



## MEET ERNESTO – A SUCCESS STORY THANKS TO YOU

United Way of Siouxland works to better the lives of people in the community. We fund programs that work to fight for health, education, and financial stability in Siouxland. The services provided allow for success stories like Ernesto's.

For a time after his parent's divorce, Ernesto was forced to live in foster care. When he left foster care he was moved between his grandmother's, his dad's and his mother's house making him detached which contributed to his struggle making friends.

Ernesto began attending Boys and Girls Clubs of Siouxland when he was 12 year old. He had few friends and was shy when he started at the Club. As time passed, Ernesto became immersed in the program and what it had to offer. He was elected President of the Torch Club by his peers.

From that point on Ernesto flourished and quickly began making friends. He has volunteered over a thousand hours at the Club and in the community. Ernesto is the first to volunteer for anything needed and is there to help younger members with their homework, playing games, or any other opportunities that the Club has available.

Since his time at the Club, the small shy 12 year-old boy has grown into an outstanding 16 year-old young man with several friends.

In 2017 Ernesto was nominated for and won the Youth of the Year award from Boys and Girls Clubs of Siouxland. He is also a graduate of the New Horizons career development program and once he completed the program he was hired as a regular part-time employee at the Club as a kitchen assistant.

Ernesto said the Club has changed his life and made him a more confident, caring, and happy person. He says the friendships he made are something he directly attributes to his time there.

Ernesto is just one of the many people helped by your donation to United Way of Siouxland.

Thank you for **LIVING UNITED** | United We Fight. United We Win.