Dear Friends of the United Way of Hernando County,

It goes without saying that this past year has been unprecedented in a number of ways. We have dealt with a deadly pandemic with no signs yet of slowing down, have had our jobs disrupted, kids have been home from school longer than any time in their short lives. We have had to answer tough questions about where we stand on the lid of racism as well as how we can show care and compassion for our neighbors. Once again, as a community, even in these historic times we have come together to GIVE, ADVOCATE, and VOLUNTEER to make our county stronger. On behalf of our United Way Staff and Board of Directors, I thank you for your commitment and support during these difficult times.

We could look back on the 2019-2020 year and focus on the challenges we have faced together. Instead, I challenge you to look over this past year on the opportunity it has presented us. Hernando County residents have shown that through recognizing, honoring, and celebrating our uniqueness we can build together and meet the multitude of needs present in a rapidly growing community of almost 194,000 people. We have taken time to enlist community feedback and align with our Corporate Partners’ goals in order to obtain investments to continue to reinforce our community through Partner Programs that work to fulfill needs around HEALTH, EDUCATION, and FINANCIAL STABILITY.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were provided the opportunity to respond to our community’s unmet needs in more significant and tangible ways. We supplied over 20,000 masks and gloves, hand sanitizer, disaster relief funds, food, and 9,000 rolls of toilet paper! We know that people had more than physical needs during this time. We adapted to new technology that allowed us to connect even while social distancing to show we still cared for one another. We responded to mental health needs, Pandemic PenPals for our elderly, Boredom Busters and themed weeks. Through these positive promotions and areas of change we have shown we can indeed LIVE UNITED.

Our uniqueness and diversity along the lines of race, gender, ability, sexuality, and religion make us stronger. These Partnerships fortify our resolve to continue to fight for the HEALTH, EDUCATION, and FINANCIAL STABILITY of every person in our community. We ask that you lean on and grow with us as we continue to band together to fight against this pandemic, racism, and divisiveness. Partner with us as we employ new and innovative ways to impact our community. Allow United Way to be your #1 organization when you or someone you know is struggling and don’t know where to turn. Together we will persist in our efforts to improve financial literacy and stability, build a healthier and kinder community, and provide support for some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

There is no doubt a great deal of work that needs to be done. In the noise of this chaos we have the choice, and opportunity, to create a connected community. One where we respect, honor, and work across differences knowing that in the end we all want the same thing. A safe, healthy, and vibrant community where we can work and live with our families. We cannot achieve these ambitious steps without your continued support. United Way is blessed to have a phenomenal staff, UNITED Board, and numerous incredible volunteers and donors. We are humbled by the opportunity to serve you and honored to partner with you on this incredible adventure to LIVE UNITED.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ebony N. Perez, MSW and Angie B. Walasek

**MISSION**
To inspire leaders and partners, and mobilize resources to strengthen the lives of people in the community.

**VISION**
To build a strong, caring community and improve the quality of life in Hernando.

**INITIATIVES**
- Health
- Education
- Financial Stability
- Basic Needs/Crisis Prevention

**2019-2020 Board of Directors:**

**DR. EBONY PEREZ | BOARD CHAIR**
Saint Leo University

**RICHARD LINKUL | PAST BOARD CHAIR**
Premier Marketing, LLC

**CHRIS D. SCAVUZZO | CHAIR-ELECT**
OneSource Advisory

**FRANK CASSARA | TREASURER**
Centennial Bank

**JIM ATEN**
Raymond James

**DR. DONNA BURDZINSKI**
Pasco-Hernando State College

**VALERIE CIACCIO**
Bayfront Health Brooksville

**PATRICIA CROWLEY**
Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce

**SARAH DUNCAN**
North American Title Company

**BRITTANY GREEN**
ICTC

**DAVID GONZALEZ**
Withlacoochee River Electric Co.

**KELLY GORMLEY**
Hernando County Parent Academy

**SHAWNA HALL**
Community Advocate

**MARTY MONEGRO**
Spherion Staffing Services

**GARY STEINMETZ**
Community Advocate

**UWHC STAFF:**

**ANGIE B. WALASEK**
Executive Director/CEO

**MELISSA HARRIS**
Finance Director

**DOMINIQUE HOLMES**
Community Outreach Director

**SAMANTHA BECKHAM**
Community Outreach Coordinator
Thanks to our committed Community Investment Grant (CIG) Review Team Members, throughout the 2019-2020 FY United Way proudly invested over $303,000 in 18 Partner Agencies and 20 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**

