2021-2022 IMPACT REPORT
MOVING FORWARD, TOGETHER
Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to present the 2021-2022 United Way of Central Florida Impact Report. After a few years of facing difficult circumstances, it’s been invigorating to see the reprise of volunteer involvement and community programs.

Two years ago we developed a strategic plan to help establish our goals. A year later, we’re encouraged by the progress we’ve made. We’ve ignited community impact by meeting the needs of individuals and listening to the individuals that are utilizing our services. We’ve deepened donor relationships and are growing revenue by investing in our workplace and top supporter engagement. We’ve increased brand awareness and market penetration by increasing our social media presence and improving our search engine optimization practices. We’ve advanced virtual business by continuing to utilize technology to improve efficiencies. And we’ve enhanced operational excellence by leveraging community partnerships to increase our impact.

This past spring our Marketing Committee and several staff members reassessed and refreshed our mission and vision statements. We were thrilled to receive the National Philanthropy Day award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Exemplary COVID-19 Response Award from United Way Worldwide for our resilient and innovative response to the various impacts of COVID-19. In addition, United Way Worldwide named our local top supporter, Publix Super Markets, Inc., the #1 Global Corporate Leader for the third year in a row.

It is a great honor to serve this community and we look forward to the future of United Way of Central Florida with anticipation.

Greg Littleton,
Chair

Christina Criser Jackson,
President & CEO
Early Childhood Education

Research shows that children who enter school ready to learn are more likely to graduate high school on time. Students who graduate high school are more likely to find a job that pays a livable wage, live healthier lives, stay out of the judicial system and have children who also graduate high school on time.

Through our early childhood education partners and our Success By 6 programs: The Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children's Resource Center, Master Teacher, Parent Lending Libraries and more, we are creating a world where every child has the opportunity to succeed.

Community Partners:

- Achievement Academy, Inc.
- Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center
- Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland
- Early Learning Coalition of Polk County
- Explorations V Children's Museum
- Family Literacy Academy at Lake Wales
- Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.
- Lighthouse for the Blind & Low Vision, Polk Division
- The Salvation Army of West Polk County
- United Way of Central Florida Success By 6
- YMCA of West Central Florida

Academic Achievement

School is full of obstacles. For some, the challenges of these formative years are too great to overcome alone. These challenges lead them to make the unfortunate choice to drop out. That is why UWCF and our partners are working every day to change that outcome through tutoring, mentoring and more.

Community Partners:

- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast
- Boy Scouts, Greater Tampa Bay Council
- Boys and Girls Club of Highlands County
- Boys and Girls Club of Polk County
- Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council
- Girl Scouts of West Central Florida
- Girls, Inc. of Lakeland
- Girls, Inc. of Winter Haven
- Highlands County Family YMCA
- Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.
- The Salvation Army of West Polk County
- YMCA of West Central Florida
Health

When it comes to accessing health services, a person's zip code should never be a deterrent to success, nor should it be a barrier to improved health. Yet for many, that's a daily reality. By making it easier for individuals to access substance abuse programs, receive quality health care and access nutritious foods, we're working to help everyone get—and stay—healthy.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
• Alliance for Independence, Inc.
• Catholic Charities of Central Florida
• Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center
• Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands County, Inc.
• Chapters Health, Good Shepherd Hospice
• Florida Epilepsy Services
• Heartland Horses Equine Activities & Learning, Inc.
• Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine
• Lighthouse for the Blind & Low Vision, Polk Division
• NU-HOPE Elder Care Services, Inc.
• Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc.
• Ridge Area Arc
• Talbot House Ministries
• Tri-County Human Services
• Volunteers in Service to the Elderly

Community Partnership School

The community partnership school model is based on a strategy of forming a long-term partnership among four core partners - a school district, a university or college, a community-based nonprofit and a healthcare provider. This comprehensive model of a community school leverages the social and institutional capital of partners, making it possible for the school to offer resources and services that address the needs of the community.

Our goals include school readiness; student academic success; physical, social and emotional health; and parent and community engagement.

Through our partnerships, we are providing services from all UWCF initiatives at Crystal Lake Elementary, A Community Partnership School in Lakeland.

