Dear Friends of the United Way of Hernando County,

It goes without saying that this past year has been unprecedented in our lifetime. While we would have never chosen this pandemic with no signs yet of slowing down, we have had joy, dividend, and hope as we have weathered this time in unison.

We have had to respond to tough questions about where we stand on the issues 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 build an even stronger community and align with our Corporate Investment Partners 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 needs in meaningful 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 care. We continue one-on-one remote mental health counseling for our elderly, 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 know that you have lived and grown with us throughout 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 voice in the community 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 absence 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 thriving community for all of our families. We cannot achieve these ambitious steps without your continued support. United Way is blessed to have a phenomenal staff, Board of United Way, and dedicated 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
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.

Where Your Investment Goes

2-1-1 TAMPA BAY CARES, INC.
UnitedWay@tampabay.org/211
United Way 2-1-1
Crisis Intervention

tampabay.org

ABILITY TREE FLORIDA
florida.org

THE ARC NATURE COAST
Residential Supports
Community Advocacy

tampa.org

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
Greater Tampa Bay Area Council
Community Service

tampabay.org

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HERNANDO COUNTY
School Year Scholarships

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Foundations of Life Pregnancy Program

COOL SET
Early Learning Coalition
Support for School Readiness

DENTAL CENTER OF HERNANDO COUNTY

DEAF & HARD OF HEARING SERVICES
Fees & Assistance for Persons with Disabilities

DOCTOR EXTRAORDINARIO, INC.

DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

EARLY LEARNING COALITION
Support for School Readiness

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

PERMANENT HOUSING

JERICHO ROAD MINISTRIES

LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND

MID FLORIDA COMMUNITY SERVICES

MID FLORIDA HOMELESS COALITION

NAMI HERNANDO INC.

OBRA MEDICAL CLINIC

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE

SCHOOL DISTRICTS

YOUTH & FAMILY ALTERNATIVES

Click to see the full list of our partners at UnitedWay@tampabay.org/211.

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 the United Way Board of Directors.

Ethics

United Way’s Board of Directors annually adopts the Code of Ethics and Conduct Agreement. The purpose of the code is to describe standards of conduct and business ethics and responsibilities of the officers, directors, standing committee members, and United Way staff. 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.UnitedWayofTampabay.org.

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)

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**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
- 6 gallons of hand sanitizer
- 940 homemade masks
- 20,000 reusable masks

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**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

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**Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

**13th Annual Stuff the Bus**

United Way organized 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 grew, a large number of our schools and families struggle to provide students with even the most basic needs. 106 buses filled with donated items benefited over 165 Hernando County classrooms.

**2019 Bus Locations:**
- Port Richey
- Spring Hill
- Brooksville

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**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

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**VITA 2020 Survey Results**

**VITA 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.

**VITA 2020 Locations**

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

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**Proud Partner Highlights**

**Mid Florida Homeless Coalition**

Continued outreach efforts to those experiencing homelessness, working with local organizations to open up more shelter beds and help people find housing.

**St. Vincent de Paul**

The Food Pantry collected a truckload of food items. They served 140 people in the last week.

**Daum Center**

The domestic violence shelter services 30+ families weekly. The center has 10 beds for domestic violence abuse victims.

**Little Free Library Locations**

6 in Hernando (100% supported by the Hernando Public Library System).

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**Facts & Figures**

- **United Way:** $1,003,989
- **Food Pantries:** 2,653,666
- **VITA Participants:** 677 Tax Returns Completed, $810,489 in Total refunds, $238,809 Total ETC + $193,500 Saved
- **Hernando Residents:** 32,440

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**UPDATE:**

- United Way’s Food Pantries and Free Furniture Rental Discount Prescription Card.
- Save on prescriptions with United Way’s FREE FamilyWize Discount Prescription Card.
- Prescription Savings Card
- FamilyWize Card
- $2,653,666 were saved in prescription costs as of June 2020.