

# UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER CENTER

## TOTAL ORGANIZATIONAL VOLUNTEER IMPACT

**67,629 hours**

**\$8.4M+ VALUE\***

**5,049**

VOLUNTEERS ON  
VOLUNTEER PORTAL

**1,298**

FACEBOOK VOLUNTEER  
GROUP MEMBERS (46% INCREASE)

UNITED WAY

**DAYS OF CARING**

United Way Volunteer Portal  
[Volunteer.UnitedWayLee.org](https://Volunteer.UnitedWayLee.org)

Sponsored by:



**118 Days of Caring**

2,026 Volunteers

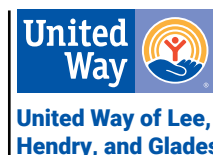
6,769 Hours

\$215,000 Value for our Partners

**82%  
INCREASE!**

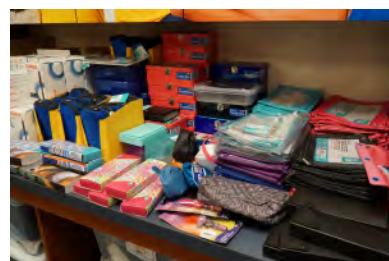


Beesley's  
PAW PRINTS  
A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE



\*Volunteer Value: 2022: \$31.80/hour | Medical: \$250/hour

\$1 a week provides 10 children with back to school clothing, shoes, supplies, and hygiene products through our United Way School Resource Center.



\$20 a week provides emergency clothing for 5 children after being removed from their homes due to neglect or abuse via the Guardian ad Litem Foundation.



\$5 a week provides over 15 hours of on-site job support and coaching for an individual with disabilities through Goodwill of Southwest Florida.



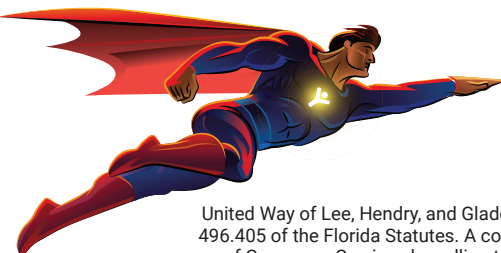
\$25 a week provides a variety of supplies for Saturday Art Projects designed for children and teens on the Autism Spectrum to explore their creative sides while meeting their sensory needs at Family Initiative.



\$10 a week provides child assessments and counseling sessions for a child fleeing from violence and abuse through ACT (Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc).



\$50 a week provides weekly community outings for 5 individuals receiving community based training and experiences through LARC, Inc.



United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades Counties Inc. is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit corporation registered pursuant to Chapter 496, Section 496.405 of the Florida Statutes. A copy of the official registration (CH31) and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (1-800-435-7352) within the state or from its website at [fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices](https://fdacs.gov/ConsumerServices). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. EIN# 59-1005169

# LEE COUNTY GAZETTE



CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS: KEVIN KARNES, LEE COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS & JAY SANTOS, BUSEY BANK

# UNITING HEROES INSPIRING HOPE



## Will you be someone's hero?

If you look around, you will see heroes in every aspect of life. Everyday heroes are all around our community. Sacrifice, Determination, Loyalty, Courage, Dedication, Perseverance, Empathy, and Fortitude are some of the characteristics of a hero. Whether it's our first responders, educators, the single parent working two jobs to make ends meet, or the volunteer who day after day gives of themselves to help, there are heroes all around us. **By contributing to United Way, you can be an everyday hero too.** You can provide a helping hand to the people that need it most. **You can inspire hope for people to create better lives for themselves.**

Your donation stays here in our community, so you know your donation is making a difference locally. In addition, experienced volunteers evaluate agency budgets and programs each year to make sure your donations are being spent efficiently and effectively to help those in need.

Your one gift to United Way helps 90 partner agencies and helps support more than 260 life-changing programs and initiatives.

Please support the United Way campaign and be a hero for those in need in our community. Our goal this year is \$11.3 million dollars and together we can make this goal a reality.

**Will you be someone's hero?**

Thank you for your unwavering support.

Kevin Karnes, Lee County Clerk of Courts & Jay Santos, Busey Bank  
2023-24 Campaign Co-Chairs





# UNITED WAY FUND DISTRIBUTION



The Fund Distribution process is the cornerstone of our United Way. It ensures fiscal and program accountability for all agencies receiving United Way funding while meeting the social service needs of the community.

