

United Way of Hernando County

Partner Program Success Stories - Q4

2021-2022

NAMI Hernando EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Allie had been Baker Acted many times and the last time she was in the hospital, she attended a NAMI Connections Recovery Support Group. After she was stabilized on her medication she was enrolled in the partial hospitalization program (PHP), where NAMI led the same type of group she attended in the hospital. After Allie graduated from PHP she expressed she would miss her group, so she began going to NAMI and started meeting with a Certified Recovery Peer Specialist (CRPS). Her first goal in this program was to build a strong support system, set healthy boundaries with family, and learn additional coping skills. The week after Allie graduated from the Peer to Peer program she shared with her CRPS, her husband and her were finally communicating instead of fighting and even her daughters noticed how calm things had been. Allie is now in training to become a CRPS.



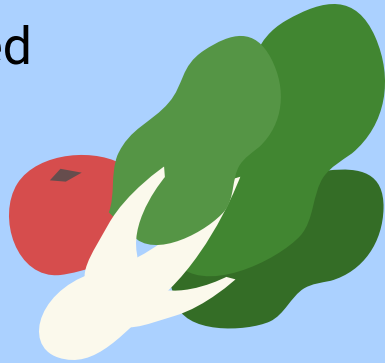
Dawn Center DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES



A young mother and her children were accessing supportive services through Dawn Center's emergency shelter in an attempt to live safely without her abusive partner. Through the advocacy and case management services she received while at Dawn Center, she was able to successfully obtain stable and independent housing, stable employment, affordable childcare for her kids, and is now enrolled in schooling in the medical field. This survivor also applied for and was approved to enter Dawn Center's Transitional Housing Program so that her housing expenses can be covered by the program while she focuses on furthering her education.

St. Vincent De Paul FOOD PANTRY

John biked 12 miles in the summer heat from North Brooksville to arrive at the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry. He arrived soaking wet to get food for his family of four. St. Vincent De Paul provided a shopping basket to and allowed to choose from their daily food selection (up to 70 pounds of food). John filled two shopping bags and his backpack with food to bring home. As John was leaving he asked if anyone had \$1.50 so he could take the local bus home, he didn't think he'd make it back with his heavy bags. Thankfully, more than one pair of hands found \$1.50, allowing him and the food to safely make it home.



Catholic Charities FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE PREGNANCY CENTER

During the fall of 2016 Natasha and her then boyfriend, Joe, came to FOL for pregnancy confirmation and an ultrasound. The new couple was financially insecure due to Natasha beginning a master's program and Joe was unemployed. They received comprehensive care sessions which included mentoring, and educational classes on pregnancy & parenting. The couple felt encouraged to reach the goals they set for themselves, and had their daughter in July 2017. Natasha has now completed her master's program and Joe went to aeronautical repair school. Before the couple moved away for a job opportunity, Natasha was eager to introduce her 6 month old son and re-introduce her 2 daughters to FOL. Natasha and Joe are very grateful for the services provided by FOL and United Way so long ago during a difficult time that led to all this success as a family.



Mid Florida Homeless Coalition DIVERSION & WRAPAROUND HOMELESS SERVICES

Can you imagine being homeless, living on the streets of Hernando County for years, and thinking you'd never found a place? Now imagine you find a place that is perfect and will accept your beloved pet. Then your case managers tell you they can pay for all your move-in costs but not the pet deposits. This was Ken's reality, he was being forced to choose comfort or his pet that had been with him since the beginning. Ken's MGHC Outreach worker and SVDP Case Manger worked with him to figure this out. Thankfully, United Way was able to help with his pet deposit, a recliner, and bed frame. As well as, SVDP provided the funds for him to purchase a mattress. Ken, after more than 3 years of living on the streets and sleeping on the ground, is now in a home with his beloved companion, sitting in his recliner, and sleeping in his bed instead of the ground.



