

United Way of Hernando County

Q2 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2022-2023

A New Generation

MENTORING PROGRAM

" 'John' a 7th-grade student shared during our session on the importance of setting goals that he wanted to help his mom buy a car so she didn't have to use the bus anymore to go to work. He took the lesson seriously and began setting short-term goals of earning and saving money. His first goal was to earn \$3,000 over the summer by doing odd jobs in his neighborhood – he reached that goal. His next goal was to earn \$1200 by Christmas – he reached his goal. His next goal was to double that amount by Easter – which he did by detailing cars. He worked from Easter until the end of summer and was able to provide \$6,000 to help his mom purchase a car. When "John" was in 8th grade he proudly shared with us how he used the SMART goal program and it worked!! He stayed focused, put forth energy/effort, and remained committed to his goal. He also remarked how he is applying this to his grades and moving towards going to college to obtain a business degree. A simple tool put in the hands of someone who put his heart and soul into pursuing his dreams CAN find success and avoid risky behaviors."



Early Learning Coalition

START INITIATIVE

"This course has given me the chance to pause and assess. I can now see where my kids are on the circle and I can respond accordingly. Since implementing the trainings, I have found that I am less reactive and my kids are more calm and comfortable around me. Circle of Security (COS) has profoundly the way I parent. I'll forever be grateful."

-Hernando County Parent

Mid FL Homeless Coalition

DIVERSION & WRAPAROUND HOMELESS SERVICES

"What do you do when home is no longer safe for you and your children, but you don't have the financial resources to get away from the unsafe situation? For many, they either have to stay or leave and become homeless often times living in a car or on the streets. That would have happened to Tina and her children if it wasn't for the use of UWHC Community Investment funds, MFHC, The Salvation Army, St. Vincent Depaul Cares, Dawn Center and local Churches. All these organizations were able to pool their resources to assist Tina go from an unsafe situation into her very own home with her children. MFHC used UWHC funds to pay for the rental application fee for housing while all others either temporarily housed the client, paid for other move in cost or provided items for the home or much needed counseling for the family. Thanks to all working together, the family never spent a night on the streets, were provided the tools and resources needed now and, in the future, but most importantly the family is safe and thriving in their own home without living in fear daily."



Dawn Center

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES

"A survivor we will call 'Nicole' entered Dawn Center's emergency shelter with no other safe place to go, seeking protection from her abusive partner. With Dawn Center's assistance she was able to secure legal help with a divorce which meant she was able to protect her assets. With the information and referrals her advocate was able to provide, Nicole was able to secure a stable job and maintain employment throughout her involvement with Dawn Center's programs. Nicole also had the opportunity to work with Dawn Center's Economic Empowerment Advocates while she stayed in shelter to create a personalized budget and savings plan. She has since moved into her own safe home, and she has taken advantage of ongoing support services through Dawn Center's outreach program. With continued safety planning and emotional support, Nicole has been proudly living an empowered life which is free of violence."



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of Hernando



UnitedWayHernando.org

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Supported Programs

United Way of Hernando County

Q2 Emergency Assistance

2022-2023

"Home for the Holidays"

A family of four from Pasco County knocked on the door of UW asking if we can please help them secure an apartment in Spring Hill. The family unexpectedly received a non-renewal after 2 years of residing in their home, with 3 days to move out. They were lucky enough to find a landlord willing to hold the apartment while they located the first month's rent and security. The mother mentioned they had 2 small children and she was dealing with a mental illness that prevented her from going to work. The husband however had just started working for a local delivery company. A local Partner Agency had already agreed to pay her first month's rent; her only barrier was coming up with the full Deposit to hold the apartment. We quickly gathered all her information and collaborated with our local Agency Partner to secure her first month's rent and deposit allowing her to obtain the lease for the apartment. The landlord was very pleasant and was willing to work with us. The family was very appreciative that two local agencies were able to secure housing for them just weeks away from Christmas.



"Just Doing a Good Deed"

We received a call from a senior in desperate need of assistance due to his water being shut off. His income was limited and was kind enough to provide some side work for extra cash but was never paid. This set him back tremendously. When he contacted us, he had already spent 4 days without water. The senior did not have transportation but guaranteed us he was ok with his food supply. We were able to restore his water and were very appreciative. We provided him with resources from our local partner agencies and a budget worksheet to help keep him on track with his income and expenses to prevent this from happening again in the future.



"Taking Care of the Caretaker"

A woman called a few days before Christmas stating she had just been released from the hospital. She had been hospitalized since October due to breaking her femur, pelvic bone, and shoulder. It was a priority to be around family while trying to heal, so she was released early to be with her 70-year-old husband who was battling stage 4 cancer. When she arrived back home, she quickly realized there was no food in their cupboards. Her husband spent his days by her side in the hospital and did not have access to a car to pick up groceries. We utilized RIDE UNITED and had nonperishable food delivered to her front door within an hour. The couple was beyond grateful to have such a quick response to their need and will begin receiving monthly home deliveries until the wife is fully healed.



"Second Job, Second Chance"

Recently separated from her spouse, this hard-working mom of 4 found herself behind in bills as she struggled with now being the sole provider of her household, going from a two-income household to just one. After landing a second job at a local hospital, she felt confident in her budget projections that she'll be back on track financially for her family in no time – however, desperately needed financial assistance with a portion of January's rent. After swallowing her pride and asking for help, United Way was honored to intervene and help cover costs in hopes of it lifting the weight off her shoulders during this time of transition. She was beyond grateful knowing there are people in her community who truly care.



"Love Thy Neighbor"

We received a call from a frantic woman one morning; her elderly neighbor had gotten her water turned off due to nonpayment. The neighbor was kind enough to let the elderly lady in her home use the phone while they located local agencies for assistance. I spoke with the elderly woman and she explained that she had fallen behind on her November rent and electric bill and the only source of income is Disability. She mentioned that she does not have a car and depends on taxis to get around which can be costly, she managed to get caught up but did not have enough to pay her late water bill which resulted in getting shut off. Thanks to her neighbor, she gave her a ride to our office where we collected her information and had her water turned back on that same day.



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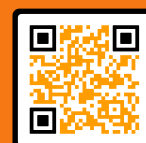
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