During the annual review process, community volunteers look at the effectiveness of each agency in providing services, assess the need for the programs in the region, and analyze the impact of United Way funding in meeting those needs.

### FUND DISTRIBUTION BY THE NUMBERS:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>360 VOLUNTEERS</b> throughout Lee, Hendry, and Glades. | <b>262 PROGRAMS</b> and special initiatives funded in 2023. |
| <b>78 NEW VOLUNTEERS</b> this year!                       | <b>42 TEAMS</b> reviewing Partner Agencies.                 |

### HURRICANE IAN RESPONSE, RELIEF, RECOVERY

United Way is committed to our community for the long-term recovery process from Hurricane Ian. Funding will continue to be distributed to help our survivors get back to a vibrant, healthy, and safe life. United Way staff members currently have representation with the following groups: Unmet Needs Long Term Recovery Group – *Volunteer Committee Lead, Donations Committee Lead, Data & Case Management Committees*; and Resilient Lee Recovery Task Force – *Health and Social Services Branch*.

For the most up to date information on Hurricane Ian recovery, visit: [UnitedWayLee.org/Hurricane-Ian](https://UnitedWayLee.org/Hurricane-Ian) or scan the QR code:



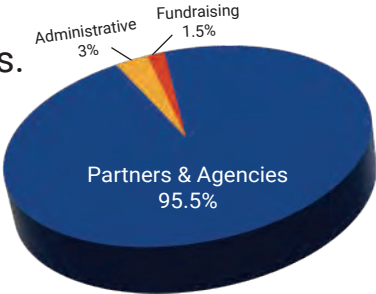
### EFFICIENT & TRUSTWORTHY

Our United Way takes pride in keeping overhead costs as low as possible.



Last year, **95.5%** of total expenditures\* were on Programs and Initiatives that serve our communities.

\*Based on 2022 Audited Financials. Visit [UnitedWayLee.org](https://UnitedWayLee.org), Public Reporting page for our most recent Audit and IRS 990.



### ACCOUNTABILITY

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has consistently been awarded Charity Navigator’s Four Star rating. Charity Navigator is one of the most utilized evaluators of charities used to guide intelligent giving.

**For more information regarding United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades, please visit our website: [UnitedWayLee.org](https://UnitedWayLee.org)**

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!



**\$10.5M**  
IMPACT

#### 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, 177 IRS-certified Tax Preparers filed 7,101 tax returns, contributing 14,624+ volunteer hours. VITA helped generate more than \$7.9M in refunds and saved our community \$2.1M in tax prep fees for an overall impact of \$10.5M!

#### 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 6,250 medical procedures were donated by 300 volunteer providers and specialists, impacting 271 patients in our community.

**\$7,257,254**  
DONATED CARE PROVIDED

**119,854**  
CONTACTS

#### 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 were provided to 119,854 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 2,965 veterans, active duty military, and their families through case management, service navigation, and information referrals.

**2,965**  
VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY  
MILITARY & FAMILIES SERVED

**702**  
FAMILIES  
ENROLLED IN  
LEE, HENDRY,  
AND GLADES

#### ReUnite

ReUnite 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 702 families in ReUnite, 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 123 volunteers at 89 locations. Over 1,500 volunteer hours of pet therapy were provided to children and adults throughout our community.

**38,291**  
PEOPLE REACHED

**\$3,700,133**  
IN SUPPLIES  
DISTRIBUTED

#### 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 over \$3.7M in necessities such as backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items, shoes, and clothing.

#### 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, \$10,349,366 worth of in kind items were donated in 2022. Over the past seven years, \$29 million worth of supplies and furniture have been distributed to community partners.



**\$9,728,804**  
IN ITEMS DISTRIBUTED  
TO THOSE IN NEED

**460,629**  
CLIENT SERVICES DELIVERED

#### United Way Houses

United Way Houses are centralized locations where people can receive social services from multiple community organizations. United Way Houses delivered 460,629 client services such as GED classes, resume help, and food distribution at 18 locations throughout the region last year.

#### Community Partnership Schools

The Community Partnership School program at Franklin Park Elementary, Colonial Elementary, and Fort Myers Middle Academy offers students and families access to a wide range of services including tutoring, clothing closet, food pantry, wellness education, employment services, and much more. Last year, the Community Partnership Schools Program reached over 2,000 students.

**2,000**  
STUDENTS REACHED