

United Way of Hernando County

Q3 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2021-2022

Boys and Girls Club

MENTORING

Every day after school, Sara comes to our Club. It was there that she met her mentor. She was shy at first, but after spending time drawing together, Sara began to open up. She talked about losing her grandparents during COVID last year and how much she missed them. She started to draw pictures of her feelings and showed them to her mentor each day. Sara began to open up more and began to do things she had stopped doing, like playing with friends and reading books. Sara is an example of how mentoring works.....simple, supportive, and patient.



Hernando County YMCA

SAFETY AROUND WATER

Bryson has been in many programs here at the YMCA from summer camp, flag football, spring break camp, enjoying the kid zone area and many other sports. Bryson had a hard time coming to camp because he had not received his green band yet and was feeling discouraged. This year during Spring Break Camp, Bryson participated in the swim lessons since he was a yellow band. On day 3 of camp Bryson was given his swim test again to see where he was. He felt confident and practiced hard the past 2 days and sure enough it paid off! Bryson was able to pass his swim test receiving his green band and was extremely proud of himself. All his friends in camp watched as he tested and cheered him on. Once Bryson finished his swim test and was told he earned his green band he had the biggest smile and went home to tell mom right away! Bryson is now excited to come back for summer camp knowing he has his green band and is so proud of himself! Thanks to United Way Bryson was able to accomplish this goal and build not only his water skills but his confidence!



Early Learning Coalition

START INITIATIVE

Walker is a Hernando County mother who was part of the first START Initiative workshop that began in October of 2021. She graduated from the START workshop in January 2022. She shares: "START has brought me closer to my kids and created much more understanding, peace and connection within our home. The course has helped me as a case manager working in the field to have more compassion for the parents, kids and their support system. I learned new tools, shared experiences and was supported while being able to be transparent and vulnerable. It was therapeutic while educational! I cannot say enough how amazing the experience was. My children are happier, they seek more time and articulate their feelings more openly. I am more confident in my parenting ability."



Dawn Center

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

A male survivor of domestic violence seeking an injunction for protection was directed to Dawn Center's Legal Advocate who is co-located at the Hernando County Clerk of Court's office. The Legal Advocate assisted him in completing the paperwork required and made an appointment with a FL Bar certified attorney who was able to provide services at no cost to the survivor due to Dawn Center's grant funding. During that initial appointment, it became apparent that the survivor and his two children would need assistance with emergency shelter for 10 days while they awaited the injunction hearing. The family was welcomed into Dawn Center's shelter, where we were able to assist him with support groups, counseling, and advocacy. At the conclusion of the injunction process, he safely returned to his home with his children and continues counseling services with Dawn Center's Outreach office.



Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind

ADAPTIVE SKILLS

The Lighthouse recently hired a new instructor who is completely blind and was a Lighthouse client since 2019. This is a significant event for the Lighthouse for many reasons. It is difficult to find qualified instructors; our mission is to educate, empower, and employ people who are visually impaired and blind; and instructors who are able to connect on a personal level with clients and inspire those who are struggling with adjustment to vision loss. We are thrilled to have this instructor on our team.



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Supported Programs

United Way of Hernando County Emergency Assistance

2021-2022 Q3

Injured Grandmother Seeking Assistance

A grandmother who was the sole caregiver for her granddaughter reached out to United Way asking for assistance with her monthly rent payment. The client was gainfully employed at two companies, and worked well over 40 hours a week. Unfortunately, she had recently fallen and broken her arm, which required surgery and kept her out of work for over two months while she attended physical therapy. This caused her a significant loss of income, and she was struggling to make ends meet for both her and her granddaughter. United Way was able to partner with St. Vincent de Paul to step in and prevent the client from facing an eviction, keeping her and her granddaughter safe and stable while she heals.



Supportive Changes for Disabled Vet



A disabled veteran was no longer able to safely live in his second story apartment, as the stairs became nearly impossible for him to climb. His apartment complex was able to secure him a first floor unit, and allowed him to transfer his lease to the new unit, however he was going to be facing multiple unanticipated fees for his utilities to be transferred. These fees were going to push the client over his monthly budget, and could potentially lead him into a financial crisis. United Way was able to prevent this from happening by assisting with the fees the client was facing. The client was able to get the keys to his new apartment and move in. This prevented both a safety concern, and a potential financial crisis.

Identifying Next Steps

A woman who was experiencing liver failure was facing a major increase in her monthly rent. She was attempting to find a new place to live that she would be able to reasonably afford, but in the meantime was going to have to choose between paying her rent and paying her water bill. United Way provided her with the most recent affordable housing list, assisted her in laying out her budget so she could determine what she could afford every month. United Way was also able to provide financial relief, preventing her water from being shut off, allowing her to pay the rent for the month on time.



Maintaining Stability for Retired Teacher



A school teacher had to retire suddenly due to personal health reasons and was going to be relying on her monthly pension as her main source of income. After she retired, her pension payments were delayed due to processing issues in the system and she was starting to fall behind in bills. She was informed it would take multiple weeks for the issue to be solved and to start receiving her payments. United Way was able to prevent her electricity from being shut off, while she waited for her payment to come in from her pension. Once her payments started she was able to maintain financial stability and keep on track.

Steadiness Following an Unforeseen Tragedy

A husband and wife had recently moved to the area from out of state due to the husband being relocated for work. Shortly after they moved, he was in a car wreck that severely injured him and he needed multiple surgeries on his back. His previous job involved physical labor, so he was unsure if he would ever be able to return to his career. Due to being reduced to one income, the couple was struggling to make it month-to-month. The husband was awaiting disability payments to come through which would give them enough to pay the bills. United Way was able to bridge the gap and help the couple while they waited for the much needed second income. This prevented them from facing an eviction and losing their housing, allowing them to save in hopes of purchasing a new vehicle.



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