We are honored to serve as Campaign Co-Chairs at a time when our community is in such dire need of the support provided by United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades. One of the worst disasters in our Southwest Florida’s history has transpired and we saw United Way partners rise to the occasion, United More Than Ever in their response to our community’s needs.

Embedded in Lee County’s Emergency Operations Center as Hurricane Ian made landfall, United Way’s 211 system staff provided an answer to every call for help. After the storm passed, United Way and our Partner Agencies immediately responded to the area’s most urgent needs. Now, as the response escalates from crisis response to restoration and rebuilding, United Way continues to be there for this community, offering no less than 262 well-established and vetted local programs and initiatives.

The 2022-2023 United Way Campaign will commemorate 65 years of this vital organization’s dedication to improving the quality of life for all people in our community. We are a community that is a better place because of United Way — more prepared, more resilient, and more determined to bounce back from any obstacle — but our work isn’t finished. We encourage everyone to UNITE and make their most generous contributions this year. Every dollar of support is needed so that we can connect those who need help with those who can give help.

Thank you for your support,
Sally Jackson, Community Volunteer & Matt Humphreys, Publix Store Manager
2022-2023 Campaign Co-Chairs
Volunteer - Make a Difference

The United Way Volunteer Center creates connections to volunteer opportunities and individuals, families, businesses, and groups to help serve the community. In addition to our in-house programs, we also work in collaboration with local agencies and organizations on special projects, events and initiatives throughout the year.

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades is unique because in addition to distributing funds to nonprofit agencies throughout the region, we provide several highly beneficial programs to our community!

Check out the impact your dollars have made!

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)
United Way’s Free Tax Preparation program helps low to moderate income households file taxes for free. Last tax season, 145 IRS-certified Tax Preparers filed 6,734 tax returns, contributing 14,775+ volunteer hours. VITA helped generate more than $10.8M in refunds and saved our community $2M in tax prep fees for an overall impact of $13.2M.

WeCare
The WeCare program saves lives by connecting qualifying individuals with medical services, free of charge, via a large network of volunteer providers. Last year, a total of $6,933,608 in medical care was donated by 300 volunteer providers and specialists, impacting 256 patients in our community.

United Way 211
Every hour of every day, someone in our community is searching for health, human, and social services. Information and referrals for United Way and partner services went to 76,370 contacts via phone, chat, and email.

Mission United
Mission United addresses the complicated systems for veterans currently in place. Last year, they were able to assist 1,608 veterans, active duty military, and their families through case management, service navigation, and information referrals.

RetUnite
RetUnite aids first responders in search and rescue operations for at-risk individuals prone to wandering or getting lost. Partnering with the Lee County Sheriff’s Office, and law enforcement in Hendry and Glades counties, we enrolled 338 families in RetUnite, providing peace of mind to parents and caregivers of individuals with cognitive disabilities such as Alzheimer’s and Autism.

Beesley’s Paw Prints
Pets are proven to have therapeutic qualities. Our pet therapy collaboration with Children’s Advocacy Center and Gulf Coast Humane Society engaged 93 volunteers at 45 locations. Over 1,700 volunteer hours of pet therapy were provided to children and adults throughout our community.

United Way School Resource Center
Working closely with school guidance counselors, resource officers, and other key staff, the program supports K-12 students in the School District of Lee County with items they might be lacking to have a successful school year. The School Resource Center distributed $2,471,177 in necessities such as backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items, shoes, and clothing in 2021.

Gifts in Kind
Gifts in Kind provides nonprofit health and human services organizations in Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties access to quality goods free of charge. Through the generosity of our donors, $4,683,793 worth of in-kind items were donated in 2021. Over the past six years, $18.37 million worth of supplies and furniture have been distributed to community partners.

United Way Houses
United Way Houses are centralized locations where people can receive social services from multiple community organizations. United Way Houses delivered 309,025 client services such as GED classes, resume help, and food distribution at 17 locations throughout the region last year.

Community Partnership Schools
The Community Partnership School program at Franklin Park Elementary and Fort Myers Middle Academy offers students and families access to a wide range of services including expanded learning, tutoring, mentorship, clothing closet, food pantry, wellness education, and employment services. Last year, the Community Partnership Schools Program reached over 1,040 students.