

United Way of Hernando County



Q2 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



“Serving Those who Served Us”



With no one else to turn to, a displaced Veteran with full custody of his 11 year old son contacted United Way. Having been let go due to company changes from two Insurance Sales positions in a matter of months, he was concerned about how he would provide for his family and the bills were piling up fast. This hard working dad made it very clear that losing their home was not an option. United Way stepped in and signed him up for their Free Florida Master Money Mentors class to enhance his budgeting & saving skills, as well as provide him with food and toiletries to help sustain him and his son until things got better. United Way ultimately connected him with work and covered their past due mortgage. Now with a stable job, a clean slate, and a new perspective, this family was finally back on the right track.

“Hope for the Holidays”

During disaster relief efforts in Ridge Manor, United Way encountered a grandmother of three who had been displaced from her home. The Ridge Manor Community Center, where United Way's Family Resource Center was being hosted, became a school bus drop-off zone due to the major flooding in the area. Because of this, she visited the FRC every single day while waiting to pick up her grandchildren from school. During her visits, she received basic necessities and hot meals for herself and the children. As Thanksgiving quickly approached, UW's generous donors from Publix provided a fully cooked turkey dinner along with all the traditional sides so that they could still have an enjoyable holiday despite their current circumstances. She was eternally grateful for the continued care and check-ins with her and her family from the United Way Team. When Christmas time rolled around, this family in need was also selected to receive brand new toys provided by Target. The road to recovery will be long, but United Way will be there with her every step of the way.



“A Fresh Start”



A young woman was recently hired to work part-time at a local restaurant and Financial Advisors Office. She's been struggling with homelessness and has been living in her van all while raising her two children. All she needed was a pair of black slacks and steel-toed shoes before she could start her new jobs. United Way quickly stepped in to fill this unmet need and hard working mom's barrier. As Christmas approached, United Way also wanted to ensure she and her children could fully enjoy the holiday season. They were able to do just that and received wrapped presents from the help of generous donors at Keller Williams. United Way continues to work with this family until they can fully achieve stability and a place to call home.

“Peace of Mind”

A single grandmother raising three children called United Way looking for guidance. As the sole caretaker of her grandchildren, working a full-time job was almost impossible. She drove the children back and forth from school and therapy sessions. To make ends meet she would DoorDash and Uber while the kids were in school. Back-to-back hurricanes had impacted her income significantly due to businesses being closed and roadways being flooded. She was falling behind on her rent, and time was running out. United Way stepped in to catch her up on rent to avoid an eviction. Since it was the holiday season, United Way also provided her family with Christmas gifts donated by generous community sponsors. We were able to give this grandmother peace of mind and alleviate the financial burden the holidays bring.



United Way of Hernando County

Q2 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2024-2025

Early Learning Coalition

"Being part of a tuition-free program to earn my CDA credential has been an incredible and life-changing opportunity. Without this program, pursuing my credential might have remained out of reach due to financial barriers. This program brought me closer to achieving my long-term goals in early childhood education, something I had dreamed about for years but didn't think was possible. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity this program provided. It has not only transformed my career but also reaffirmed my belief that high-quality training should be accessible to all educators. Programs like this are essential in building a stronger, more equitable early childhood education field, and I am proud to be a part of it." J.M.



Early Childhood Credentialing Program

DAWN CENTER



"'Nelly' entered Dawn Center's emergency shelter after escaping from her Human Trafficking abuser who was physically, sexually, emotionally and financially abusive. She was very overwhelmed when entering shelter and expressed she was feeling nervous about being on her own for the first time. She disclosed having some mental health challenges and did not feel confident that she could live on her own. Despite her nervousness, Nelly consistently met with her case manager at shelter, where she developed short- and long-term goals for the first time in her life. She also attended support groups regularly and connected with local mental health services. During her stay, Nelly enrolled herself into college and worked with her school advisor and shelter case manager to address challenges and barriers she faced. Dawn Center provided Nelly with resources for housing, and she was able to get connected with a local agency to find housing. She is now living safely and independently!"

Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services

YMCA

Finn has been in swim lessons at the YMCA for a couple of years. Finn has done many 'Safety Around Water' classes as well as group and private swim lessons. Over time Finn keeps growing in his swimming skills. At first, Finn would grab onto the teachers and never wanted to go into his lessons due to his fear of the water. Now, Finn is able to go into lessons without crying and enjoys the water with his twin sister and little brother. Finn understands the dangers of the water and is very cautious but, continues to grow in his skills and lessen that fear.



Safety Around Water

NAMI HERNANDO

"Sierra reached out to NAMI Hernando seeking support for her husband, after 25 years of marriage she had found herself on the verge of divorce. His misuse of alcohol and neglect of daily hygiene had reached a breaking point, leaving her feeling helpless as their family life rapidly deteriorated. While homeschooling her grandchildren, Sierra worried about the unhealthy behaviors they were exposed to in the household. Deep down, she still loved her husband and wanted to help him get better, but she lacked the understanding and tools to address the situation.

Determined to make one last effort, Sierra decided to enroll in the Family-to-Family class offered by NAMI Hernando. Through the class, she gained invaluable insights into mental health and recognized that her husband was suffering from severe depression, using alcohol to self-medicate and numb his pain. Equipped with communication skills from the class, Sierra was able to engage in productive conversations with her husband about what she was learning. This opened the door for him to seek an evaluation and connect with treatment. Since then, her husband has stopped drinking, and in November, he attended Friendsgiving with Sierra, their children, and their grandchildren. Sierra credits the Family-to-Family program with saving her family and giving them a second chance at happiness."

Education Programs