

United Way of Hernando County

Q1 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2023-2024

Dawn Center

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

"A father and his young child reached out to Dawn Center seeking assistance "if any were available" to his family after losing their home due to domestic violence perpetrated against him. The family came into Dawn Center's emergency shelter. While they were there, Dawn Center's case management team stepped up to assist by connecting the family to the Students in Transition team at the Hernando County School District, Community Legal Services of MidFlorida, local thrift stores, and other community resources. This family has successfully moved into their new safe housing, have legal protections in place, and the children are thriving in their new school environment."



Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind

ADAPTIVE SKILLS



"Dale has Macular Degeneration and just started living on his own. He used to rely on a roommate to do many household tasks because of his vision loss. Dale took LVIB's Independent Living Skills Program (IL) to develop skills to care for himself and his home. Before IL, he pretty much lived on frozen meals because they were easier to manage and less likely to burn, however he wanted to be able to cook other things. During cooking classes, he was taught to slow down and use a lower temperature. He was also taught to cook with a timer and by using his sense of smell and touch. He was thrilled when he prepared a perfect grill cheese sandwich by himself. He also had problems cracking eggs into the pan. He has learned to crack his eggs flawlessly using a butter knife. He cracks them into a dark-colored bowl for contrast and then pours them into the skillet. At his graduation, Dale cooked meat, cut vegetables, and was assisted with assembling a ravioli bake. These are all skills that were beyond his capabilities when he started IL. Dale learned many other skills, such as how to clean his home and label cleaning products. He was also introduced to the various magnifiers, the Talking Book Library, Alexa, and community resources which include an accessible pharmacy. Dale is planning to take Assistive Technology and White Cane with LVIB. He is very eager to learn and now very confident and capable of living independently as a person with a vision loss."

Early Learning Coalition

EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

"When I previously started coursework with another program, I knew as an expectant mother it would be a challenge to meet the timeframes and coursework of the program. However, given the recent changes with ELC's new partnerships, I have the opportunity to complete my CDA, due to its flexibility, along with receiving financial assistance to support tuition, and having supportive staff while being out on maternity leave. I will now be able to complete my CDA, and return to my place of employment, without having to stop my education."



NAMI Hernando

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



"We recently started offering our Peer-to-Peer class at Jericho Road Ministries. This has given us the opportunity to connect with some of the individual's overcoming substance use disorder in their program. Frequently people living with substance use disorder do not know there is an underlying mental health condition that led them to start self-medicating. By taking the Peer-to-Peer class they learn more about symptoms of mental health conditions and how to describe their feelings to the treatment providers they are seeing. Last month when John went to his appointment at Baycare he used the skills he learned to assist in getting a proper diagnosis and referral to the FACT team. Since then, he has started working, is getting ready to graduate the Jericho Road Program, is being assisted with housing by the FACT team and is in the final Phase of the Mental Health Court program."

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of Hernando

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Supported Programs

United Way of Hernando County Q1 Emergency Assistance

2023-2024

"Career Change & Taking Charge"

United Way received a call from a local school educator desperately looking for mortgage assistance. United Way recognized this couple was transitioning from a career change and as a result left them without a few weeks' pay. They immediately called their mortgage company to set up a forbearance in order to not lose their home. Almost every organization denied them, it seemed that their income was too high and did not meet some of the requirements. United Way completed an assessment and intake, collected their documents and came to an agreement with the mortgage company to pay what was owed. United Way understood all too well that this working family was enduring what seemed to be a crisis, although employed with a now steady income, and see situations like this almost too often nowadays. The family explained how this affected their family and sometimes even going without the basics. United Way helped in unloading some of that financial burden with providing mortgage assistance and food, which resulted in allowing this family to experience peace once again.



"Taking Care of the Caretaker"



A caretaker for her disabled grandson experienced an unexpected loss of income when her oldest daughter and adult granddaughter moved out of the home and left her to pay the mortgage on her own on a fixed income. She was now in danger of going into foreclosure. Attempting to make ends meet, she resulted to selling prepared foods in her neighborhood in order to supplement the lost income. At this point, she was denied other services due to previously receiving assistance with her electric bill. During intake, she stated that she was going to rent out 2 bedrooms in her home in order to be able to come up with the mortgage payments, her daughter also offered to help with covering the costs of her utilities monthly until she was able to catch up. United Way stepped in loaded her up with non-perishables, toiletries and covered her past due mortgage so that she can keep her home for both her and her grandson.

"A Voice for Those In Need"

A woman called United Way asking if there was any way we can help her, for she had suffered a stroke a few years ago and had recently been diagnosed with having blood clots in her legs. She immediately had to schedule her surgery which caused her to miss a few weeks of work. She explained that she never thought she would be in this situation and felt bad asking for help, but already knew there was no way she was going to make this month's rent, since she lived alone on a sole income. After assessing her situation and advocating on behalf of her needs, her adult daughter offered to help her mother with her future rent payments while she was in recovery. Connecting and collaborating with her daughter made it possible for United Way to get her caught up with her rent and avoid an eviction, while she recovered from surgery.



"Homeless, But Not Hopeless"



United Way received a message that a husband and wife with 2 children had just relocated from another county and were staying at a local motel. The wife was curious about the services provided by United Way and if there was any way to help them out of this unfortunate situation. After giving notice to their property manager that they would be breaking their lease, there was a break a lease equivalent to 2 months' rent that gets put on your credit history when not paid. This break lease fee is well over \$3,000.00, now landlords are hesitant to rent to them and keep getting doors shut in their face. After an assessment this couple made enough money to cover rent, but the high costs of motel stay (\$700 weekly) made it nearly impossible to save enough money for 1st month's rent & security. United Way was able to help this family with basic needs, food (since they do not qualify for food stamps) and are now an on-going client as we continue to work with them, trying to navigate their next steps in finding an affordable home. The ultimate goal is to get this hard-working family of 4 out of the motel and into a new apartment.

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Supported Programs