United Way of Hernando

WHAT IS UNITED WAY?

I'VE HEARD OF UNITED WAY, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT THEY DO. HOW DO THEY HELP MY COMMUNITY?



United Way of Hernando County, Inc. (UWHC) was established as a 501c3 organization in 1987 and since then, has continuously focused on creating partnerships to further assist our community in seeking sustainable solutions to our most pressing needs. Our support for long-term commitments and bridging the gaps for social services are essential when addressing key social issues our community faces.

MISSION

TO INSPIRE LEADERS AND PARTNERS, AND MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO STRENGTHEN THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY.

CORE VALUES

ACCOUNTABILITY, DIVERSITY, LEADERSHIP, INCLUSIVENESS, VOLUNTEERISM, LOYALTY, AND EXCELLENCE.

We take pride in the dollars our donors invest and allocate them each year to direct services committed to tackling the underlying cause of complex issues, with a heavy focus on crisis prevention and mental health. We find every dollar we can to address these issues, but we are more than the fundraisers. We are the hand raisers and game changers. The stop talking and start doing, band together and take on the impossible task masters.

UNITED WAY IS POWERED BY PARTNERSHIPS

United Way collaborates with businesses, organizations, and leaders who share a vision of improving lives through the power of collective impact and working together for change.

WE'RE LOCAL!

YOUR SUPPORT FOR UNITED WAY OF HERNANDO COUNTY HELPS IMPACT THOUSANDS OF LIVES THROUGH OUR 2019-2020 PARTNER PROGRAMS:

HEALTH

- **2-1-1 HERNANDO**
- **A NEW GENERATION**
  Epiphany - A project of A New Generation
- **ABILITY TREE FLORIDA**
  R.E.S.T. Recreation, Education, Support & Training for parents of children with disabilities
- **THE ARC NATURE COAST**
  Community Support for Individuals w/ Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
  Residential Support for Individuals w/ Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
- **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**
  Community Service
- **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF HERNANDO COUNTY**
  School Year Scholarships
- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES**
  Foundations of Life Pregnancy Program
- **DAWN CENTER OF HERNANDO COUNTY**
  Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services
- **DEAF & HARD OF HEARING SERVICES**
  Communication Access Assistance (CAA)
  Florida Telecommunication Homebound Assistance
- **DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY**
- **EARLY LEARNING COALITION OF PASCO & HERNANDO**
  Support for School Readiness
- **JERICHO ROAD MINISTRIES**
  Jericho Food Barn
  Jericho Shelter Facilities
- **LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED & BLIND**
  Adaptive Skills for Visually Impaired Adults & Seniors
- **MID-FLORIDA COMMUNITY SERVICES**
  Children's Advocacy Center
- **MID FLORIDA HOMELESS COALITION**
  Mid Florida Information Network
- **NAMI HERNANDO INC.**
  Support Groups
  Education Programs
- **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE**
  Weekend Blessings
- **SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**
  Food Pantry
- **UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF TAMPA BAY**
  Hernando Early Intervention Program
- **YOUTH & FAMILY ALTERNATIVES**
  New Beginnings Youth Shelter

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A fire started in my garage and destroyed everything in my home. We couldn't stay there while it was being renovated. United Way not only helped my family with food, but also had other agencies donate new household appliances, toiletries, and school supplies for my children.

I'm a single dad and have sole custody of my daughter. I lost my job because of car problems, but couldn't get another job without a car. I just couldn't catch a break. United Way stepped in at just the right time with job resources to help me get a stable career again.

I came to this country to escape domestic violence. After my daughter needed an expensive medical procedure, I found myself behind with my electric bill. United Way not only helped me financially, but also gave me school supplies for my daughter, as well as information on educational opportunities, job openings, and childcare resources.

My car unexpectedly broke down and needed many costly repairs. I had to fix it so I could get to work, but that left me short on my rent. The community came together to help me, and I was able to stay in my home.

I'm a single mom of two children, and my hours were cut at work and I was in danger of being evicted. I didn't want to ask for assistance, but I knew I needed help. United Way was able to assist me in paying my rent and gave me time to get back on my feet.

My family came to Florida a year ago from Mexico. My young daughter spoke very little English and was having trouble in school. At Boys and Girls Club, she was matched with a Youth Development Professional that spoke Spanish. After a few weeks, she started coming out of her shell and wanting to do more group activities. Currently, her grades are improving and she has perfect attendance. By providing scholarships, B&GC is helping at-risk youth get the help they need to succeed in school.

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18-19

I was blown away by how United Way went above and beyond for our situation. Our family of 6 was affected by the government shut down. My husband has been in law enforcement for 20 years and is a Federal Correctional Officer. Our family will forever be grateful for the mortgage assistance that United Way provided.

THE FOLLOWING STORIES ARE REAL CASES HELPED BY UNITED WAY PARTNER PROGRAMS

+ Homeless Mother Reclaims Independence

A single mother of two children was referred to United Way by our partners at the school district. Sarah was traveling long hours to and from work, living in her van for over 2 months, and was 9 months pregnant. After her living situation with family became toxic, she made the difficult decision to uproot her 2 children and leave the home. Sarah had steady employment and was working over 30 hours a week but still couldn't afford the first and last month's rent, as well as deposits in order to move into a new safe home. After meeting directly with Sarah, it was clear to see she was a determined, strong mother, doing everything she could for her children. All she needed was someone to listen and someone to care enough to help.
That's where our United Way stepped in. We helped identify Sarah's additional barriers and called on our community partners to collaborate on resources for her immediate needs. The Community Emergency Funds United Way assisted Sarah with was just what she needed. Sarah gave birth to her beautiful baby girl just four days after we moved her and her children into their new home. This child wasn't born into homelessness and Sarah's hope was restored.

+ A Family With New Beginnings

A young mother with two small children entered Dawn Center's shelter after bravely fleeing from a long term violent relationship. With limited education and without daycare, she was feeling hopeless. Through partnerships with Community Partners, Dawn Center's Shelter Services Coordinator and Economic Justice Advocates were able to connect her with Career Source, where she was enrolled in adult vocational training. Advocates also assisted her with connections to the Early Learning Coalition and assisted in finding safe daycare for the children. Dawn Center advocates assisted her in finding and securing safe and stable housing, then used Rapid Rehousing funding to cover move-in costs, all necessary deposits, and even furnishings for the family's new home. The family is currently living in their new apartment, while the mother completes her vocational training as her new job awaits her graduation.

+ A Veteran Finds Housing

A Veteran had been homeless since October and had been living in the woods. He had been searching for new housing, but was unable to secure money for first and last month's rent, as well as moving costs and deposits. United Way was able to partner with Saint Vincent de Paul, and together they assisted in covering the deposits needed for move-in. Additional Community Partners came together and helped him gather donated household goods, a bed, and small couch. Together, we were able to successfully end homelessness for this deserving Veteran.

LIVE UNITED

WWW.UNITEDWAYHERNANDO.ORG/PROGRAMS