



UNITED WE'RE STRONGER UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN 2024-2025

A message from the campaign co-chairs

Dear friends and supporters,

We are honored and excited to serve as the co-chairs of the **United We're Stronger** Campaign, a community-wide effort to raise funds and awareness for the vital work of 92 partner agencies and 260 programs that help our families, seniors, children, veterans, and neighbors in need.

We believe that **together**, we can make a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people in our local area. Whether it's providing food, shelter, health care, education, or counseling, these agencies and programs are making a positive impact every day.

But our network of partner agencies can't do it alone. They need our support, especially in these challenging times. That's why we are asking you to join us in giving generously to the **United We're Stronger** United Way Campaign. Your donation will help ensure that these essential services continue to reach those who need them most.

We know that when we unite, we're stronger. We're stronger as individuals, as families, as communities, and as a society. We're stronger when we care for each other, when we support each other, and when we work together for the common good.

Please join us in giving to the **United We're Stronger** United Way Campaign today. You can make a secure online donation at UnitedWayLee.org/Donate, sign up for payroll deduction, or mail a check. No matter how much you give, you **will** make a difference.

Thank you for your generosity and your commitment to our community.

Sincerely,
Dr. Scott Nygaard and Dan O'Berski
2024-2025 Campaign Co-Chairs



United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades

YOUR DONATION MAKES OUR COMMUNITY STRONGER

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 programs in the region, and analyze the impact of United Way funding. For a complete list of our funded Partner Agencies, and internal programs, visit our website: UnitedWayLee.org.

A UNITED NETWORK MAKES US STRONGER

43
Teams



92
Agencies
Visited



3
New
Agencies



414
Volunteers
16% more than
last year!



260
Funded
Programs &
Initiatives

WHY GIVE TO UNITED WAY

- **Local** – Your gift stays in your community, helping neighbors, friends, children, and those in need through a network of Partner Agencies, programs, and initiatives.
- **Accountable** – Decisions regarding the distribution of funding are made collaboratively with community members. In 2023, a record 414 volunteers visited 92 Partner Agency applicants to assess their program performance and financial health.
- **Efficient and Trustworthy** – The ability to leverage funding assures the community that their donations are making a direct impact on the lives of people in need. This allows for over **96 cents** of EVERY DOLLAR DONATED to go back into the community. Your dollar stays local. United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has consistently been awarded the Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating since 2014.
- **Responsive** – The need for human services knows no demographic or time. Each day, there are people throughout our community that reach out for help by calling our 24 hour 211 non-emergency helpline. Our caring team connects callers with referrals to providers who assist with food, utilities, housing, childcare, and veteran services. During times of disaster, our 211 helpline is activated within the Lee County Emergency Operations Center and trained volunteers and United Way staff work around the clock, providing real-time information and support.



United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades

2023 - 2024 IMPACT OF YOUR GIFTS

UNITED WAY 211

75,637
Contacts

Every hour of every day, someone in our community is searching for health, human, or social services. Skilled Information and Referral Specialists provide community resources from a database of over 1,350 organizations and programs. More than 75,600 contacts via phone, chat, and email were recorded. United Way 211 provided \$932,853 in assistance to 2,429 families.



22,621
People
Reached

BEESLEY'S PAW PRINTS, A UNITED WAY COLLABORATIVE

A pet therapy collaboration with Children's Advocacy Center of SW Florida and Gulf Coast Humane Society engaged 82 volunteers at 60 different locations. Together, over 2,226 volunteer hours of pet therapy were provided, with a total reach of 22,621 people. Beesley's teams saw 35 new volunteer teams. A private Beesley's Volunteer Facebook group was created and has succeeded in increased volunteer engagement.



UNITED WAY WeCare PROGRAM

United Way's WeCare Program connects eligible, uninsured patients with volunteer medical providers. WeCare allows participants access to specialty medical care free of charge through the support and generosity of over 300 caring professionals in Southwest Florida. A total of \$9,208,080 in medical care was donated by 201 volunteer providers and specialists, impacting 332 uninsured patients in our community. This includes 7,063 medical procedures and 36,251 volunteer hours making this life-saving program possible.

