

United Way of Hernando County

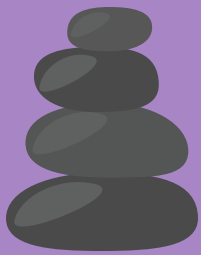
Q3 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2022-2023

Boys & Girls Club

S.M.A.R.T PROGRAM

" 'Matthew' (changed to protect confidentiality), a 4th grader, came to the Club to interact socially with his peers and have some needed structure. He lives in a home with a single father who does everything he can to care for his children. 'Matthew's' mother is in and out of their lives due to drug use. Matthew is a big brother to his little sister, who also attends the Club. 'Matthew' is a protector of his friends and little sister, sometimes getting him in trouble when he reacts by screaming in his peers' faces. He is working on regulating his emotions with the SMART Programs we provide at the Club through mentoring; Matthew has learned new coping skills and continues practicing them at the Club and at home. Matthew's hard work is paying off and he is now a leader in his Unit."



Dawn Center

Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services

"A mother of four entered Dawn Center's emergency shelter after having suffered significant physical injury from her perpetrator. As a survivor of domestic violence and a single mother of small children, she was greatly overwhelmed. The Dawn Center was able to provide resources which included therapy, job placement assistance, and transportation to doctor visits. Dawn Center, along with our partners at Hernando County Schools, were able to support the children in their academics through on-site tutoring. The children were able to return to class quickly and were completely up to date in their homework and studies."

Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind

INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS PROGRAM

"Holly is an 80-year-old woman who lives with her husband. She came to the Lighthouse recently, hoping to regain independence in her daily activities in order to be independent in her home. Holly has age-related macular degeneration and she was struggling with daily living tasks that included cooking. She was enrolled in Lighthouse's Independent Living Skills Program and completed it successfully. She really appreciated the program and said the most useful parts included learning how to use the signature guide, cut meat and vegetables safely, do a systematic search technique to find dropped objects, and was she was helped with developing various adaptive skills related to diabetes management. Holly was thrilled to learn how to get the test strip into her meter and accurately get the blood on the strip. At the end of class, she stated that her goals for the future are returning to golfing and painting, signing up for transportation services available in her area, and taking the Lighthouse Android phone training program. Holly has also started cooking again because she feels now confident in her abilities to safely prepare and cook meals."



Mid Florida Homeless Coalition

DIVERSION & WRAPAROUND HOMELESS SERVICES

" One of our partners, the Dawn Center, notified us that "Jane" was in need of assistance. An apartment had been identified for Jane and her six children to move into, however while waiting for the apartment to be ready, the family had to move into their car for a period of time after exhausting their allowed stay at the Dawn Center. As the apartment was still not available, "Jane" asked if we could assist with a different apartment. They'd been accepted by the complex, and Mid Florida Homeless Coalition was able to assist with the security deposit thanks to the United Way grant funds, and used their EF&SP funding to pay for the first month's rent. Spring Hill Head Start assisted with sending documentations to MFHC in order to process the payments. Mid Florida Community Services joined in to help with initial fees for internet services. "Jane" and her Children are now enjoying the safety, security and comfort of their new home."



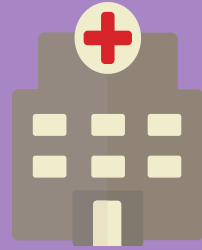
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Q3 Emergency Assistance

2022-2023

"Short Term Disability With Long Term Damage"

A woman called asking if United Way could help her with her rent. She was deeply affected by Shingles back in June 2022 and faced a long recovery. The Shingles affected her arms and legs causing severe nerve damage which resulted in having to go to Physical Therapy for 6 months. Forced to go on Short Term Disability, she had managed to keep her rent paid. She was released from therapy and was expected to go back to work, but was not going to be able to pay her rent that month since it would be at least a few weeks until she received a paycheck. After United Way conducted a detailed assessment, it was clear that this hard worker simply needed financial assistance to keep her from falling behind. United Way humbly assisted with rent, so this client could comfortably return to work as she still recovers from long-term nerve damage.



"Hearing the Needs of a Deaf Couple"

A deaf married couple have been living in their car and in and out of motels for the last 2 years. Back in 2021, they resided in a trailer park when their landlord decided to sell his property and the couple was forced to leave in 45 days. With no family in Florida, they have been living on the streets ever since, barely getting by and both living off SSI. It wasn't until their Case Manager at **Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services of Florida** contacted **United Way of Hernando** for a full assessment of needs was there a light at the end of the tunnel. An interpreter translated for the couple at our office where it was shared that an application was submitted, but never approved for a mobile home in Brooksville. Upon further assessment, the potential landlord discovered the couple had bad credit and had previously filed for bankruptcy. The landlord then required the couple pay 2 deposits and the first month's rent in order to move in. This assistance case quickly tripled in cost and was extremely unique. The husband, who happened to also be legally blind, was ineligible for a medical procedure due to him not having a stable living environment to properly heal in. The couple left the office feeling defeated, but United Way was not willing to give up on the opportunity to help change the course of their lives. With most of their money going towards on-the-fly motel stays, the couple was unable to save and budget for these move-in expenses. United Way proceeded with paying move-in costs, with stipulations – United Way will reconvene with them a month after move-in to make sure they are on track, being held accountable for spending habits, and will be required to submit a more accurate monthly budget. They will also need to attend financial workshops through Florida Master Money Mentors to explore options to improve their credit, manage budget and identify steps to self-sufficiency.



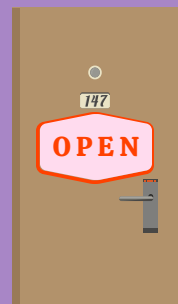
"When Helping Hurts"

A young lady working at an assisted living facility called United Way asking for assistance with her electric bill that was past due. She is a single parent with 1 child working overtime to help try to make ends meet. At the end of her double shift, a patient had fallen. While picking up the patient, she injured severely pulled her back. While getting ready for her next shift, she quickly realized just how injured her back was, and was forced to call out of work. Not having enough sick time accrued, she was obligated to take days off without pay, pending Workman's Comp. She has been backed up since the summer season and had been attempting to catch up, but was falling short every month. By United Way covering costs for her past utilities and breaking this vicious cycle of being behind, this is now one less thing she'll have to worry about and can fully focus on healing.



"An Eviction & A New Beginning"

We received a knock at the door one Friday afternoon from a distraught mother; she was scheduled to be evicted from her home that afternoon. She came to us a last resort for assistance and had completely lost hope in her situation. She was multiple months behind on rent, after going to a single income household, and could realistically no longer afford the home her family resided in. She had put money away in case there was an opportunity to help secure her home; at this point there was no reversing the eviction. With the help of United Way's Program Care Coordinator, a phone call was made to the lawyer handling the eviction and the eviction was stopped under the condition that she removes herself and belongings from the home on Monday afternoon no later than 12pm. The mother understood that without the final judgment of the eviction she'd still have a chance to find housing since the eviction wouldn't affect her credit report. It was important to her that she find a home for her and her 3 children, even if that meant staying with a family member until she was able to secure a place to rent again. That afternoon, United Way was able to obtain a storage unit and helped her apply for an apartment that would be available for her in within 3 weeks. She was able to get all this accomplished with help of someone who was willing to listen. All she needed was someone to encourage her and reassure her that her community cared. In all reality, she did the footwork, United Way just guided her every step of the way – which was exactly what she needed.



United Way
of Hernando



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