UNITED WAY OF HERNANDO COUNTY

2018-2019 Annual Report

GIVE

ADVOCATE

VOLUNTEER

United Way of Hernando County, Inc.
4028 Commercial Way, Spring Hill FL, 34606
Phone: 352-688-2026
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Dear Friends of the United Way of Hernando County,

On behalf of our devoted Board of Directors and staff, we would like to personally thank you for another year of GIVING, ADVOCATING, and VOLUNTEERING. The United Way team each year invests its time, treasurers, and talents into strategically assessing and improving our community here in Hernando County. Through this process, it’s important for us to listen to the needs of our residents and to identify the gaps in services. It’s important for us to align with our Corporate Partner’s passions and for us to continue to invest in our Partner Programs that directly impact thousands of local lives a year. It’s important for us to be empathetic yet strong, to be kind hearted yet focused, and it’s important for our organization to continue to grow in order to keep up with the fast paced demands of a rapidly growing community of over 186,000 people.

The 2018-2019 year was filled with so many accomplishments, but if anything it was a testament of how we are truly “Powered by Partnerships”. Your United Way of Hernando County is uniquely positioned to directly impact change. Not only is this done through the generous GIVING of over 103 Corporate Partners, but through ADVOCATING on behalf of 20 non-profit agencies and 26 of their health & human service programs, and through dedicated individuals VOLUNTEERING their time (equivalent to the value of $91,662) for causes they are most passionate about. Through these areas of change we LIVE UNITED.

These Partnerships continue to fuel our fire as we fight for the HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND FINANCIAL STABILITY of every person in our community. We ask that you lean on us this coming year. Allow United Way to be your lead organization when you don’t know where to go or when someone struggling needs hope the most. Together we will continue to ensure more working individuals and families improve their financial literacy and stability, build a healthier community, and provide support for some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Needless to say, there is so much room for growth! We could not achieve these ambitious steps without your continued support. United Way is fortunate to have a terrific staff, a UNITED Board, and so many wonderful volunteers and donors. We are humbled to serve, inspired to lead, and grateful for the power to do both.

As always, thank you for LIVING UNITED.

Sincerely,

Richard Linkul and Angie Bonfardino-Walasek
Thanks to our committed Community Investment Grant (CIG) Review Team Members, throughout the 2018-2019 FY United Way proudly invested over $360,000 in 20 Partner Agencies and 26 local Health, Education, Financial Stability, and Basic Needs/Crisis Prevention initiatives and outreach programs.

**Financial Stewardship**

**Accountability**
United Way has a stringent system of checks, balances, and internal controls in place to ensure it operates in a sound fiscal manner. The organization’s operating budget, as well as its community funding decisions, are reviewed by volunteer committees and approved by the Board of Directors.

**Ethics**
United Way’s Board of Directors annually abide by the Code of Ethics and Conduct Agreement. The purpose of the code is to describe standards of conduct and business ethics expected of the directors, officers, standing committee members, and United Way staff & volunteers. Practicing but not limited to: leadership, responsibility, personal and professional integrity, diversity and equal opportunity, and confidentiality.

**Statement on Accounting & Reporting Practices**
Here at United Way of Hernando County, Inc. we take our role as a trusted community leader seriously. As a result, we have a long tradition of adhering to high standards of accountability and transparency. Our most recent IRS Form 990 and audit are available upon request.
HEALTH

**GOAL:** Individuals & families in our community are able to access & benefit from affordable health services to better their overall quality of life.

**Focus Areas:**
- Access to health care & public awareness
- Healthy beginnings & education
- Mental health/substance abuse services
- Senior/elder support
- Support services for people with disabilities (physical, intellectual, developmental)

**HEALTHIER TOMORROWS**

This is OUR community. DID YOU KNOW?

- **186,553** Approx. number of Hernando County residents
- **Health Care Costs**
  - Monthly Survival Budget
  - Single $196+
  - Family of 4 $726+
- **760 residents** collectively lost 6,277 lbs during Great Hernando Weight Loss Challenge

**Dementia Care Seminar**

On January 24, 2019, United Way’s Annual Dementia Care Seminar had over 90 attendees of local residents who received resources for coping and taking care of loved ones with Alzheimer’s & Dementia. At the seminar, free memory screenings were available and hope was given and restored to families who are impacted every year.

A local author and caregiver, Gary LeBlanc, and Linda Burhans, national speaker on caregiver advocacy, shared their experience through the journey of caregiving. The seminar was educational and an the audience engaged in an interactive discussion highlighting struggles and solutions while providing helpful tips.