\$9.2
Million
Donated
Care
Provided



UNITED WAY SCHOOL RESOURCE CENTER

Working closely with school guidance counselors, social workers, and resource officers, the program supports K-12 students in the School District of Lee County. Now in its fourth school year, the UW SRC has distributed over \$1.9M in brand new necessities such as backpacks, school supplies, hygiene items, shoes, and clothing.

\$1.95
Million
in supplies distributed
to students in need



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA) PROGRAM

\$11.5
Million
Impact

Residents who earn a household income of \$66,000 or less can have their federal tax returns prepared, e-filed and direct deposited for FREE by United Way's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. For the 2023 tax season, 234 IRS-Certified Tax Preparers filed 8,100 tax returns, contributing 18,000 volunteer hours (a \$572,400 value). VITA helped generate \$8.4M in refunds and saved our community \$2.4M in tax preparation fees!



UNITED WAY GIFTS IN KIND

\$18.89
Million
in items
distributed
to those
in need

The United Way Gifts In Kind Program provides access to millions of dollars of donated goods to nonprofits. These items include: furniture, personal care items, household goods, office equipment, and more. Through the generosity of donors - the total fair market value of donated items was \$23,064,264. Many of these items were home goods given to survivors of Hurricane Ian who lost everything.



Find out more about the impact United Way has made on our community throughout the last year! Scan QR Code to view our full Impact Report for 2023-2024.



United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades

IMPACT WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

United Way School Resource Center

While working as a School Resource Officer at Buckingham Exceptional Student Center, I was informed of three new students that had been enrolled at the school. Throughout the course of my day, I had the pleasure of meeting the three brothers, K.J. age 14, and his twin brothers T.J. and J.J. age 11. All three boys greeted me with such a sweet disposition and expressed their excitement to be a part of our school.



Throughout the week, the staff and I continued to get to know the boys in an effort to learn more about them. I continued to hear positive comments/expressions about them, in addition to learning they had been recently displaced and living with a woman who goes by "Grandma" to them. I reached out to Grandma to see if she would share her story with me.



During our conversation, she mentioned four other children in the home that she cares for in addition to the three boys. In speaking further with Grandma, I learned that she was in need of several items for the children and she would be greatly appreciative for of any assistance she could get.

I have submitted the information for all the children currently under Grandma's care. Later that week, grandma arrived to Buckingham Exceptional Student Center and we loaded her vehicle with the United Way School Resource Center boxes of blessings that had been delivered the day prior. Grandma was very surprised when she saw all the boxes filled with new school clothes, shoes, school supplies, and hygiene products.



Thank you for all you and your team do to help our community. It fills my heart with joy knowing there are other people out there that care, especially for our children. These boys are very special, and I hope and pray this is just the start of their new beginning.



Pace Center for Girls

The mission of Pace is to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training, and advocacy. Since enrolling at Pace in 2022, Rosayah says, "I have become a better version of myself. I remember when I couldn't stay in school for a whole day. Pace has helped me learn new coping skills. I have real friends who care and genuinely enjoy being around me." Rosayah was able to graduate in this year and is looking forward to a bright and successful future beyond what she believed was possible.

LARC, Inc.

The mission of LARC, Inc. is to empower and support individuals with disabilities and their families to achieve their full potential. Julien participated in "Career Camp" with a goal of gaining meaningful employment in the community. Throughout the program, he worked with the counselors to develop hands-on skills, created a cover letter and resume, and graduated with confidence and purpose. In 2023, he accepted a job offer at his local Publix! With the help of this program, he has grown into an independent, capable, and confident individual in the workplace.



For more impact stories, visit our website: UnitedWayLee.org/Faces



**United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades**

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. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state. EIN# 59-1005169