



***A Success Story from Kelly Wiggins,
executive director of The Gate – Gateway
to Independence, a United Way of Blount
County partner agency***

“At the Gate we are truly fortunate to allow the participants to define their own aim or purpose, even in little ways. There are many successes that most of them could not accomplish without their Gate peers. We see weekly celebrations between friends as one young lady uses her own healthy legs to achieve new levels of success on the Wii Fit for her friend confined to a wheelchair. Another participant 'writes' daily updates to take home to her parents due to the diligence and patience of a staff member listening and capturing the thoughts on paper. There are boisterous interactions at the card table as friends assist each other reading their cards, but are still accomplishing a competitive card game. We are blessed to see friends assist friends with craft projects when one's hand might not be steady enough for success on their own. Our success is also readily visible to those who visit when we have participants volunteer to lead tours through our facility and use their own voices to speak for those of our participants who cannot speak... even if they have to push their friend confined to a wheelchair while leading the tour. We could not be prouder to have a program that gives a purpose (and many successes) to those who have often been left to feel that they do not have one.”

**United
Way**



**United Way
of Blount County**

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