*Data collected from the Alzheimer’s Organization and the Florida Department of Elder Affairs

**VITA 2019 Survey Results**

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

- Over **905** households utilized United Way’s VITA program. Out of 899, **541** participated in this survey.
- VITA clients described (**#1**) affordable housing, (**#2**) health care, and (**#3**) transportation as the 3 greatest needs in Hernando County.
- Out of **541** VITA households, **85** consider themselves ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).
- Most VITA clients are retired and are in the age category of **65-75** years old. **7** VITA clients were between the ages of **15-20**.
- Through United Way funded programs, we have put over **3,534** people on the path to Financial Stability. How did we do it? By investing in solutions that provide proven pathways out of poverty.

**EDUCATION**

**GOAL:** Residents of all ages will have access to quality education services to further enhance their knowledge, skills, & behavior in order to be successful in school, work, family, & community.

**Focus Areas:**
- Early childhood development & school readiness
- Mentoring/tutoring support or out of school services
- Middle grade success & transitions
- Youth development & family engagement

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

**GOAL:** Individuals & families will be equipped with resources to achieve & maintain self-sufficiency.

**Focus Areas:**
- Financial literacy for youth & adults
- Job/workforce development & training
- Veteran employment & empowerment

**12th Annual Stuff the Bus**

United Way organizes Stuff the Bus every summer, a county-wide supply drive to fulfill teacher Wish Lists for children in need. While the critical need for supplies grows, a large majority of our schools and families struggle to provide students with even the most basic tools to succeed. All items collected benefited over 163 of Hernando County classrooms.

**7,410 lbs.** Of School Supplies

**$9,397** Monetary Donations

Total weight of School Supplies is equivalent to 8 Polar Bears

**2018 Bus Locations:**

- Publix
- Walmart
- Partners in Education:
  - HCA
  - Oak Hill Hospital

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**TOO MUCH FOR OUR BUS TO CARRY?**

**400** items collected and utilized 2019

*United Way proudly supports Hernando Cares for mental and behavioral health. Visit HernandoCares.org
2-1-1 Hernando

2-1-1 is a three-digit helpline that connects anyone with local support and resources. Individuals can call 2-1-1, text their ZIP code to 898211, or visit UnitedWayHernando.org/211 for information about food, shelter, health care, crisis intervention, and much more. This service is free, confidential, available 24/7, and proudly provided by United Way.

### Calls to 2-1-1
- Housing Resources: 166
- Utility Assistance: 219
- Support & Case Management: 231
- Health Care: 308
- Food Pantries: 548
- Mental Health Services: 219
- Transportation: 231
- Employment: 308
- Average age of callers: 25-34
- Need count: 3,981
- Call count: 3,053
- Calls were made from residents in Spring Hill and Brooksville alone

### Dolly Parton Imagination Library

18,416 books distributed to children from July 2018-June 2019

On 2/16/19, United Way hosted their 4th Annual "KICK Start to Early Literacy Kickball Tournament. Proceeds raised helped enroll 158 additional children! 16 teams competed but Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative took home the Ultimate Traveling Trophy for the 2nd year in a row and won first place! Thank you to our Partners in Education for sponsoring child scholarships: Carter Foreman PLLC and Terlep Chiropractic

**Supporting Teams:**
- Holmes Drafting Services
- Oak Hill Hospital
- Patriot Lending Services
- Publix (8)
- SunTrust Bank (2)
- Target (2)
- Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

### Little Free Library Locations

- LFL #1 Bookshelf at Bayfront Spring Hill Hospital
- LFL #2 "Once Upon a Book" at Anderson Snow Park
- LFL #3 "The Book Barn" at Veteran's Memorial Park (Dedicated by The Ciappetta’s)
- LFL #4 "UNITED We Read!" at the United Way of Hernando County Office
- LFL #5 "The Cozy Corner" at the Parent Academy at Fox Chapel Middle School (Dedicated by Clement Panteau & Sarah Duncan)
- LFL #6 "The Nature Nook" at Hernando Park (Dedicated by Publix Super Markets Charities)

### Born Learning Trails

United Way’s 4th & 5th Born Learning Trails were sponsored by ALDI and installed at Ernie Wever Youth Park & Hernando Park. Others can be found by visiting UnitedWayHernando.org/ BornLearningTrail. DPIL, the Born Learning Trails, and Little Free Library locations are offered and designed to help prepare children to enter kindergarten and build/ enhance key fundamental readiness skills.

### VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is available to those who have a low-to-moderate income (generally $66,000 or less)

- 905 Tax Returns Completed
- 59 Returns thru MyFreeTaxes.com
- $888,352 in Total Refunds
- $228,480 Total EITC
- $269,700 Amount Saved
- Returning to our Hernando community:
- $1,158,052
  - Those could be dollars spent on:
    - covering child expenses
    - transportation costs
    - paying bills & groceries
    - purchasing household necessities
- Save on prescriptions with United Way’s FREE FamilyWize Discount Prescription Card!
- 27,629 Hernando Residents have been impacted by using FamilyWize
- $2,400,659 were saved in prescription costs as of June 2019

*Gathered from the 2-1-1 database from July 2018 to June 2019"
BASIC NEEDS & CRISIS PREVENTION

GOAL: Residents experiencing crisis or trauma will receive emotional, financial, or general support they need to overcome life’s unexpected barriers.

