



of Greater Marietta

## Agency Feature:

*A look at the agencies  
that benefit from the  
United Way*

### Betsey Mills Club

With the help of the United Way, the Betsey Mills was able to approve a swim scholarship for an 8 year old boy of the Marietta area. His mother attended swim lessons with him on the weekends. He has been diagnosed with autism and may have epileptic seizures at times. His older brother has autism (Asperger's syndrome) and will not swim; he has only recently been able to shower and wash his own hair. Autism is a developmental disorder of the human brain that first shows signs during infancy or childhood and follows a steady course without remission or relapse. Impairments result from maturation-related changes in various systems of the brain. Autism is a disability that affects 1 out of 150 children.

In the beginning, he was timid in the water, but soon started to swim from one side to another with the assistance of the swim instructor. He is now able to float on his back without assistance and his

current goal is to move into deeper water. The Betsey Mills has committed its Level 1 aquatic program for children of all ages to learn to blow bubbles, get their entire head wet, be able to swim on front and back of their body, and to float on their front and back. Teaching a child to float on their back is a great life saving technique.

The Betsey Mills is now offering infant swim lessons and Level 1 swim lessons to children during the week and on the weekends. The United Way has helped to fund many activities that the Betsey Mills has to offer to children and adults. This story has been written as an example of just one family in need that the Betsey Mills in part with the United Way was able to touch the lives of a local family.

*UW Allocation - \$22,500*

**To Improve lives by mobilizing the  
caring power of communities**

[www.mariettauw.org](http://www.mariettauw.org)

