

## Growing up with drugs, alcohol & abuse can steal kids' self-esteem



**United Way**  
Central and Northern  
Vancouver Island

### Mentoring Programs Funded by Our Donors Help Kids to Feel Valued and to Build Healthy Relationships

**Until he was eight years old, drugs, alcohol and verbal abuse played a large part in Danny's daily home life. Although he was a good kid, Danny was exceedingly shy around others. The friendships he did make usually did not last because Danny would cling to his friends, afraid they would leave him.**

When he was nine, Danny moved in with his grandmother. His grandmother thought Danny needed a male role model in his life, someone who could interact with him in a healthy way. She enrolled him in a United Way-funded mentoring program.

His mentor, Steve, is dedicated to spending quality time with Danny. They do lots of simple activities together, laugh a lot, and just plain have fun. Danny looks up to Steve and looks forward to their time together.

Danny's grandmother tears up as she discusses the remarkable changes in her grandson.

"He now has self-esteem, which continues to grow. He has come out of his shell and is no longer so desperately needy that it pushes other

children away. Steve is a treasure to all of us in the family for everything he has done for Danny."



*"I honestly feel that this mentoring program has saved my grandson from years of struggling with self-identity."*

"I honestly feel that this mentoring program has saved my grandson from years of struggling with self-identity, something I couldn't provide for him. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the gift you have given Danny."

To donate to United Way and for more information about programs we fund in our community, go to [www.uwcnvi.ca](http://www.uwcnvi.ca)