Focus Areas:
- Emergency Assistance Services
- Food security
- Protection from neglect, abuse, exploitation
- Providing care and resources for those experiencing homelessness
- Transitional or permanent supportive housing

30% of Households Are Walking a Financial Tightrope

The ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) are employed, hard working individuals and families who live paycheck to paycheck, where one car repair or medical bill can tip them over into financial crisis. Our work to end generational poverty is not possible without advocates, donors, community partners, and so many more. Help us bridge the gaps in services and break the cycle.

Success Story: “My 11 year old son and I were living in our van. As a single father, I was working the hours I could but struggled for a few months with my health condition. My son is a straight A student and his school called United Way for help. The girls not only helped us with food and gas, they helped me find a new apartment. They even came with me to sign the lease! They didn’t know us and it was comforting knowing someone really cared.”

Visit www.UnitedWayHernando.org/ALICE to download the ALICE Report and learn more about this important community conversation.

*The ALICE Report is a study of family finances conducted by Rutgers University.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NATURECOAST TV
NCTV donates free monthly Web Segments for UW to share upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and community involvement.

PUBLIX APPRECIATION DAY
United Way and their Partner Agencies visited each Hernando Publix store on 3/1/19 to thank the associates for their generosity in honor of Publix Appreciation Day.

“KICK” START TO EARLY LITERACY
Raised over $4,000 to support Early Literacy. Congrats to the winning champs, WRECing Crew, from Withlacoochee River Electric Co-op.

BUSINESS BLITZ CHALLENGE
Spheron Staffing Services challenged all local businesses to give back during the month of June and matched dollar for dollar donations up to $5,000. Thank you Spheron Staffing Services! (see back)

HITS 106 PARTNERSHIP
Hits 106 partnered with UW throughout the year and advocated for upcoming events and opportunities through radio promotions.

LEND A HAND HERNANDO (LHH)
United Way’s Online Volunteer Portal connects residents to local volunteer opportunities. Over 676 volunteers are currently enrolled! www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer

VITA LUNCHEON
On 4/24/19, UW held a VITA Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon to thank our hard working volunteers for completing over 899 Tax Returns.

GREAT HERNANDO WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE
United Way participated with CHIPPP encouraging groups of 10 people to lose 10 pounds in 10 weeks. Team “UNITED Weigh 2.0” won 1st place for the most pounds lost and greatest percent body weight loss. Overall 8,277 lbs. were lost between 76 Hernando teams.

PARENT ACADEMY
United Way and the HC School’s Parent Academy are working closely together on education initiatives and family support services.

BRIGHT APPLE AWARD
Nature Coast Technical High School was announced the winner of UW’s Bright Apple Award for their UW participation and hard work.

SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH CETA
United Way donated two $1,000 scholarships through the Chamber Education Training Association in Leadership & Community Service.

CHIPOTLE GIVE BACK NIGHT
On 11/5/18 UW and their Student Board hosted a “Give Back Night” at Chipotle where 33% of the proceeds benefited United Way.

EFSP
United Way is a part of the Emergency Food and Shelter board and helps determine how funds are distributed to local food and shelter programs. In 2018, $21,384 was allocated to Hernando.

SUMMER READING KICK-OFF
United Way staff handed out free books to children and families during the Hernando County Public Library’s Summer Reading Kick-off event.

CHIPPP (COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN PARTNERSHIP)
This community health initiative is a collaboration which focuses on improving the quality of life in Hernando by advocating for access to primary care, mental health care, & substance abuse services.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARIES
Publix generously hosted UW’s newest LFL book swap. View a list of all the locations on page 4!