For a list of frequently asked questions, visit www.UnitedWayHernando.org/FAQ

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
- COVID-19 Disaster Relief
- 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?

2-1-1

Hernando

3,374

Total calls received to 211 Hernando

2-1-1 is a free health and human services helpline that connects residents to available resources. Call 2-1-1, text your ZIP to 898211, or visit the website at UnitedWayHernando.org/211.

This service is confidential and available 24/7. 211 Hernando is proudly provided by United Way.

*Data collected from 211 report July 2019 to June 2020*

137 calls to 211

1,597

COVID-19 related calls received from March-June

Top Needs:

- Housing Resources (39.3%)
- Utility Assistance (22.3%)
- Health Care (9.6%)
- Food Pantries (7.9%)
- Mental Health Services (7.1%)
- Income Support ($728)
- Information/Services (4.8%)
- Transportation ($279)
- Employment (2.0%)

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

2019 13th Annual Stuff the Bus

United Way organizes Stuff the Bus every summer, a county-wide supply drive to fulfill teachers’ 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 158 Hernando County classrooms.

8,306 lbs. $9,520

Of School Supplies Monetary Donations

Total weight of School Supplies is equivalent to 16 pigs!

2019 Bus Locations:

- Publix
- Walmart

Partners in Education:

- Oak Hill Hospital ER
- Publix

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

VITA 2020 Survey Results

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

Over 714 households utilized United Way’s VITA program. 350 clients participated in this survey.

VITA clients described (#1) affordable housing, (#2) health care, and (#3) transportation as the 3 greatest needs in Hernando County.


Most VITA clients are retired and are in the age category of 61-70 years old. 40 VITA clients were 81+ and 12 were between the ages of 21-30.

11 clients received one-on-one financial counseling through United Way’s partnership with the Florida Master Money Mentors.

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11 clients received one-on-one financial counseling through United Way’s partnership with the Florida Master Money Mentors.
COVID-19 Response

Although United Way and many of our Partner Programs temporarily shut their doors to the public as a result of necessary safety precautions due to the coronavirus, we continued providing necessary services to those in need.

United Way of Hernando County specializes in mobilizing resources, and collectively distributed:

- 9,238 rolls of toilet paper
- 1,800 medical gloves
- 540 homemade masks
- 480 containers of wipes
- 6 gallons of hand sanitizer
- 20,000 reusable masks

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

13,675 books distributed to children from July 2019-June 2020

On 2/22/20, United Way hosted their 5th Annual “KICK” Start to Early Literacy Kickball Tournament. Proceeds raised helped enroll 271 additional children! 14 teams competed but Publix #1132 took home the Ultimate Traveling Trophy won first place!

A special thank you to “Base Run Baler”, sponsors from Family Chiropractic, Carter Foreman PLLC, PDP-Stuart Corp, and supporting sponsors Simply Healthcare, Centennial Bank, Hernando County Parks and Recreation, Texas Roadhouse, SunTrust Bank, and Sam’s Club.

Supporting Teams:

- Accuform
- Barrette Outdoor
- Keller Williams Plumadore Group
- Oak Hill Hospital
- (8) Publix Stores
- Target
- Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

VITA

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is available to those who have a low-to-moderate income (generally $56,000 or less)

Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19, VITA was cancelled in early March. Thankfully, many VITA volunteers were still able to safely provide services to many. The deadline to file was extended to July 15, 2020.

