

United Way of Hernando County, Inc. was established as a 501c3 organization in 1987. Since then, United Way has been committed to enhancing partnerships to further assist our community in sustainable solutions to our most pressing needs. United Way is structured to mobilize resources swiftly and strategically while identifying short-term and long-term resolutions for Hernando County. Success comes by bridging the gaps in services, which is essential when addressing the key issues our community faces.

## UNITED WAY IS POWERED BY PARTNERSHIPS

United Way is uniquely positioned to directly impact change through our collaborations with leaders, businesses, organizations, and individuals who share a vision of improving lives through the power of collective impact. This is accomplished through generous **GIVING**, through passionate **ADVOCATING** for local causes, and through dedicated individuals **VOLUNTEERING** their time.

In 2020, as a result of necessary safety precautions, the most common threat for United Way and our Partner Agencies is not the coronavirus itself, but the fear of decreased funding, closures, and the inability to provide direct services to suffering residents during this uncertain time. With United Way identifying unmet needs and already having a trusted process in place to make such investments, we are hopeful our community will continue to invest in us as a lead organization, because we are more than the fundraisers. We are the hand raisers and game changers.

### TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN



United Way fights for the **HEALTH, EDUCATION, and FINANCIAL STABILITY** of every person in our community. We fight because even though our community has much to celebrate, there is still more work to be done and issues to be tackled: mental health, abuse, hunger, addiction, homelessness, literacy, and so much more. We win when we **LIVE UNITED**, and we urge the community to continue to lean on us when they don't know where else to turn. How will **YOU** choose to **LIVE UNITED**?

## WHAT IS UNITED WAY?

WHERE DOES MY DONATION GO?  
WHO DOES IT HELP?

### MISSION

TO INSPIRE LEADERS AND PARTNERS, AND MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

### CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY, DIVERSITY, LEADERSHIP, INCLUSIVENESS, VOLUNTEERISM, LOYALTY, AND EXCELLENCE.

### YOUR SUPPORT FOR UNITED WAY OF HERNANDO COUNTY HELPS IMPACT THOUSANDS OF LIVES THROUGH OUR 2020-2021 PARTNER PROGRAMS:

 **HEALTH**
 **EDUCATION**
 **FINANCIAL STABILITY**
 **BASIC NEEDS/ CRISIS INTERVENTION**

-  **2-1-1 HERNANDO**
-  **THE ARC NATURE COAST**
-  Community Support for Individuals w/ Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
-  Residential Support for Individuals w/ Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
-  **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HERNANDO COUNTY**
-  School Year Scholarships
-  **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
-  Foundations of Life Pregnancy Program
-  **DAWN CENTER OF HERNANDO COUNTY**
-  Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services
-  **DEAF & HARD OF HEARING SERVICES**
-  Communication Access Assistance (CAA)
-  **DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY**
-  **EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO & HERNANDO**
-  Support for School Readiness
-  **JERICHO ROAD MINISTRIES**
-  Jericho Food Barn
-  Jericho Shelter Facilities
-  **LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND**
-  Adaptive Skills for Visually Impaired Adults & Seniors
-  **MID-FLORIDA COMMUNITY SERVICES**
-  Children's Advocacy Center
-  **MID FLORIDA HOMELESS COALITION**
-  Mid Florida Information Network
-  **NAMI HERNANDO INC.**
-  Support Groups
-  Education Programs
-  **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE**
-  Weekend Blessings
-  **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**
-  Food Pantry
-  **YOUTH & FAMILY ALTERNATIVES**
-  New Beginnings Youth Shelter



United Way of Hernando County specializes in mobilizing resources, and distributed:

- 5,000 rolls of toilet paper
- 6 gallons of hand sanitizer
- 300 homemade masks
- 480 containers of wipes; and
- 20,000 reusable masks to organizations & essential health & human services

Although People Helping People had to close their HELP Center, they continued serving prepared meals to individuals and providing backpacks of food to Hernando County students through their Weekend Blessing program. They also had a portable toilet and hand sanitizing station outside their facility for the homeless.

Children's Advocacy Center continued operating as essential workers and educating on the signs of abuse. Since school was out and reports were down, they worked closely with law enforcement and community leaders to identify potential abuse and intervene to offer their services.

In response to the pandemic, The Arc Nature Coast's Residential Program quickly adapted to providing safe services and personalized care for individuals with disabilities 24/7 who live in their residential homes. With limited to no visitors, clients relied on technology to connect to family and friends.

Knowing how difficult it can be for a blind individual to use video conferencing, Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind adapted to a platform that can call meeting attendees so they don't have to dial in, removing the barrier of navigating the platform themselves.

When reports of domestic violence fell following the "Safer at Home" orders, Dawn Center understood that many victims may be stuck at home with their abusers with no safe way to contact help. Dawn Center created a 24/7 text feature for their hotline number. On their website, they implemented a web chat option as well.

St. Vincent de Paul's Food Pantry adapted by implementing a drive-thru, no contact service while the "Safer at Home" order was in effect. They played a vital role by partnering with United Way to offer a delivery service on a case-by-case, food emergency basis for home-bound individuals.

Mid Florida Homeless Coalition vigilantly continued their outreach efforts to reach those experiencing homelessness. They worked with local organizations to open outdoor toilet facilities and hand washing stations, distributed masks and hand sanitizer, and monitored outbreaks among this vulnerable population.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services continued communicating with clients even though their offices were closed to the public. They created a Facebook page for informing and updating their clients on important issues pertaining to COVID-19, as well as for posting clients' needs.

Although offices were closed to the public at the Early Learning Coalition, they continued to communicate with parents and childcare centers. They provided weekly updates to the COAD on available childcare providers and communicated procedures from the Department of Education on COVID-19.

NAMI Hernando recognized the need to support mental health during the pandemic. Peer-to-peer support groups and education classes moved to Zoom, and they began to offer virtual meditative yoga online as well. NAMI noted an increase in attendance in their online support groups, and plan to continue to offer them post-COVID.

Boys and Girls Club of Hernando County created a Cyber Clubhouse with daily videos that focused on academic success, health & wellness, arts & crafts, and a preschool-age section. Virtual mentoring and homework assistance was offered for children who were enrolled in the School Age Programs.

Jericho Road Ministries made the difficult decision to cease accepting night-by-night shelter stays, and instead focused on reducing transmission between their New Life Program clients. Once they reopened, they enforced strict sanitation and physical distancing measures to protect clients and shelter workers.

Youth & Family Alternative's New Beginnings shelter reduced the accepted capacity to ensure safe distance between children, and reserved a room for quarantine just in case. All staff wore masks and visitors were limited to reduce risk for transmission.

United Way facilitated weekly COAD calls (Community Organizations Active in Disaster), identifying unmet needs through:

- PPE needs
- Food distribution
- Emergency Assistance & shelters
- Childcare
- Mental Health
- Volunteerism