UNITED WAY STUDENT BOARD
An opportunity for students (ages 16-21) to engage in something larger than themselves. Their mission is to raise community awareness and develop leadership skills for a bright future.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
The EOC, Hernando COAD, and UW work hand in hand when it comes to the unmet needs in our community before, during, and after a local disaster.
Corporate Giving Partnerships

AAA Auto Club South*  
Access Health Care Physicians  
Ackley Dental Group  
ALDI  
The Arc Nature Coast  
AT&T  
Bank of America  
Barrette Outdoor Living  
Bayfront Health  
BB&T  
BBVA Compass Bank  
Best Buy  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Brewer & Sons Funeral, Cremation & Cemetery Services  
Brown & Brown Insurance  
Capella Education Company*  
Carter Foreman PLLC*  
Cellular Sales - Verizon  
Charles Schwab  
Charter Communications  
Chipotle Mexican Grill  
Christ the Savior Greek Orthodox Church  
Citigroup  
City of Brooksville*  
Crystal Automotive*  
Davis Family Hearing  
Dawn Center of Hernando County  
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services  
Delta Airlines  
Direct Lending Group  
Duke Energy  
Encompass Home Health & Hospice  
Express Scripts!  
Federal Express  
Fluor Corporation  
Ford Motor Retirees  
Focus Solutions Group  
Frontier Communications  
General Electric  
Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals  
Hartland Homes  
HCA, Oak Hill Hospital*  
HC Board of County Commissioners  
HC Clerk of Circuit Court  
Hernando County Schools  
Holmes Drafting Services  
Home Instead Senior Care  
IBM Employees/Retirees  
Insight*  
Integrity Pest Control Services  
JC Penney  
Jericho Road Ministries*  
Kellogg’s  
Kiwanis Club of Brooksville Ridge  
Macy’s  
Manpower  
Marshall’s  
Marker 48 Brewing  
Mid Florida Community Services  
Mirage Hair Studio  
Morton Plant Mease Health Care  
Mosaic Company  
Moss Chiropractic  
NAMI Hernando  
Nationwide*  
North American Title  
O’Reilly Auto Parts*  
PACE Center for Girls  
Palmwood Construction  
Pathways Counseling Center  
Patriot Lending Services  
Pay it Forward Farm  
Paychex  
PetSmart!  
Performance Media Solutions Group  
PNC Mortgage National  
PricewaterhouseCoopers  
Principal Financial Group  
PUBLIX Super Markets & Charities*  
Raymond James & Associates*  
Regions Bank  
Ring Power*  
Salvation Army!  
Spring Hill Dental Associates  
St. Joseph’s Baptist Healthcare*  
Sumter Electric Cooperative  
Suncoast Credit Union*  
SunTrust Bank  
Senator Wilton Simpson  
TARGET*  
Tertep Chiropractic  
The Frigid Frog  
The Peanut Shack  
Tropic Shores Realty  
United Cerebral Palsy  
United Health Group*  
UPS*  
USAA United Services Automobile Assoc.  
Walmart Distribution Center  
Wells Fargo  
WREC*  
YMCA  
Youth & Family Alternatives

Publix Super Markets Charities & 892 Publix Associates Contributed...

Loyal Leadership Givers

Barbara Adams  
James Aten  
Ralph & Angela Ausiello  
Todd Baker  
Robert Benedetto  
James Benner  
Anthony Bisesti  
Kimberly Bowling  
Lucas Burgess  
Matt Caldarella  
James Caldwell  
Samantha Carpenter  
Noreen Carter  
Nancy Caruso  
Amber Clingo  
Jeffrey Cloud  
Darin Connell  
Tina Corwin  
Ashley Crisci  
Cody Duphily  
Charles Fernandez  
Jeff Flanlan  
Trevor Flanders  
Lotte Furlong  
David Gonzalez  
Jane Greer  
Andrew & Showna Hall  
Wayne Heavens  
Phyllis Henderson  
Nolberto Hernandez  
Gary & Gloria Horstmann  
Sam Johnson  
Casey Jones  
Robert Kleiner  
Arca Koster  
Lindsay Larsh  
Steven & Jewel Lamb  
Elizabeth Malin  
August Manallii  
Janet Marino  
Matthew Marriage  
John Martens  
Stephanie McDowell  
Brian Miller  
Thomas Miller  
John Mitten  
Brittany & Greg Montmarquet  
Joshua Moore  
Michelle Morissette & Family  
Jasmin Mortimer  
Daniel Mullan  
Allissa O’Berry  
Russell Pancoast  
Steven Phillips  
Tihomir Pozderac  
Gino Romanello  
Melanie Sanabria  
Chris Scavuzzo  
Diane Schick & Family  
Troy Schuld  
John Sievers  
Christine Simpson  
Lana Sitar  
Yvonne Steele  
Gina Stifanic  
Kenneth Tate (Tater Nation)  
Richard Tucker  
Taylor Tucker  
Debra Urban  
Joshua Verkade  
David Walker  
Robert & Monica Watts  
Hailee & Steven Wegner  
Allyn D. Welch  
Linda Werts  
Christy Wiggins & Family  
Lisa Wyatt  
Michael Yatroussis

In Memory of

Helen Muller  
~Melinda Barrett  
Jesse Sandvick  
~Danielle Varn  
Stella Walasek  
~Angie Bonfardino-Walasek  
In Honor of

Wesley Williams  
~Tammy Quinn
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