Dear Friends of the United Way of Hernando County,

As our United Way of Hernando County organization turns 34 years old, our talented staff and UNITED Board of Directors can’t help but reflect on where we were, where we are, and where we want to be. We reimagined ourselves over this past year making us stronger, more energized, and furthering an already unified organization. We feel so fortunate to have been surrounded by some of the brightest and most talented people Hernando County has to offer.

As the global pandemic continues to disrupt our local communities, we have taken on these new unmet needs as a personal challenge moving forward & “pressing on!” Adapting with technology, responding to a housing crisis, an increase in financial assistance and access to healthcare, addressing a spike in mental health needs, and calling upon all partnerships. Now more than ever, community support for our organization and programs, as well as financial resources are critically needed.

United Way continues to carry out its mission of local support with a heavy focus on programs that provide direct services to those most vulnerable. We have been uniquely positioned to directly impact change by swiftly mobilizing resources. Our trusted policies, procedures, and protocols have allowed us to assess and assist hundreds of local families through the County awarded Coronavirus Relief Assistance funds over this past year. As our small but mighty staff handled each of the 276 cases this past FY, giving each household the attention they deserved, the time they craved for someone to talk to, and the hope they desperately needed, we truly found our purpose as a lead organization.

As we enter our new fiscal year and Frank Cassara takes the Board Chair leadership position, we remind everyone to “Press On” no matter the obstacle that is put in your path. We have now proven to ourselves and our community that we are up to whatever we are tasked to do. Press On and LIVE UNITED!

Our LIVE UNITED motto is more than just a cool t-shirt, it’s a movement. A movement that is accomplished by generous GIVING, through passionate ADVOCATING, and through dedicated individuals VOLUNTEERING. Join us! How will YOU choose to LIVE UNITED?

Whether you are a staff member, Board Member, dedicated volunteer, or loyal donor, we thank you for your time, treasurers, and talents! Thank you for your partnerships and continued support.

Sincerely,

Chris Scavuzzo and Angie B. Walasek
Thanks to our committed Community Investment Grant (CIG) Review Team Members, throughout the 2020-2021 FY United Way proudly invested over $158,000 in 19 local Health, Education, Financial Stability, and Basic Needs/Crisis Prevention initiatives and outreach programs.

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### Diversity & Inclusion

As a champion and catalyst for building a strong, healthy community in Hernando County, United Way values racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. United Way fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in our community.

United Way’s vision and mission reflect our fundamental belief that all people belong, and deserve fairness, justice, and inclusivity. Our strength comes through our diversity and we celebrate the visible and invisible qualities that make each person unique, including race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity and expression, disability, sexual orientation, veteran status, socio-economic status, geographical representation, pregnancy, or any other category protected by law.

More on this DEI policy may be found at [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/diversity](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/diversity)

### 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](http://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:**
- COVID-19 Disaster Relief
- 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?**

2-1-1

**2,138 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.

**Top Needs**

- Housing Resources (29.4%)
- Income Support/Assistance (12.2%)
- Individual, Family and Community Support (11.6%)
- Utility Assistance (10.6%)
- Information Services (8.9%)
- Health Care (9.6%)
- Food/Meals (9.5%)
- Mental Health/Addictions (7.2%)
- Legal, Consumer and Public Safety Services (4.0%)
- Disaster Services (2.7%)

**250 COVID-19 related calls received from March-June**

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

VITA 2021 Survey Results

**Volunteer Income Tax Assistance**

Over 673 households utilized United Way’s VITA program. **468 clients participated in this survey.**

VITA clients described (#1) health care, (#2) education, and (#3) food security as the 3 greatest needs in Hernando County.

Out of 468 VITA households, 133 consider themselves **ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).**

Most VITA clients are retired and are in the age category of 71-80 years old. 31 VITA clients were 81+ and 122 were between the ages of 61-70.

Due to COVID-19, clients named (#1) vaccine availability, (#2) buying food & toiletries, and (#3) COVID-19 testing as the top 3 greatest needs.
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, they continued providing necessary services to those in need.

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

- 825 disinfectant kits
- 100 infrared thermometers
- 11 LUV sanitizing sprayers
- 10,000 toothbrushes
- 1,550 hand sanitizer bottles
- 10,000 lbs. of food to local pantries and shelters

Dolly Parton Imagination Library

**11,963**

books distributed to children from July 2020-June 2021

On 3/27/21, United Way hosted their 6th Annual “KICK” Start to Early Literacy Kickball Tournament. Proceeds raised will help enroll 461 children over the next year! 16 teams competed but previous champs withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative & 2 time champ Coach Jeff Rogers took home the Ultimate Traveling Trophy!

A special thank you to Presenting Sponsor Holmes Drafting Services, Field Sponsors PED-Stuart Corporation, Integrity Pest Control & Terlep Chiropractic, and Kickball Sponsors Carter Foreman PLLC, Cricket Wireless (Sun Com), Grow Financial Credit Union, Rotary Club of Brooksville, Mid-Florida Community Services Head Start/Early Head Start, and Timber Pines Community Association/Scott Dienes Construction LLC.

