



## TRUE ADVOCACY IS AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF THOSE MOST IMPACTED

Natividad was a policy intern through the Capital Pathways program, paired her with Greater Twin Cities United Way Advocacy & External Engagement team for an immersive internship experience.

“I’m really passionate about advocacy and reaching community voices that aren’t always heard. I think policy is a really great way to do that, coming from a social work background. A lot of the times what we do on the ground works, but I think it’s just as important to make those changes on a legislative level.”

“Advocating for my community is important to me because when I was younger, I didn’t always have those voices looking out for families like mine. And so I think it’s really important now to have a collective group and meeting the needs of the people and like the current atmosphere that we’re in.”

Her experiences fueled her passion for addressing the benefits cliff with United Way this session and heard from various perspectives, including parents, government organizations, GTCUW’s nonprofit partners and legislators about the current challenges Minnesota communities are facing and the ways we can address the issue.

“I’ve learned that it takes a lot of work to be able to make sustainable change. That’s more than just a statement. A lot of the times things can be put in words, but are not always put into action. And so there needs to be important follow-through when you make policy changes.”

Greater Twin Cities United Way uses advocacy to address policy changes that benefit our local community covering a wide range of work including early education and stable housing. Oftentimes their **211 Resource Helpline** plays an influential role in providing metrics and data to support decision making.