

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades
Board of Directors Meeting
May 6, 2022
Minutes
Amended 6/2/2022

Present: Kevin Anderson, Robert Beville, Noelle Branning, Gary Brooks, Gary Bryant, Cindy Carfore, John Clinger, David Fry, Gary Griffin, Cynthia Hawkins, Beth Hendry, Matthew Humphreys, Charles Idelson, Sally Jackson, John Joyce, Kevin Karnes, Tony Lapi, Victoria Loyola, David Lucas, Paul Makurat, Stephen Martus, Charlotte Miller, Vicki Moreland, Bill Motzer, Dan O'Berski, Patricia O'Donnell, David Oliver, Harlan Parrish, Steve Pontius, Karen Ryan, Robert Shearman, Bryan Simmering, Mary Snell, Dotty St. Amand, Tom Uhler, Corey Vertich, Darren Wallace, Scott White, Earnest Wilks, Matthew Zwack

Staff: Bryelle Benzing, Kim Berghs, Daniel Benzing, Connie Boyd, Dan Campbell, Fifi Carrillo, Jennifer Carolluzzi, Edelyn Castellon, Nancy Coker, Patrice Cunningham, Kimberly Fay, Stephanie Figueroa, Angela Fischler, Victoria Guillard, Brenda Hayes, Andre Heiting, Michelle Hidalgo, Angela Jackson, Jeannine Joy, Eunice Marquez, Madison Mitchell, Annie Noel, Hannah Pelle, Lisette Quintero, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Tish Sargent, Flora Sharp, Amy Singer, Marcia Turner

Guests: Jan Fifer, Executive Director of Special Equestrians; Pam Volz, Volunteer Coordinator of Special Equestrians; Scott Yates of Home Depot

1. Beth Hendry, Board Member and past chair called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. via in-person and zoom with a quorum present.
2. The revised minutes of the April 1, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. The Living United Award was presented by Kim Berghs, Volunteer Center Manager, to Scott Yates of Home Depot for their United Way Day of Caring beautifying the Special Equestrians barn. Also present were Jan Fifer, Executive Director and Pam Volz, Volunteer Coordinator of Special Equestrians.
4. Cindy Hawkins, Treasurer announced that staff have started the 2021 Audit with CLA. Also, the FineMark National Bank & Trust line of credit is coming up for renewal and the Finance Team is working with the bank on the details to bring to the board.
5. David Fry, Building Committee Chair stated that we are still in the process of negotiating with Chico's for their Building #4 space. There seem to be more expenses than what was initially thought. If United Way proceeds, June 1st would be when United Way would have access. Jeannine Joy, UW President asked if anyone had cubicles they could donate, as there is need for more cubicles.

6. Pat O'Donnell, Nominating Committee Chair shared that the Nominating Committee has met twice. All Board Members with terms that expire this year (2022) have been contacted.

Seventeen have confirmed interest in remaining on the board.

Executive Committee Members have all been contacted regarding the renewal of their executive committee positions. We have four vacancies and the following have agreed to a first term: Dr. Christopher Bernier, Superintendent, the School District of Lee County; Rob Hernandez – City of Cape Coral, City Manager; Tracy McMillion – City of Fort Myers, Fire Chief; Landon Mullinax – Scotlynn. The Nominating Committee will present a full report at the annual meeting for approval.

7. Steve Pontius, Volunteer Center Chair said it's time to Stamp out Hunger! After a couple years hiatus due to the pandemic, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be collecting food donations on Saturday, May 14th to help fill food banks and pantries that serve individuals and families here in SWFL. Our local United Way is once again partnering with the letter carriers and will be coordinating volunteers to assist with driving a carrier route and help pick up food. Please remember to put a few cans of food in your mailboxes this year or early drop off is available at most major Post Office locations.

VITA Program tax season numbers are in and our volunteers and team have outdone themselves. 170 volunteers put in over 14,000 hours, and completed over 6,700 returns which is an 11% increase to date over the prior year. Tax refunds coming back to local residents \$10.8 million with added volunteer time and tax prep fees saved, this program provides a \$13 million impact for our community. The full impact report is available and has been provided in your packets this morning. For those clients who still need assistance, our VITA team has four year-round sites to choose from.

8. Gary Bryant, United Way 211 Chair said almost 4,000 calls were handled during the month of April which includes 256 veteran calls. Top five needs: tax preparation, electric service, housing related coordinated entry, rental, and water service.

9. Tom Uhler, Fund Distribution Chair shared that during the Fund Distribution process we determine the need for our community and then build the campaign goal in order to meet those needs. Presented Campaign Goal Building Sheet in the packets provided stating that the board approved a goal of \$11.3 million in June of 2021 taking into account: total amount for programs and initiatives, collection loss reserve, fundraising cost, and United Way management costs. Revisions have been made due to estimates and placeholders for Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee; programmatic changes or elimination; transfer of Okeechobee to another United Way. Therefore, \$11.1 million will fully fund all United Way partner programs and initiatives. A motion to restate the goal to \$11.1 million was unanimously passed.

10. Corey Vertich, campaign co-chair thanked David Lucas for raising more than \$5 million from the Alexis de Tocqueville members which is 41% of our total goal, the highest amount raised, and \$53 million cumulative over the past 31 years. Jeannine Joy pointed out that David had an impressive 31 new members and record-setting numbers throughout. David is an inspiration to us all. Corey indicated we need to save the clock tower by raising the last \$138,625. A listing of past corporate givers and individual givers was provided to the board for asks. Campaign Co-Chair, Noelle Branning mentioned that we have the highest goal ever and having an amazing

Campaign Cabinet and an incredible Board really got the ball rolling. Jeannine reminded the board that while we have not yet made goal, we have already raised a record setting amount. United Ways across the system have been going backwards on their goals and the fact that our United Way continues to increase, speaks volumes to everyone's dedication. David Lucas announced that he would match any additional gift made during the remainder of the meeting. Within 15 minutes, board members and staff raised an incredible additional \$198,000!

11. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m. The next board meeting is the Annual Meeting which will be held on June 10, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,


Jeannine Joy