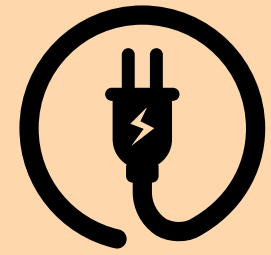




## Q3 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE



### “A Game Plan”



A distressed client called, crying in fear of having her electricity disconnected. She had been recently let go from her job and, in an attempt to be proactive, she paid several months of her rent in advance with the \$2,500 severance package from her employer. United Way conducted an assessment and were able to prevent her utilities from being shut off. This client was very transparent and informed us upfront that she had not yet found a job, but was actively looking. With a few interviews already lined up, United Way connected her with Career Source for current local job listings. United Way felt it necessary to step-in and help this ALICE client who was trying her hardest to stay afloat. Thanks to United Way's support, she has one less concern and has since then started a new job and is back on the right track.

### “Like Family”

United Way got a knock on the door one day from a part-time employee at a local grocery store. He shared that he has learning disabilities as well as his recent barriers. His elderly mother, who was his caretaker, had recently passed away. “John” now lives alone but receives help from his brother and sister-in-law, who live out of state. He had confided in his manager who had advised him to reach out to United Way. “John” took it upon himself to stop by our office to seek some solutions to his problems. He expressed genuine concern about his finances since his late mother had always handled all the bills. Now, with just his part-time job and disability benefits, things were getting too tight for comfort. “John” was little nervous and way out of his comfort zone, but United Way reassured him that he was definitely in the right place. Program Care Coordinator, Mindy, reached out to his brother and sister-in-law and explained that United Way would love to work together with him. She shared with them that there are some resources that help individuals who have mental disabilities here in Hernando. Together, they managed to secure him a more affordable apartment, but he still needed assistance with the first month's rent. United Way happily covered this barrier for “John” and to let him know that he is not alone as he journeys this new chapter of his life.

### “Short Notice”

A single grandmother raising her 14-year-old granddaughter reached out to United Way. She works in the cafeteria at a local school and her landlord had decided to sell the house she was renting. With just a few short weeks notice, she panicked because she did not have the funds needed to cover moving costs. United Way eased her stress and shared that they would help cover this unexpected expense. United Way was able to provide her with her first month's rent, as well as the resources needed to manage a budget to potentially secure her own home someday. With the support of United Way, this client and her granddaughter were well on their way to a new apartment and a fresh start.



### “Support System”



Behind on their rent, a couple who had already exhausted all their resources filled out United Way's Contact Us form as a last resort. His wife did DoorDash on the side but was the fulltime caretaker for her terminally ill father, and since he passed away, they began to struggle with their bills and rent. On top of this, they were unprepared for the costly funeral expenses which then led to both of their vehicles being repossessed. This situation caused them to panic and seek outside assistance. After carefully assessing their finances, United Way provided this couple with Publix gift cards for food and caught them up on their rent, preventing this grieving family from being evicted during this difficult time. Additionally, United Way offered resources to grief support groups, understanding that bereavement can be a challenging process. Since then, this couple continues to work hard to regain financial stability while attending support groups to process their grief.



# United Way of Hernando County 2024-2025

## Q3 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

### DAWN CENTER

### Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services



"Pamela' entered Dawn Center's emergency shelter seeking safety from her physically abusive partner of several years. As a survivor of domestic violence (and now a single mother of 5 children), she was determined to find a way to provide a safe environment for her children. Pamela met with Dawn Center's case management team where she identified her short- and long-term goals. Pamela enrolled her children into school and found employment very quickly. She saved the majority of each paycheck she received while in shelter and found affordable housing. Her challenge was finding a lump sum of money to pay the security deposit and first month's rent. Pamela talked to the case management team about her challenge and learned that there was funding available for a short window of time that would help her overcome this particular challenge. With the help from Dawn Center's services, Pamela was able to move with her children into their new safe environment."

### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

### FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE

"Camila & Kenny came to Foundations of Life in late 2023 to confirm pregnancy. The couple was surprised as this was an unexpected pregnancy, but they were excited nonetheless. During the pregnancy, they both attended monthly mentoring appointments, learning about pregnancy and infant safety, setting and reaching personal goals, and receiving all the necessities for their baby girl. Close to her third trimester, at a mentoring appointment, the couple watched the Bright Course Video - "Your Third Trimester" and were given educational materials for things to expect during the third trimester. A few days later, Camila had noticed that her hands were unexpectedly swollen despite feeling just fine and, because it had been mentioned in the video as something to be aware of, she decided to be proactive. She quickly checked her blood pressure which came back extremely high. Camila and Kenny went to the hospital immediately where she was diagnosed with pre-eclampsia. The doctors were able to stabilize her blood pressure, and their daughter was born via C-Section the following day. Baby Alana was born at 29 weeks, 1 day gestation and from the very beginning was a fighter. At 2 pounds 10 ounces, Alana was sent to the NICU where she spent the next 58 days. Finally, the day came when Alana was discharged from the NICU and was able to come home with her parents. Alana is now about 9 months old and both she and Camila are happy and healthy. Camila and Kenny still attend their monthly mentoring appointments learning about parenting and connecting with others experiencing similar challenges. This family appreciates the services they have received and how it has benefited their lives in more ways than they could have envisioned."

### LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND

### Independent Living Skills

"Carol, at 90 years of age, came to the Lighthouse when her Macular Degeneration caused a significant loss of vision. At that time, Carol felt that she had to rely on her husband to do everything and had become very dependent. For example, she could not do laundry without spilling detergent, she stopped cooking as she feared burning/cutting herself, she could not manage her meds, and she was unable to pay for things. She even stopped going to the gym because she could not do it on her own. Through Lighthouse's Independent Living Skills Program (IL), Carol learned how to adapt. She was taught to label appliances, pour liquids safely, manage her medications, use the microwave, make the most of her remaining vision, and identify/organize money. She also learned safe cutting techniques and how to ask for the chef's cut when dining out. Carol made great progress by being honest about her needs and learning how to ask for help when needed. By the end of the IL program, she had regained her independence and was helping around the house and going to the gym again. Most importantly, Carol is now feeling confident and empowered, ready to face challenges and enjoy life again."

