



JOIN OUR MISSION TO  
IMPROVE LIVES AND  
STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY.

LIVE UNITED®



United Way  
of Central Florida





# UNITED WAY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA HAS BEEN IMPROVING LIVES AND STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITIES OF POLK, HARDEE AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES SINCE 1980.


UWCF enacts community change by amplifying donor dollars with local matches, convening partners to improve efficiency and brokering only those services that produce the best possible return on investment in the areas of most critical need.

Our expertise and partnerships are making immediate and lasting differences for individuals throughout our community.



# IMPACT INITIATIVES





United Way of Central Florida and local experts have identified seven initiatives to address our community's most critical needs. Through our initiatives, UWCF and our partners are disrupting the cycle of poverty in Central Florida.



## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Over half of Central Florida's children are not entering kindergarten with the skills they need to succeed. If they start behind, they stay behind. Early childhood education lays the foundation for strong schools and a strong economy.

It is the cheapest, most effective and efficient way of improving high school graduation rates, job readiness and homeownership.

**1,035**

preschoolers  
improved early  
literacy skills.

**388**

early childhood staff  
trained to improve  
pre-k quality.

# IMPACT INITIATIVES

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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

UWCF invests in homework assistance, tutoring, mentoring and educational programs after school and during the summer months.

High-risk students who received UWCF funded services outperformed a statistically identical control group of students who did not receive these services.

**9,015**

children in grades K-12 received services that helped them succeed in school.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

The Financial Stability Initiative funded by UWCF includes opportunities to earn credentials that increase family income, while also establishing emergency savings and realistic family budgets.

Our services help improve credit scores, reduce debt and increase routine contributions to emergency savings.

**3,171**

individuals and families received at least one financial service funded by UWCF in 2018.





## HEALTH

Over 20,000 patients received health services funded by UWCF in 2018. These individuals improved conditions like blood pressure, blood sugar or mental health.

By investing in UWCF, you helped improve people's health while reducing unnecessary ER visits, days in the hospital and days in institutions, psychiatric units, detox centers and jail. Your investment saves lives and money – a rare combination!

**20,052**

adults and children received at least one health service.

**9,397**

patients received multiple services.



## END HUNGER

By convening government, nonprofit and faith-based partnerships, UWCF is increasing access to healthy foods and working to eliminate hunger and food insecurity for children and families throughout Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties.

**114,140**

individuals do not know where their next meal will come from.

**6.2M**

meals provided to hungry Central Florida residents.





# IMPACT INITIATIVES

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## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

The Community Partnership School is a model in which five core community partners – Polk County Public Schools, Southeastern University, Heartland for Children, Central Florida Health Care and United Way of Central Florida – committed to a long-term, integrated partnership focused on academics, comprehensive family services, and opportunities to improve student learning, strengthen families and improve physical and behavioral health.

By brokering these partnerships, UWCF tracks measurable change in the Crystal Lake community and helps to pilot Polk's first Community Partnership School. The school is a community hub with a full-service health clinic, financial education, adult education, and academic support for students, families and neighbors.

**91**

fewer students were suspended from school.

**78**

patients received medical services during the clinic's first month.







## BASIC NEEDS



UWCF helps stabilize short-term crises by providing critical interventions and referrals. When individuals are devastated by natural disasters, acts of violence, hunger, homelessness or grief, United Way and our partners provide critical services.

2-1-1 is a vital information and referral service that connects hundreds of Central Florida residents to the help they need. Our team of highly trained specialists are available 24/7 to connect individuals with the best services available in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties.

### United Way's 2-1-1 provides information about:

- Supplemental food and nutrition programs
- Clothing, shelter & housing options
- Academic and childcare services
- Financial assistance
- Emergency information and natural disaster relief
- Health care services
- Child, adolescent and adult mental health services
- Addiction prevention and rehabilitation programs
- Support groups for individuals with mental illnesses and special needs
- A safe, confidential path out of physical or emotional domestic abuse
- Adult, child, family and elder services
- Services for individuals with disabilities



**TO LEARN MORE,  
VISIT [UWCF.ORG/211](https://www.uwcf.org/211).**

# WHAT A DOLLAR BUYS

What can you do to strengthen  
our community?

United Way fights for the health,  
education and financial stability  
of every person in our community.

No matter the amount, your  
contribution will add up to a big  
win for our local community.

We invite you to **LIVE UNITED.**





### **\$5 A WEEK**

fills a prescription for a homeless medical patient & helps them avoid the need for emergency room care.



### **\$10 A WEEK**

provides a month of emergency housing for a family in crisis.



### **\$20 A WEEK**

funds a literacy camp for a high-risk preschooler.



### **\$100 A WEEK**

provides 96 senior citizens with a hot meal, transportation to the grocery store or doctor & home visits to ensure they can continue to live safely in their own homes.



### **\$200 A WEEK**

sponsors 16 women in crisis by providing transitional housing and mental health counseling.



EACH TIME  
INDIVIDUALS LIKE YOU  
PARTNER WITH US,  
OUR REACH GROWS  
AND WE ARE ABLE TO  
**IMPROVE LIVES** AND  
STRENGTHEN OUR  
COMMUNITY.

**READY TO JOIN THE FIGHT?**

Email us at [liveunited@uwcf.org](mailto:liveunited@uwcf.org)  
Call us at 863.648.1500



Sign up for volunteer  
opportunities  
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