

United Way of Hernando County

Q1 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2021-2022

Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind

In 2019, Paul lost his vision suddenly when a brain tumor in his pituitary gland had to be removed. He persevered and attended his first Independent Living class 5 days after being discharged from the hospital. At the time, Paul was able to develop some of the adapted skills he needed to care for himself and he received emotion support. Upon completion of the program, we invited Paul to return whenever he felt ready to embrace the adaptive process. In August 2021, Paul returned to the Lighthouse to continue working through many of the difficulties he still faced. Paul was able to embrace the lessons, engaged in them with the other clients, and he retained the knowledge from the program at a far deeper level than he had previously. Throughout the program, Paul remarked that he could now fully embrace the adapted skills, which he needed desperately to live on his own.



Dawn Center

A male domestic violence survivor was brought into our shelter facility after a hospital stay to recover from physical injuries sustained by his partner. During his stay, he received support from Dawn Center's Shelter Services Coordinator, Legal Advocates, Injunction for Protection Attorney, and Economic Justice Advocates. He was successful in securing an Injunction for Protection (restraining order), new employment, and safe housing, but he would tell you the most important thing he received from Dawn Center services was a feeling of belonging and acceptance. He told his story and was believed. That was as important to him as any other service he received during his involvement with Dawn Center services.

Boys & Girls Club of Hernando County

In the beginning of the school year Logan would scream and physically fight with other members. A mentor had expressed these behaviors to his mother and his teacher. His teacher stated that he did not exhibit these behaviors but struggles academically in ELA. His mother expressed that Logan uses these same behaviors at home with his siblings. The mentor had a conversation with Logan about school and he shared that he thinks his siblings think he is "stupid" because he can't read at the same level as them. The mentor offered to help him with his homework and provide additional resources. Since their time in mentoring, Logan has come up to his mentor to ask for help in trying to tell his siblings and peers in club how he feels (i.e. I feel like angry when you cheat at four square, I feel lonely when you tell me not to play with you at recess, etc.). While Logan still has occasional outbursts he is more likely to go up to staff to help communicate his problems.



For Each 1 Reach 1

A few years ago when a young lady named Riley entered our building. She was from a broken home with her parents being in prison. She currently lives with her father's ex-girlfriend. She was a student in our private school and a member of our Bootcamp. She came in with low self esteem and some learning difficulties. She joined Bootcamp because some of her friends at the school were joining. She quickly realized that she could talk about her problems, and it went no farther than the group. She opened up about her home life and how she had been abused. She came out of her shell and blossomed into a great young lady. She took charge and helped the younger members stay on task. She became someone you could rely on to help you every week. She left the program and started middle school and has been doing a great job. She truly was one of the superstars in the Bootcamp.



Deaf and Hard of Hearing

One of our deaf clients lost his job last year because of COVID. We had helped him get his job last year at a large corporation in Tampa. Because of this he needed help with unemployment, both state and federal so he could pay rent and buy food. We also gave him referral sources for many other services he might need. Additionally we contacted other businesses he might apply to. (He always wanted to go back to his original job if it opened up) Early this summer he contacted us stating he heard his old job was rehiring because COVID was easing up. We immediately contacted his old job to make an appointment. We went with him for extra paperwork and he was hired back immediately. He was so happy to be working there again and so appreciative for our assistance.



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