2020 VITA Locations

- United Way of Hernando County
- Spring Hill Library
- Jerome Brown Community Center
- Publix at Barclay Store #630
- Publix at Hernando West Store #220

677 Tax Returns Completed
$810,489 in Total Refunds
$238,809 Total EITC | $193,500 Saved

Returning to our Hernando community:

$1,003,989

Those could be dollars spent on:

- covering child expenses
- transportation costs
- paying bills & groceries
- purchasing household necessities

Proud Partner Highlights

Mid Florida Homeless Coalition
Continued outreach efforts to those experiencing homelessness. They worked with local organizations to open outdoor toilet facilities and hand washing stations, distributed masks and hand sanitizer, and monitored outbreaks among this vulnerable population.

St. Vincent de Paul
The Food Pantry adapted by implementing a drive-thru, no contact service while the “Safer at Home” order was in effect. They partnered with UW to offer a delivery service on a case-by-case, food emergency basis for home-bound individuals.

Dawn Center
The domestic violence shelter services noticed a decrease of reports following the “safer at home” orders & knew many victims may be stuck at home with their abusers with no safe way to contact help. Their outreach team created a 24/7 text hotline and implemented a web chat.

Little Free Library Locations

LFL #1 Bookshelf at Bayfront Spring Hill Hospital
LFL #3 “The Book Barn” at Veteran’s Memorial Park
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
LFL #6 “The Nature Nook” at Hernando Park (Dedicated by Publix Super Markets Charities)
LFL #7 “The Bookshelf” at the United Way of Hernando County office

United Way’s Born Learning Trails are installed around Hernando parks and are designed to engage parents and caregivers with their children to help instill learning. These trails offer a wide variety of activities and help prepare children to enter kindergarten and build/enhance key fundamental readiness skills. The Born Learning Trails can be found by visiting UnitedWayHernando.org/BornLearningTrail.

Save on prescriptions with United Way’s FREE FamilyWize Discount Prescription Card!

Discount Prescription Card!

Share this card with your pharmacist.

This is not insurance - Discount Only.

Hernando Residents have been impacted by using FamilyWize

$2,653,666

were saved in prescription costs as of June 2020
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: “I was diagnosed with ovarian cancer a couple years ago, and my previous employer let me go because I wasn’t able to return to work in time. Used to being a two-income household, and coupled with my husband’s hours being cut, we fell behind on bills. I’m so thankful for the assistance United Way provided me, and for helping us back on the path towards financial stability. I have a job interview lined up next week and my cancer is in remission. Things are definitely looking up for my family!”

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.
Corporate Giving Partnerships

Acti-Kare Responsive Home Care
American Merchant Services
Anytime Fitness at Mariner Crossings
The Arc Nature Coast *
AT&T
Avery Agency
Bank of America *
Barrette Outdoor Living
Bayfront Health *
BB&T
BBVA Compass Bank
Brown & Brown Insurance
Burns & McDonnell Engineering *
Capella Education Company
Carter Foreman PLLC •
Catholic Charities *
Centennial Bank •
Ceparano’s NY Style Pizza
Charles Schwab
Christ the Savior Greek Orthodox Church
Citigroup
City of Brooksville
Coastal Financial Services
Crystal Automotive
Custom Paints Inc.
Davis Family Hearing

Dawn Center of Hernando County
Delta Airlines *
Direct Lending Group
Duke Energy
Family Chiropractic •
Fast Signs
Federal Express
Fostering Hope Florida Inc !
Frontier Communications
General Electric
Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce
Gulf Coast Signs & Services LLC
HCA, Oak Hill Hospital
HC Board of County Commissioners* 
HC Clerk of Circuit Court *
Hernando County Greek Festival
Hernando County Parks & Rec •
Hernando County Schools
Home Instead Senior Care
HomeVestors, Pinnacle Property Solutions
IBM Employees/Retirees
Insight
Integrity Pest Control Services
JC Penney