CORE PARTNERS:
• Central Florida Health Care
• Heartland for Children
• Polk County Public Schools
• Southeastern University
• United Way of Central Florida

Financial Stability

UWCF addresses the root cause of problems to build a better future for individuals and our community. Our partnership for free tax preparation helped 10% of tax prep clients begin permanent savings accounts with the goal to supplement retirement. We provide budgeting experience and saving disciplines to help families build a better future, and we provide individuals with job-skills training for increased income. With our partners, we help families manage debt and improve their credit, placing individuals on a path to financial independence.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:
• Church Service Center
• Explorations V Children’s Museum
• Frostproof Care Center
• Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Inc.
• Mulberry Community Service Center
• Personal Finance Center of Polk County
• Ridge Area Arc
• The Salvation Army of West Polk County
• Talbot House Ministries
• Women's Care Center
• Women's Resource Center

United Way Community Initiatives

Through our partnerships, we are providing services from all UWCF initiatives at Crystal Lake Elementary, A Community Partnership School in Lakeland.

CORE PARTNERS:
• Central Florida Health Care
• Heartland for Children
• Polk County Public Schools
• Southeastern University
• United Way of Central Florida
End Hunger

We know that hunger is a pervasive problem across our community. Many families often have to choose between buying groceries or paying rent and the effects can be devastating – from poor health and malnourishment to impaired child development. By increasing access to healthy foods, our 21 mobile food pantries are helping eliminate hunger for thousands of residents across Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Bartow Church Service Center
- Blessings & Hope Food Pantry
- B Street Community Service Center
- Central Assembly of God
- Central Florida Health Care
- Church Service Center
- Crystal Lake Elementary
- Cutting Edge Ministries
- Donald Bronson Community Center
- Feeding Tampa Bay
- First Missionary Baptist Church
- First United Methodist Church of Sebring
- Frostproof Care Center
- Hands for Homeless

Bi-monthly mobile food pantry drops feed 200 to 400 families frozen meats, fresh produce and dry goods for a week to supplement nutritional needs between paychecks.

Basic Needs

When local residents—no matter their socio-economic status—are devastated by natural disasters, acts of violence, mental health concerns, homelessness or grief, UWCF and our partners are there to provide critical services to help stabilize short-term crises.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- 211
- American Red Cross, Mid-Florida Chapter
- Catholic Charities of Central Florida
- Champion for Children Foundation of Highlands County, Inc.
- Children’s Home Society
- Chapters Health, Good Shepherd Hospice
- Hardee Help Center
- HELP of Fort Meade
- Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc.
- The Salvation Army of East Polk County
- The Salvation Army of West Polk County
- Talbot House Ministries
- Youth & Family Alternatives, Inc.

211 helps the community by connecting individuals and families with the appropriate social services to address basic needs and essentials. This year, the total number of calls, texts and online inquiries was over 31,000 with our top three requests in housing/shelter, utilities and healthcare.

Community Impact Volunteers

The Community Impact Cabinet meets quarterly and is responsible for understanding local needs and driving lasting change for Central Florida. Additionally, volunteers serve on Community Investment Teams that meet each spring to determine UWCF allocations.

The allocation process is the cornerstone of UWCF. Annually, we entrust trained volunteers to carefully review funding requests from our partners and make funding recommendations on how best to invest UWCF campaign dollars.

This year, 84 Community Investment volunteers participated on 15 teams. Volunteers evaluated 88 purchased services at 45 nonprofit agencies. Together, these volunteers spent more than 2,000 hours touring facilities, reviewing applications, audits, 990s and other documents.

COMMUNITY IMPACT CABINET

- Ashley Bell Barnett, Community Impact Chair
- Dr. Naomi Boyer
- Representative Colleen Burton
- Jonathan Crain
- Lee Earl
- Don Ewel
- Matti Friedt

- Heather Gordon
- Sandy Hightower
- Joy Johnson
- Del Quay
- Benjamin Ruch
- Michael Tamney
- Joe Tedder
- Kerry Wilson
SUCCESS STORY

Two-year-old Zekiel* has been attending the Family Literacy Academy at Lake Wales preschool program since he was six months old. He attends the preschool while his single mother, Shanne, attends the Academy’s GED classes. Noticing delays in significant milestones related to response and communication, the Academy’s team of teachers, his social worker and mother developed a plan to meet Zekiel’s needs.

