Working Towards

### **FINANCIAL STABILITY**



"A Spring Hill Deaf man contacted us about a job opportunity with the Tampa Bay Rays. He was invited for an in-person application and interview. Our job coach Carrie accompanied him to St. Pete to assist with translating. He was contacted within a week and was hired. We again, went with him to help with paperwork. He was very excited to start his brand new job with the Tampa Bay Rays! Our trained job coach is well versed in all aspects of the employment process, and can assist with the communication equipment needed in helping clients get and maintain stable employment. Employment assistance is much needed for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community."

This story is a testimony of just one of the hundreds of families and individuals our United Way helps support through funded programs such as Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services Communication Access Assistance program.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

United Way advocates for struggling individuals & families, and invests in local solution services.

### Supporting HEALTH



'Betty, age <u>49, has</u> attended the Life Skills Development programs at The Arc Nature Coast for the past 16 years. Betty has participated in an employment program through The Arc and works at Glory Days. Betty enjoys going out into the community and shopping on Fridays after she gets out work. She loves of going out to lunch and to the parks to walk and exercise. She has recently struggled with some health issues, so

we have assisted and encouraged her to make healthy choices and has since lost over 25 pounds. We have enjoyed being a part of assisting Betty as she has blossomed and grown over the years, and we continue to strive to assist her in meeting her ever-changing goals."

This story is a testimony of just one of the hundreds of families and individuals our United Way helps support through funded programs such as The Arc Nature Coast's Community Supports Program.



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

Your United Way team, their Partners, programs and projects helped 35,782 people last year.

### Inspiring Through EDUCATION



"My daughter attends the Boys & Girls Club and I want to thank everyone who's made it possible for her to attend. I did not have the money to send her and the scholarship made it possible. She loves seeing her mentor and has gained confidence. The programs they have are wonderful and I am grateful to have the opportunity to have my child attend. Thanks again for the support." - Jessica M.

### United Way of Hernando



This story is a testimony of just one of the hundreds of families and individuals our United Way helps support through funded programs such as the Boys & Girls Club Scholarship Program.

#### DID YOU KNOW?



You can become a Digital Ambassador?! Follow us on Facebook to LIKE & SHARE helpful resources and opportunities.

## **EASY WAYS TO GIVE**

- ⇒ Pledge your support today and submit your annual pledge form to your employer.
- ⇒ UnitedWayHernando.org/Give
- ⇒ PayPal.me/UWHernando
- ⇒ Venmo: @UWHernando
- ⇒ Create a Facebook birthday fundraiser!
  Facebook.com/UWHC4030
- ⇒ Mail a check to United Way 4028 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL 34606



Your support to United Way doesn't leave the county. All donations remain local and are invested into programs & services based on the community's needs.



#### DID YOU KNOW?

Over 91% of United Way's total revenue is raised through Workplace Giving Campaigns.

## SUPPORTED PARTNERS

- 2-1-1 Hernando
- The Arc Nature Coast
- Boys & Girls Club
- Catholic Charities
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Dawn Center
- Deaf & Hard of Hearing Services
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Early Learning Coalition
- Jericho Road Ministries
- Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired & Blind
- Mid FL Homeless Coalition
- NAMI Hernando
- People Helping People
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Youth & Family Alternatives

United Way of Hernando County funds 19 programs and 15 agencies that focus on Health, Education, Financial Stability and Basic Needs/Crisis Prevention services.



**DID YOU KNOW?** 

\$300,104 was invested back into the community last year through our Health, Education, Financial Stability services.

## **ALICE IN HERNANDO**

The ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) are employed, hardworking individuals and families who live paycheck to paycheck, where one car repair or medical bill can tip them over into financial crisis.



Hernando Population: 190,865

Poverty: 15%

**ALICE: 37%** 

Which equals <u>52%</u> of Hernando County residents that are walking a financial tightrope.

#### **Success Story:**

"My husband is a trucker and is only home one week a month. When the company he worked for closed due to COVID, he was thankfully able to get another job quickly, but we were still without pay for almost a month. We fell behind on rent, and didn't want to be evicted with our two young children. We were referred to United Way, who were able to pay half of our rent so we could stay in our house. We're so thankful United Way could help us remain in our home!"

United Way of Hernando



Visit www.UnitedWayHernando.org/ALICE to download the ALICE Report and learn more about this important community conversation.

#### DID YOU KNOW?



Your donation is working around the clock to help individuals who are one crisis away from poverty remain stable.

### **VITA SUCCESS**



United Way's VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program is available to those who have a lowto-moderate income (generally \$56,000 or less). Even through the

COVID-19 pandemic, VITA prevailed and our **30 volunteers** still completed **714 returns** for the season. United Way hosted VITA program was hosted at five locations throughout Hernando County.

\$810,489 in total refunds

**\$238,809** total EITC

\$1,003,989 returning to our community

#### **VITA TESTIMONIAL**

"We've been coming for a few years. The people are very knowledgeable and friendly. There is no stress. We will continue to come



every year and also recommend VITA to friends and family!"

If you weren't able to book an appointment through United Way's VITA program, you can file your taxes online for free. Visit MyFreeTaxes.com to get started!



**DID YOU KNOW?** 

United Way volunteers are trained and certified by the IRS every year so they can provide VITA services for FREE.

### LEND A HAND

Volunteering made simple through United Way's Lend a Hand Hernando online portal.

Lend a Hand Hernando connects residents to local volunteer opportunities and has over **43 organizations** listing opportunities. **850 volunteers** are currently enrolled!

Volunteers can sign up for fun events and projects such as:

- Stuff the Bus
- United Way's Student Board
- Greek Festival
- Kickball Tournament
- Hop n' Glow
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)
- And so much more through other organizations!



Register as a volunteer, select causes you are passionate about and create your profile today! Visit www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer



Over 4,307 hours were logged by dedicated United Way volunteers last year here in Hernando.

**DID YOU KNOW?** 

## **COVID-19 RESPONSE**

During the COVID-19 outbreak, United Way led Hernando's COAD (Community Organizations Active in Disasters). This effort focused on unmet needs due to the pandemic and mobilized resources to bridge any gaps in services. United Way and Emergency Management spearhead the COAD yearly and focused on collecting information of unmet needs due to the pandemic.

United Way distributed:

- 9,000 rolls of toilet paper
- 6 gallons of hand sanitizer from Pinebrook Pharmacy
- Over 300 handmade masks by local volunteers and Tri-County Community Center
- 400 containers of disinfecting wipes
- Meals to front line and essential workers



# United Way of Hernando Way

United Way kept up-to-date with accurate information regarding resources available in Hernando County during the Pandemic. You can see a list of these services by visiting www.UnitedWayHernando.org/COVID19



#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

\$109,514 is the monetary value of volunteer time accumulated through United Way volunteers.