Jericho Road Ministries*
Kellogg’s
Kelly’s Air Conditioning & Heating
Kiwanis Club of the Adventure Coast !
Macy’s
Manpower
Marshall’s
Marker 48 Brewing
Mid Florida Community Services
Mid Florida Homeless Coalition
Morton Plant Mease Health Care
Mosaic Company *
NAMI Hernando *
North American Title
OneSource Advisory *
PACE Center for Girls
Ped-Stuart Corporation •
PNC Mortgage National *
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Principal Financial Group
PUBLIC Super Markets & Charities
Raymond James & Associates*
Ring Power *
Rotary Club of Brooksville !
Rotary Club of Spring Hill

Sam’s Club
Simply Healthcare Plans *
Southern Point of View Photography
Sopherion Staffing Services
St. Joseph’s Baptist Healthcare *
Sumter Electric Cooperative
Suncoast Credit Union
SunTrust Bank •
TARGET *
Texas Roadhouse •
Topline Automotive
Tropic Shores Realty
Truist Bank
United Cerebral Palsy
United Health Group
UPS
US Bank !
USAA United Services
Automobile Assoc. *
Walmart Distribution Center
Wells Fargo
WREC *
Youth & Family Alternatives *
Zachry Industrial, Inc.

Publix

Publix Super Markets
Charities & 919 Publix
Associates Contributed...

Loyal Leadership Givers

James Atten
Ralph & Angela Ausiello
Todd Barker
Sonine Beaumont Gordon
Marshall & Marsha Beckman
Robert Benedetto
Anthony Bisesi
Patrick Boell
Kimberly Bowling
Jim Caldwell
Ryan Caplan
Samantha Carpenter
Noreen Carter
Nancy Caruso
Amber Clingo
Jeffrey Cloud
Al & Ashley Crisci
Jordan Daniels
Clifton L. Davis, Jr.
Cody Duhphily

Tina Elkins
Charles Fernandez
Jeff Finlan
Kent Flanders
Kelsey Forrester
Lotte Furlong
David Gonzalez
Andy & Shawna Hall
Casey J. Hardiman
Reilly Healy
Wayne Heavens
Nolberto Hernandez
Gary Horstmann
Sam, Abby, & Izzy Johnson
Casey Jones
Robert Kleiner
Mark Kozma
Kimberly Louks
Elizabeth Malin
August Manallil

Janet Marino
Matthew Marriage
John Martens
Judith Mergal
Brian Miller
John Mitten
Brittany & Greg Montmarquet
Michelle Morissette & Family
Jasmin Mortimer
Daniel Mullane
Brett Newland
Teri Nichols
Chatty Nix
Allissa O’Berry
Michael Ottaviano
Frank Overbeck
Riki Peterson
Craig Piliego
Tihomir Pozderac
Gino Romanello

Ronald Roppolo
Melanie Sanabria
Diane Schick & Family
Troy Schultd
John Sievers
Christine Simpson
Lana Sitar
Gary & Patricia Steinmetz
Stefanica
Kenneth Tate (Tater Nation)
Taylor Tucker
Debra Urban
David Walker
Robert & Monica Watts
Hailee & Steven Wegner
Allyln D. Welch
Linda Werts
Lisa Wyatt
Michael Yatroussis
Andrew Zupansic

In Memory of

Gertrude Bowes
~Joanna Bowes
Richard Harriger
~Brittany Rhoads

Modesta “MAMI” Bulls
~Arlene Cotto
Hazel Lane
~Melody Whitaker

John R. Goss
~Tina Goss
Linda Seltzer
~Angie B. Walker

Brenda Gullatt
~Robin Bontrager
Margaret Wheeler
~Barbara Wheeler

In Honor of

The Arc Nature Coast
~Joanna Bowes
Students with disabilities
~Karen Blehn

$295,600+ to
United Way’s Community
Investment Fund!
Supported Partners

2020 Business Blitz Challenger:

Businesses who Accepted the Challenge!

United Way of Hernando County, Inc.
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Take our community survey: UnitedWayHernando.org/Survey
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