

United Way of Hernando County

Q4 Highlights - Partner Success Stories

2022-2023

Catholic Charities

FOUNDATIONS OF LIFE PREGNACY CENTER

"Tina had been attending Catholic Charities' mentoring program since giving birth to her son nearly 10 years ago. A few months ago, Tina had returned for emergency assistance. Tina and her family had fallen into hard times after her husband had a severe accident. With her husband out of work, they quickly fell behind on bills and were facing eviction. Through the power of partnerships, Catholic Charities referred Tina and her family to Partner Agencies for assistance with her financial troubles. While they were getting the resources they needed from other agencies, Catholic Charities was able to provide immediate relief for her children. Tina was given supplies for their new baby; diapers, wipes, clothing, formula, and even a new car seat. She was also given gift cards for gas, allowing her to continue to Instacart part-time as the sole household provider while her husband is recovering. With a long road ahead, Tina is appreciative of the support from Catholic Charities and was once again able to save her family from further hardships."



Deaf & Hard of Hearing

COMMUNITY ACCESS ASSISTANCE



"Iris has been working with DHHSF for many years. She was born with hearing loss and became Deaf throughout her childhood. She worked all of her adult life until she was involved in a car accident and suddenly lost most of her vision. With the vision loss she experienced profound depression. Despite this, she continues to be independent in most aspects of her life. Like many of us, she had been impacted by the rising of the cost of living and felt as though she had no hope for a financially stable future. She thought she could not work anymore until she went to a Deaf/Blind event and learned more about working as a Deaf/Blind person. With support and encouragement from Carrie and Yasmin she applied for Vocational Rehabilitation services and has started her journey to reach her goal of working again. This has given her a sense of achievement and hope for the future. Carrie and Iris are currently working on a Career Support Inventory to determine the best fit for her skills. Transportation is going to be a primary concern but with our help, she will be able to access those resources."

Mid Florida Community Services

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

"Our Community Advocate was speaking with one of our clients and her dad about my hobby of acting. She explained how it was good for making friends and could help with public speaking. Theater helps us to see a different perspective than our own. We're shown humanity, psychology, motivations and conflict resolution. It can remind us that we are not alone (we share space and experience with the artists who are performing as well as the audience). It can help us come together to study societal problems and attempt to find solutions. Our client was very interested in this hobby so her dad signed her up for classes at a local theater. She has already performed one play and is looking forward to continuing with her new found love of acting. He said it has helped his daughter a lot already in the areas listed above. He said she has also been more engaged in her therapy sessions!"



People Helping People

SUMMER BLESSINGS



"PHP contacted David Howard with an interest in feeding children in Brooksville during the summer months. David was very enthusiastic about being able to help his community. We explained our program and worked with David's entire department team to promote and administrate the Weekend Blessings program which we informally refer to as Summer Blessings as it runs June - August when food typically offered at schools through our Weekend Blessing program is not available because school is not in session. Our initial delivery of 180 bags (equal to 720 meals) was delivered the first weekend after school ended so as not to have an interruption in providing food for over the weekend. We notified the participating schools that students may continue with the program through the summer at the Community Center of Brooksville."

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Supported Programs

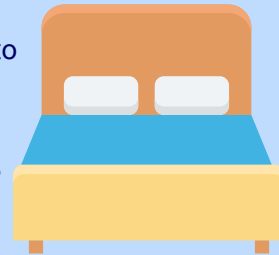
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Q4 Emergency Assistance

2022-2023

"A Nurse & A New Bed"

A woman came to the United Way office for her VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) appointment. Upon speaking with the client, we learned that she was a nurse and in the service of helping others here in Hernando County, yet she herself is in need of physical therapy and she was having difficulties resting due to the pain in her back. Being pressed with time and not being able to do many things due to her work schedule. She left our office grateful for the FREE VITA services and expressed her inability to just go home and rest on her one day due to her old bed simply not permitting it. No more than a month later, United Way received a call from Hernando County Fire Rescue stating they had an orthopedic memory foam queen size mattress that they would be willing to donate to one of our clients in need. Our team happily connected this hard working nurse, for they offered to personally deliver it to her house. That very same day she was sleeping on a brand-new bed! She expressed her gratitude by stating, "I'm so grateful for this service and I never in my wildest dreams would have thought that anyone would care about my comment in passing about my old bed. This made me feel such a sense of community."



"A Hand Up, Not a Hand Out"

A family in distress reached out to United Way, seeking a lifeline to save them from a 3-Day Notice. After recently accepting a job opportunity in Orlando, the husband found himself torn between providing for his family and being away from them due to work-related travel. His wife faced her own set of challenges in securing employment, as they only had one vehicle and shared a single cell phone; making the job hunt even more daunting. Equipped with the wonderful resources provided by our community partners, United Way's Program Care Coordinator suggested they contact Legal Services and Career Source. A week later, their situation became more critical, and they arrived at our office with an eviction notice. At this critical juncture, our team swung into action, ensuring all necessary information was collected and shared promptly with Legal Services and Career Source. Coincidentally, during that same week, the husband received a job offer from the Hernando County Correctional Facility. However, there was a catch – his first paycheck was still several weeks away, putting them at risk of falling further behind on rent. But hope was not lost, as this family had managed to save some money before the job transition. United Way was able to prevent the eviction and assist with the remaining balance. Since then, they have achieved stability, and his wife was able to connect with Career Source, receiving the support she needed to explore potential job opportunities.



"Scammed, But Supported"

An elderly client was promised a significant "return on an investment" once she made a payment of \$1,500 to an unknown source. Living on a fixed income and barely getting by as is, she was eager explore other means of income. She unfortunately paid \$900 of the \$1,500 "investment" before she realized it was all a scam. Being out that money now made it impossible to financially recover from this terrible situation, now making her short on July's rent. In addition to pulling her out of this hole, by assisting with her rent, United Way guided this family to legal service, walking her through next steps, as well as connecting her with food alternatives to bring some relief from shortage of income that month.



"Single Mom Struggles, but Doesn't Give Up"

A single mom of two called United Way frantically early one morning. Her water had been turned off and she was worried about her kids waking up and realizing that they didn't have any to shower or brush their teeth with. She explained that she had been let go from her insurance job 3 weeks prior and was actively applying for jobs in the same field, specifically one that she could work from home, since the kids were off for the summer and she could not afford Summer Camp. She was connected to Career Source and had mentioned that she had an interview lined up later that week. She was diligently reaching out to our local partner agencies and had been in contact with a local church and that they agreed to pay a portion of her water bill, but couldn't cover all costs. After assessing this hardship, United Way took this family on as a client, assisting her with having their water turned back on that very same day. Because of United Way and St. Vincent de Paul working together, we were able to prevent her children from going without running water. We are delighted to announce that she did get the job!



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