

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades
Board of Directors Meeting
March 15, 2024

Minutes

Present: Kevin Anderson, Patricia Bell, Christopher Bernier, Bob Beville, Noelle Branning Gary Bryant, Cindy Carfore, David Fry, Chauncey Goss, Chris Hansen, Barbara Hartman, Cindy Hawkins, Beth Hendry, Matt Humphreys, Sally Jackson, John Joyce, Kevin Karnes, Tony Lapi, Stephen Martus, Gary Matter, Tracy McMillion, Charlotte Miller, Victoria Moreland, Bill Motzer, Landon Mullinax, Barbara Mundy, Stan Nelson, Scott Nygaard, Dan O'Berski, Pat O'Donnell, David Oliver, Harlan Parrish, April Phillips, Steve Pontius, Victoria Rodriguez, Carolyn Rogers, Karen Ryan, Bob Shearman, Mary Snell, Tom Uhler, Corey Vertich, Scott White, Earnest Wilks, Matthew Zwack

Staff: Daniel Benzing, Mariah Bell, Lugeenya Blackstock, Connie Boyd, Edelyn Castellon, Nancy Cote, Dan Campbell, Jennifer Carolluzi, Tina Corbett, Nancy Cote, Patrice Cunningham, Stacey Devlin, Terri Erling, David Fairman-Johnson, Angela Fischler, Linda Hafner, Brenda Hayes, Gail Holton, Heather Housand, Angela Jackson, Jeannine Joy, Scott Miller, Madison Mitchell, Craig Norling, Lissette Ortiz, Hannah Pelle, Darren Phillips, Beatrice Pizarro, Lissette Quintero, Dominga Quiñones, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Lisa Sands, Jim Sanger, Estela Tapia, Barbara Thomas, Marcia Turner

Guests: Jennifer Huber

1. United Way Board Chair Noelle Branning called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. with a quorum present.
2. The minutes of the February 23, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. Vice President of Community Impact Madison Mitchell presented the Live United award to Jennifer Huber and Charlotte Miller of Florida Power & Light for their participation in our Days of Caring. A team from FPL painted and spruced up our LaBelle office.
4. President & CEO Jeannine Joy introduced new employees Mariah Bell, 211 Resource Specialist and Scott Miller, Mission United Care Coordinator. Jeannine announced that VP of Community Impact Madison Mitchell and VP of the Volunteer Center Patrice Cunningham were presenters at the recent Volunteer Florida Emergency Management ESF 15 Convening. They spoke on the topic of Volunteer Management. The conference features national and state-wide organizations that work in the disaster and recovering field.
5. President & CEO Jeannine Joy presented a new internal leadership program for staff wishing to apply for consideration and mentorship called United Way ELEVATE Leadership Program. UWLHG is committed to developing the potential of high-performing professionals who have shown commitment, results, and demonstration potential for growth. This enables us to fill management openings with high-quality, top performing talent.
6. Fund Distribution Chair Tom Uhler indicated that the process is progressing smoothly. Several teams have completed their site visits, and many are still scheduled through the beginning of May. One action item was presented: The Empowerment Center, formally known as the Bob Janes Triage Center, has closed its doors as of the end of February, with associated programming ending

this month. The facility, which is a shelter for individuals often dealing with substance or mental health challenges, was deemed unsafe due to a worsening mold situation. The center will not reopen. We are recommending ceasing funding to Human and Veteran Services for program support of The Empowerment Center. This will adjust the agency's funding from \$29,000 to reflect January and February funding of only \$4,833. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Campaign Co-chair Kevin Karnes announced that we are currently at \$9.5 million or 85% of our goal. Alexis de Tocqueville members are at 169 bringing in \$4 million and have 15 new members. The ADT dinner will be April 8. Community Campaigns currently stand at \$2.9 million including direct mail of \$1.5 million. This group is contributing over 39% toward the campaign plus a special Thank You to board members Gary Brooks, Barbara Hartman, Bill Motzer, Tony Lapi, and Tom Uhler. The Hendry/Glades Swing into Spring event is April 20. United Way is partnering with the Mighty Mussels on April 27 for United for a Cause with \$5 of each \$15 ticket to the ballpark being donated to our campaign. The players will be wearing specialty Star Wars themed jerseys that will be auctioned off later for United Way. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

8. 211 Chair Gary Bryant congratulated VP of 211 Linda Hafner for her 22 years of service and wished her the best in her future endeavors. There were 4,509 contacts during the month of February with immediate needs of tax preparation, housing, rent, utilities, and food. Mission United served 180 veterans with similar needs. Provided Direct Assistance to 38 families in the amount of \$29,400. VITA calls were up 20% from last year at 1,745, indicating that the program is working.

9. Community Partnership Schools Chair Tracy McMillion indicated that we currently have 2,000 students in the program with an anticipated expansion to 2,300. Several months ago, visitors from Wales came to our Community Partnership Schools and now they have invited four CPS staff members for an all-expenses paid educational study in Wales.

10. WeCare Chair Dr. Scott Nygaard reported that 2023 was a record-breaking year which, as a reminder, helps connect those in need living with a life-threatening diagnosis to donated care throughout our community. The program has provided over \$9 million worth of charitable healthcare through a strong network of providers. Lee Health, a founding partner of this program, continues to provide incredible support and has donated assistance in the form of 44 surgeries, 55 lab services, and 12 therapy sessions for our patients this year alone. Dr. Nygaard shared a short story.

11. Grants and Contracts Chair Stan Nelson indicated that United Way launched an initiative with the Lee County Government to expand services after Covid-19 utilizing ARPA dollars of nearly \$17 million for 62 different social service projects. Eleven projects are finished, 18 projects will be finished by the end of Quarter 1, and most funded projects will be finished before the end of 2024.

12. The next board meeting will be on May 3, 2024, via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeannine Joy, President & CEO

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