents.

Gavin has now made a great deal of progress in all areas of his life. His mother states, "Gavin is making friends for the first time, and really getting along with other children." When asked about the effectiveness of the Early Intervention Program, she replied, "I attribute all of his progress to this program and its help to the family. I don't know what we would have done without it."

Gavin's teacher, Ms. Manning, reports that his grades and social skills have improved and that he has a positive attitude about learning. Ms. Manning says that "With Catholic Charities of Wayne County making a home-school connection, students are demonstrating improved learning attitudes. I appreciate working with them in helping children."

"Thanks to United Way," says Tim Sullivan, Executive Director of Catholic Charities, "Troubled young children in Wayne County can get on a positive track that makes a huge difference for the rest of their lives."

For over eight years the  
Early Intervention Program has  
served over 550 children in Wayne  
County with a 96% success rate.

**When we all work together, we can make change happen.  
Together, when we LIVE UNITED, we can make a real difference.**

To give, contact United Way of Wayne County, Inc. 315-331-2773