Supporting Teams:

- Amerifirst Home Mortgage
- Barrette Outdoor Living
- Century 21 Alliance Realty
- HC School District
- HC Sheriff’s Office
- (8) Publix Stores
- The Plumadore Group
- Timber Pines Community Association
- Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

Proud Partner Highlights

**Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC)**

Throughout the Pandemic the CAC adapted and continued to provide hundreds of free therapy sessions for child victims of abuse. They utilized TeleHealth to provide services and advocated throughout by posting on social media to inform others how to spot abuse or signs of trafficking.

People Helping People

Partnered with Feeding Tampa Bay to provide a drive-thru Mobile Food Pantry every month to anyone who was in need. They also partnered with Pier 24 Pharmacy to provide a free clinic and vaccines for uninsured Hernando residents.

**Youth & Family Alternatives**

YFA’s New Beginning’s shelter immediately implemented strict COVID-19 safety guidelines including sanitizing, temperature checks, mandatory masks, and restricted shelter visitors and youth trips outside of the shelter. As a result, there have been no positive cases for either the staff or the youth since the pandemic began.

VITA

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

As many communities across the country chose not to reactivate their free filing service due to COVID, United Way implemented safety precautions such as mandatory masks, plexiglass partitions, and hand sanitizing stations, and were able to successfully reopen for the filing season.

**2021 VITA Locations**

- United Way of Hernando County
- Spring Hill Library
- Jerome Brown Community Center
- Introduced virtual appointments at the Jerome Brown Center for remote filing

**673 Tax Returns Completed**

- $745,298 in Total Refunds
- $150,908 Total EITC | $235,550 Saved

Returning to our Hernando community:

**$1,131,756**

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 SingleCare Discount Prescription Card!

**4,8119**

Hernando Residents have been impacted by using SingleCare

**$3,071,587**

were saved in prescription costs as of June 2021
**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:**
- Disaster Relief
- Emergency Assistance Services
- Food security
- Protection from neglect, abuse, exploitation
- Providing care and resources for those experiencing homelessness
- Transitional or permanent supportive housing

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**Grievous Family of 7**

A mother with 6 children lost her husband in October to a stroke, and contracted COVID-19 from work. United Way’s Coronavirus Relief Assistance funds were able to pay her mortgage and give her peace of mind while grieving the family’s recent loss.

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**Community Engagement**

**PUBLIX APPRECIATION WEEK**

United Way and their Partner Agencies showed appreciation for Publix during the week of March 1st by dropping off thoughtful thank you’s and goodies.

**“KICK” START TO EARLY LITERACY**

Raised over $12,000 to support Early Literacy. Congrats to the champs “WREcing Crew” from Withlacoochee River Electric.

**BUSINESS BLITZ CHALLENGE**

United Way challenged all Hernando Businesses to invest in cause brand marketing during June 2021, and $10,645 was raised! Thank you to all of the businesses that Accepted the Challenge! (see back of report)

**LEND A HAND HERNANDO**

United Way’s Online Volunteer Portal connects residents to local volunteer opportunities. Over 902 volunteers are currently enrolled! www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer

**GREAT HERNANDO WEIGHT LOSS & WELLNESS CHALLENGE**

UW and CHIPP encouraged Hernando residents to not only lose 10 pounds in 10 weeks, but also adopt wellness healthy habits, like drinking more water and getting enough sleep. Over 100 residents participated and lost a cumulative 563lbs.

**MASS VIOLENCE VICTIM RESPONSE TASK FORCE**

A collaborative effort led by UW and the Children’s Advocacy Center, with community agencies organizing a coordinated response plan for Mass Violence incidents that may occur locally.

**TOILETRY DRIVE DONATIONS**

Thank you to members of Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Troop #24417 who donated toiletry kits for the homeless in Hernando.

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**Coronavirus Relief Assistance**

Generous support was provided by the Hernando Board of County Commissioners. CRA funds provided relief to those who were negatively impacted by COVID-19.

- $291,454 in rent/mortgage assistance
- $237,000+ in electric/gas/utilities
- $17,300+ in distributed PPE
- $16,000+ in food and basic necessities
- $12,000+ in childcare and daycare costs
- $3,500+ in in-kind assistance

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**AWARENESS CAMPAIGN**

Hits 106 and WWJB partner with UW throughout the year and advocated for upcoming events and opportunities through radio promotions, including UW’s “Did You Know” campaign.

**SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH CETA**

United Way donated a $1,000 scholarships for a senior student in the LEADERSHIP category through the Chamber Education Training Association. Congrats Alexis Bowermaster from SHS!

**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

As the world continued to reopen during the pandemic, UW staff once again participated in local events including Timber Pines Senior Expo and Eastside Elementary’s Community Walk.

