

**United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**April 23, 2021**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Betsy Alderman, Patricia Bell, Noelle Branning, Gary Bryant, Cindy Carfore, John Clinger, David Dale, Jerry Elliott, Craig Folk, David Fry, Chauncey Goss, Gary Griffin, Barbara Hartman, Beth Hendry, Michelle Hudson, Matt Humphreys, Sally Jackson, Calli Johnson, Andrea McNiff, Tony Lapi, Victoria Loyola, David Lucas, Paul Makurat, Charlotte Miller, Vicki Moreland, Bill Motzer, Scott Nygaard, Dan O'Berski, Pat O'Donnell, David Oliver, Steve Pontius, Karen Ryan, Bob Shearman, Bryan Simmering, Tom Uhler, Mary Vlasak Snell, Scott White

**Staff:** Kim Berghs, Danielle Brown, Edelyn Castellon, Nancy Coker, Patrice Cunningham, Manuel Diaz, Kim Fay, Linda Hafner, Brenda Hayes, Angela Jackson, Jeannine Joy, Prisca Mendez Asaro, Jennylyn Mitchell, Madison Mitchell, Hannah Pelle, Lisette Quintero, Megan Remaley, Alexis Rodriguez, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Lisa Sands, Tish Sargent, Lynn Sasso, Francie Slane, Marcia Turner, Celine Vertich

**Special Guests:**

1. United Way Board Chair, Bob Shearman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. via zoom with a quorum present.
2. The minutes of the March 26, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. United Way President, Jeannine Joy, updated on current staffing stating that the two current open positions should be filled soon. Hiring a temp CPA to assist with our audit.
4. Volunteer Center Chair, Steve Pontius, recognized that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and thanked all of our volunteers for their support. Recently concluded 11 Days of Caring with Publix and Lee Health. During the upcoming United Day of Action, 200-250 Senior Sunshine Bags for home-bound seniors will be prepared. If you would like to help, please reach out to Kim Berghs. VITA still processing taxes until the extension date of May 17. So far, 5,800+ returns with \$8.6M in refunds have been filed. Helped people receiving stimulus checks who would not have otherwise filed a tax return.
5. Community Impact Chair, John Clinger, provided Community Impact Report stating that Gifts-in-Kind collected \$459,000 in items and distributed 450,000 during the first quarter of 2021. Wayne and Dave from Honc Destruction and Honc Recycling were recognized with a Living United Award for their work with the GIK program. The United Way School Resource Center in has distributed \$650,000 of needed supplies across the district this school year. Community Partnership Schools will be expanding to Fort Myers Middle School with a generous three-year commitment of \$250,000 a year from Gulf Harbour Legacy Foundation for a total of \$750,000.



6. Campaign Co-Chair, Karen Ryan, thanked the board and the cabinet for their tremendous support of the campaign. David Lucas' efforts alone with de Tocqueville members brought in \$4.7M and 27 new members. Karen Ryan, also acknowledged the Board contributed \$1.2M personally and \$6M through companies, organizations, and community fundraising efforts. An NBC-2 news clip was shared from the goal announcement and Karen thanked Waterman Broadcasting for all their support.

7. Fund Distribution Chair, Tom Uhler, shared that more than half the agencies have been reviewed, virtually, for fund distribution to date. Project Dentist Care had issues with their non-profit status in April. Payment was held to the agency for April. The issue has been resolved. A special gift from the Shearman Family was made in memory of Sean Shearman to Valerie's House through United Way to be added to their allocations for 2021. A motion was made and seconded to resume the funding for Project Dentist Care and to increase the Allocations for Valerie's House from \$18,500 in 2021 to \$28,500. The motion was unanimously approved as presented.

8. Building Committee Chair, David Fry, shared that the committee is exploring an 18,000+ square foot building available for purchase at Bell Tower. Once details and processes are completed, specifics will be proposed to the Board for a decision.

9. United Way 211 and Mission United Chair, Gary Bryant, reported that in the first quarter. 436 veterans called Mission United that resulted in \$21,000+ in direct assistance. 211 calls stabilized in March with 5,000+ and 6,600 referrals. 211 is working on new contract with Central Florida Behavioral Health Network to expand the Cares Act dollars through the state. TurnTo211.com is being promoted statewide to get callers connected to their local 211. Danielle Brown, Mission United Manager, shared a story about assisting a homeless vet with shelter before his bone marrow transplant for cancer treatment.

10. Lowell George's wife, Cindi, passed away recently and the Fifth Third Bank team will start a memorial butterfly garden in the back of the United Way Main Campus in her name.

11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 a.m. The next meeting will be our annual meeting on June 11, 2021 at the United Way Main campus and/or virtual.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeannine Joy  
President & CEO