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of Hernando

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Supported Programs

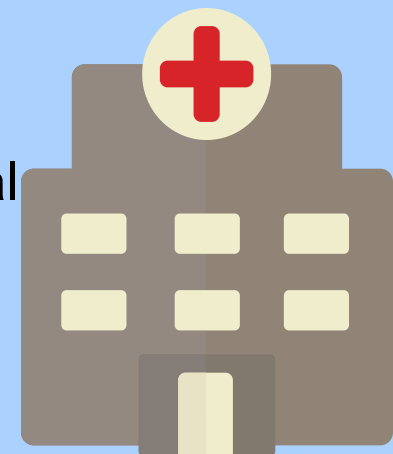
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Emergency Assistance Highlights - Q4

2021-2022

"What We Call Snow-Balling In Florida"

A family of four reached out to the United Way office because they were behind on their monthly mortgage payment. Upon asking the wife what led them to this point, she explained that their family had been hit back to back with financial hardships over the last year. Both her and her husband contracted Covid-19 and were out of work for 16 days with no pay. In August they were forced to replace their roof, which put them back an additional \$3,000, and come April, the husband was hospitalized for a heart condition he previously was unaware he had. The family was so close to being caught up on their bills, but the hospitalization set them right back to square one. United Way was able to step in and help this family get back on track, to avoid further late fees and more bills piling up.



"Ensuring Student's Learning Continuity"

A local high school student found himself placed with a relative due to unforeseen circumstances beyond his control. He was enrolled in virtual learning and although his new home did have internet access, he did not have a computer to complete schoolwork and homework on. United Way was able to gift a laptop to to this student so that he would not fall behind in his studies during this difficult transition period.



"Imagination Library Books Comfort Toddler"

"I wanted to say Thank you. Thank you to the United Way for sponsoring my baby for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Your thoughtfulness allows my daughter to relax, imagine, pretend, think, and learn. This past week we transitioned into a big girl bed for my daughter's second birthday. As we made her bed, we placed a couple cuddle babies and a book in her bed. Just after midnight on the first night, my daughter woke up. Instead of crying, she grabbed her book and started to read."

- Pamela



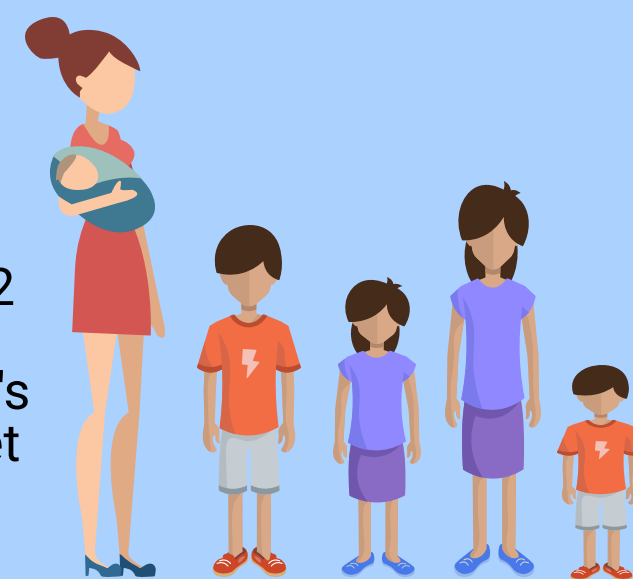
"RIDE UNITED: Making Food Accessible for Homebound"

A homebound senior's husband passed away in January 2021. She had relied on her husband to shop for groceries, and/or drive to local food pantries when needed, as she is blind and unable to drive. His social security check had been their main source of income, and without this she is now experiencing food insecurity. With no steady access to transportation, she has been unable to benefit from the local food pantry. "I wish I could find a food pantry that delivers" was her statement. United Way of Hernando County was able to bridge that gap through their RIDE UNITED pilot program, in partnership with DoorDash. Food was successfully delivered, contactless.



"SWIFT REHOUSING"

A hard working mother in the medical field and her family of 8, found themselves unhoused when their landlord sold the house out from underneath them to a buyer who intended to reside there vs. rent it. After a 2 week stay in a hotel (which depleted their savings account), they managed to secure a lease for a new apartment. However, at this time, they no longer had the funding required to cover move in costs. United Way's emergency assistance fund was luckily able to step in and assist, preventing them from sleeping on the street for even 1 night.



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