

**United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**March 4, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Kevin Anderson, Patricia Bell, Robert Beville, Noelle Branning, Gary Bryant, Cindy Carfore, Nick Chlumsky, Roger Desjarlais, Jerry Elliott, David Fry, Gary Griffin, Barbara Hartman, Beth Hendry, Michelle Hudson, Matthew Humphreys, Sally Jackson, John Joyce, Andrea Kershaw, David Klein, Tony Lapi, Victoria Loyola, David Lucas, Paul Makurat, Stephen Martus, Charlotte Miller, Victoria Moreland, Bill Motzer, Stan Nelson, Scott Nygaard, David Oliver, Harlan Parrish, Karen Ryan, Bryan Simmering, Tom Uhler, Corey Vertich, Earnest Wilks, Matthew Zwack

**Staff:** Daniel Benzing, Bryelle Benzing, Kim Berghs, Connie Boyd, Dan Campbell, Jennifer Carolluzzi, Felicitas Carrillo, Edelyn Castellon, Nancy Coker, Tina Corbett, Patrice Cunningham, Cheryl Donish, David Fairman, Kimberly Fay, Stephanie Figueroa, Angela Fischler, Victoria Guillard, Aaron Haack, Linda Hafner, Brenda Hayes, Andre Heiting, Angela Jackson, Jeannine Joy, Eunice Marquez, Jennylyn Mitchell, Madison Mitchell, Craig Norling, Hannah Pelle, Darren Phillips, Lisette Quintero, Fred Richards, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Lisa Sands, Tish Sargent, Flora Sharp, Amy Singer, Richard Swartz, Marcia Turner

**Guests:** Jennifer Roth – Department of Health for Angela Smith

1. United Way Chair, Roger Desjarlais, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. via zoom with a quorum present.
2. The minutes of the January 21, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. Living United! Award was presented to Angela Smith, Director of DOH. Jennifer Roth, Assistant Director of the Department of Health accepted the award. Hannah Pelle, United Way COO, shared a quote from the Director Angela Smith, “If there is one thing this pandemic has done, it has made us all closer and we are very appreciative of the relationship with the United Way through the pandemic.” DOH has been an exemplary partner with many of our United Way programs.
4. Jeannine Joy, President & CEO provided all board members and staff with the new United Way Organizational Chart. With the reorganization, workflow is much more effective and allows our teams to take more control and ownership of their departments. Staff promotions were executed as part of the reorganization.
5. Jeannine Joy presented the Treasurer’s Report stating that the single audit is complete for 2020. The Finance committee will send an email to everyone with their recommendations and will ask for a vote. Announced that Richard Swartz, CFO, has accepted another position effective March 15, 2022. Richard will continue with consulting and onboarding for the new head of Finance.
6. Tom Uhler, Fund Distribution Chair, noted that Fund Distribution is the cornerstone of our United Way. Volunteers review agency applications every year to make sure that the dollars raised will be focused on programs that improve the quality of life for our residents. The following updates to funding were unanimously approved as presented: (1) Adjust Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida from \$122,400 to \$119,650 reflecting a cease of Page Park coordination at the beginning of February 2022; (2) adjust The Salvation Army's Lee County allocation from \$305,300 to \$269,091 as a result of their halting operations of their Medical Respite Unit program.



7. Corey Vertich, Campaign Co-Chair reported that we are at \$10,010,811 or 88.6% towards our goal. Alexis de Tocqueville is at 99.2% of goal or \$4,762,017 with 204. Noelle Branning, Campaign Co-Chair, mentioned that the inaugural “fun”raiser event in Sanibel was outstanding due to the planning of board member Tony Lapi. Communities are winding up their campaigning and Bonita Bay has exceeded the \$1M mark four years in a row. Noelle thanked Community Chair, Pat O’Donnell, and reported the Community goal of \$4.3M is collectively on-target. Corey acknowledged that Sally Jackson opened a wonderful door to Cypress Cove. Community campaign in the works. Reported on upcoming events: Publix Appreciation Days-March 14, 15, and 17. The board was asked to help get 59 contributors from past years, which total \$345,000, to renew their gifts. Link sent after the meeting to sign up for asks.

8. Volunteer Center Chair, Steve Pontius, mentioned that we were in Dr. Seuss’ birthday week and Reading Pals are reading the classics; all kids got a book to take home. A blood drive sponsored by the United Way Volunteer Center, Lee Health, and Bell Tower honoring Johnny Sheppard is scheduled for March 25th at the west parking lot of Bell Tower. WeCare helps uninsured people get vital medical help and has dispensed over a \$1M of charitable healthcare this year alone. VITA is one-third through tax season and already at \$4.6M in refunds to the community. NBC updating the VITA PSA and on-air promotion is starting this weekend.

9. Hannah Pelle, COO, announced that the School Resource Center distributed over 65,000 items totaling \$1.4M in value since the start of the school year. Recently, United Way was able to secure 34,804 items worth \$575,464 at no cost through Amazon Hub for nonprofits.

10. Stan Nelson, Grants and Compliance Chair, introduced United Way’s Director of Grants, Dan Campbell and ARPA Manger Fred Richards. The Lee Board of County Commissioners on March 1 entered into an agreement with the United Way of Lee County to manage the distribution of up to \$16.2 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding to nonprofit human service agencies for direct service delivery to the community. The Lee BoCC also approved a \$3 million grant for United Way to increase and enhance direct-service programs that are operated within United Way. All funds are to be expended by the end of 2024. The official Notice of Funding Availability will be released later in March. Agency trainings and meetings are being conducted.

11. Gary Bryant, United Way 211 Chair reported that there were 76,000 contacts in 2021 which equals 210 contacts per day. Mission United assisted over 1,600 veterans and 370 families. Holds are averaging less than a minute per call. Main concerns are: COVID, tax preparation, electric assistance, rent payments, finding housing, shelters, and food. 553 households were helped directly with financial assistance totaling over \$300,000. We are also working on a statewide program to assist first responders who have mental health and social resources needs.

12. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m. The next meeting will be April 1, 2022 in person at FineMark National Bank and Trust at College and Winkler.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Jeannine Joy

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