**EFSP—FEMA SUPPORT**

United Way is a part of the Emergency Food & Shelter Program Local Board and helps determine how funds are distributed to local food and shelter programs. In 2021, $64,439 was allocated to Hernando through Phase 38.

**NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP**

In celebration of Earth Day, UW staff beautified the area surrounding the office along US19, collecting 5 bags of trash!

**#HERNANDOPREPARES**

Emergency Management, Hernando COAD, and UW worked hand in hand to identify unmet needs during the COVID-19 pandemic and helped prepare during hurricane season.

**5 DAYS OF CARING**

The week before Thanksgiving, UW organized a community-wide volunteer effort with a food drive, neighborhood clean-up, food drive distribution, 2 Born Learning Trail installations, and virtual volunteer opportunities.
Corporate Giving Partnerships

Ackley Dental Group
All Performance Title, Inc. !
Amerifirst Home Mortgage !
April Johnson for Hernando
AT&T
Bank of America
Barrette Outdoor Living
BBVA Compass Bank
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Blaise & Julie Ingoglia
Blue Cross Blue Shield !
Brijbag Law !
Brown and Brown Insurance
Buck Law Group, PA !
Burns & McDonnell Engineering *
Capella Education Company *
Capital City Bank
Carter Foreman PLLC •
Centennial Bank
Century 21 Alliance Realty
Charles Schwab Foundation *
Christ the Savior Greek Orthodox Church
Citigroup *
City of Brooksville
Cricket Wireless •
Crystal Automotive
Custom Paints Inc.
Dawn Center of Hernando County
Delta Airlines
Dex Imaging !
Direct Lending Group
Discovery Point Silverthorn & Seven Hills !
Duke Energy
Dynasty Collision & Auto Repair !
Encompass Health & Hospice !
Euclid Chemical Company !
Family Chiropractic Center for Wellness !
Fast Signs
Federal Express
Fifth Third Bank
Florida Blue FWH & Associates
Frontier Communications *
General Motor Retirees
Grow Financial Credit Union •
HCA, Oak Hill Hospital
HC Board of County Commissioners
HC Clerk of Circuit Court
Hernando County Schools •
Hernando County Sheriff •
HiTek Truss !
Holmes Drafting Services •
Home Instead Senior Care
IBM Employees/Retirees
Integrity Pest Control Services •
Jericho Road Ministries
Keiler Williams Realty *
Kimbrough Properties
Kiwanis Club of the Adventure Coast *
Kiwanis Club of Brooksville Ridge !
Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired *
Lincoln Financial
Marshall’s
Mid Florida Community Services •
Mirage Hair Studio
Morton Plant Mease Health Care
Moss Chiropractic Clinic !
NAMI Hernando
O’Reilly Auto Parts *
PACE Center for Girls
Ped-Stuart Corporation *
The Plumadore Group •
PNC Mortgage National
Premier Community Health Care !
PricewatkerhouseCoopers *
Principal Financial Group *
PUBLIX Super Markets & Charities •
Raymond James & Associates *
Regions Bank
Republic Bank
Ring Power

Publix Super Markets
Charities & 881 Publix
Associates Contributed...

Loyal Leadership Givers

James Aten
Ralph & Angela Ausiello
Todd Barker
Sonine Beaumont Gordon
Marshall & Marsha Beckman
Robert Benedetto
Anthony Bisesti
Kimberly Bowling
James Caldwell
Michelle & Chris Campbell
Samantha Carpenter
Noreen Carter
Nancy Caruso
Tonya Challas
Amber Clingo
Jeffrey Cloud
Kory Coleman
Ashley Crisci
Cody Duphily
Tina Elkins
William Fenton
Charles Fernandez
Jeffery J. Finlan
Trevor K. Flanders
Kelsey Forrester
Dean & Lottie Furlong
David Gonzalez
Wayne Heavens
Gary & Gloria Horstmann
Blaise & Julie Ingoglia
Sam, Abby, & Izzy Johnson
Casey Jones
Riley Kinnamon
Kerry Kinsella
Robert Kleiner
Colleen Leroux
Patricia Lonergan
Elizabeth Malin
Augie Manalili
Janet Marino
Matthew Marriage
John Martens
Judith Mergal
Brian Miller
Jasmin Mortimer
Brett Newland
Chatty Nix
Allissa O’Berry
Jay Olmstead
Riki Peterson
Craig Pliego
Danielle Robinson
Ronald Roppolo
Melanie Sanabria

In Memory of

James Massingale
~Sharon Holland

Albert Mathis Jr.
~Florisha Thompson

Ashley Devine
~Angie B. Walasek

Janet Stewart
~James Stewart

In Honor of

Dedicated VITA Volunteers
~Barbara Fisher
~Ralph Loeffler

A Generous Donation was made on behalf of The Brijbag Family
~Pat Crowley

$281,027+ to
United Way’s Community
Investment Fund!