After about 5 months, Zekiel has made leaps and bounds in his development. Using his love of music and related movement has played a role in the classroom. Shanne has worked on his communication comprehension by reading to him often and narrating their activities. He’s shown understanding of concepts and grown in awareness of others around him.

Shanne has been a huge part of Zekiel’s success, faithfully attending the Academy’s parenting and life skills classes. She understands the importance of language development and has created a literacy rich home for Zekiel including children’s books.

Shanne shared, “With the support of UWCF funding of the Family Literacy Academy preschool, my son has blossomed into a well-developed two-year-old. He has overcome some areas that were of concern in his development because the Academy’s teacher assessed him and was well trained in working with him and helping me to be his first and best teacher. I am thankful for United Way’s commitment to this program. I am now confident that Zekiel is well on his way to being ready for school and a successful life.”

*Likeness was changed to protect the privacy of the individual.

DAY OF CARING:
Volunteering for Impact

From landscaping and beautification projects to organizing and creating summer care packages, 428 volunteers set to work during our 29th Annual Day of Caring, to help our community. Day of Caring falling on Earth Day during National Volunteer week was no coincidence. United Way of Central Florida COO Rod Crowley stated, “We’re happy to celebrate National Volunteer Week and bring people together for these projects.”
FINANCES

THROUGH OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND VOLUNTEER COMMITTEES, WE DRAW UPON THE FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE IN OUR COMMUNITY TO MAINTAIN OUR FISCAL RECORD OF 23 YEARS OF CLEAN AUDITS.

*UWCF* undergoes an annual financial statement audit by an independent CPA firm. Financials are from the unaudited Statement of Activities for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022. For a copy of our full Financial Statement and Form 990, please visit uwcf.org.

**TOTAL REVENUE**

$7,610,354

**TOTAL EXPENSES**

$8,816,771

- **ANNUAL CAMPAIGN**
  - 86%

- **DISASTER RELIEF/COVID-19**
  - 1%

- **DEPRECIATION**
  - 1%

- **INTERNAL UWCF PROGRAMS**
  - 17%

- **INTERNAL UWCF SUPPORT**
  - 24%

- **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT ALLOCATIONS**
  - 57%

- **GRANTS**
  - 22%

- **OTHER INCOME**
  - -8%

*UWCF* had a loss of $603,714 due to losses in the stock market.
United Way donors in Highlands County invested more than $310,000 to support education, income, health and safety net services in their community this year.

Highlands County Advisory Board

Blake W. Steedly, Chair
Allen & Company
Deanne Shanklin
Highlands County Coordinator
Drew Bishop
Keller Williams Realty
Roland Bishop
Brown & Brown Insurance
Sheriff Paul Blackman
Highlands County Sheriff’s Office
Brian Cosgrave
First Southern Bank
Dan E. Elewell
Allan Jay Automotive Network
Cindy Garren
South Florida State College
Alison Hancock
South State Bank
Superintendent Dr. Brenda Longshore
School Board of Highlands County
Trevor Murphy
Murphy Ag Solutions
Scott Noethlich
City of Sebring
Ranjit Patel
Dr. C.B. and Ranjan Patel Foundation
Lindsey Pierson
HCA Florida Hospital Highlands
Garrett Roberts
Highlands County Sheriff’s Office
Shannon Sapp
Raymond James
Jeanne Snively
Community Volunteer
Shirley Viets
Heartland National Bank
Randy Vosburg
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
Debbie Weigand
AdventHealth
Karla Youloden
Publix Super Markets, Inc.

A New Name for Family Fundamentals

Family Fundamentals opened in 2001 and became one of the first tangible services of Success By 6. The program is a collaboration of organizations committed to strengthening families and our community by increasing access and awareness to resources and services.

We are excited to announce that with the opening of Bonnet Springs Park, Family Fundamentals has been renamed to The Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children’s Resource Center and is located in the Florida Children’s Museum within the park.

The Children’s Resource Center will house daily school readiness classes in a model classroom, free for attendees. Partners can provide evaluations, counseling, casework, and many other services. It will also include a parent and guardian resource center with access to available information, support services, and the tools they need to be the best parents they can be. It will also house a children’s library, playroom, computer access, and adult classrooms/meeting rooms.

We are hopeful that this move from downtown Lakeland will give us the space and availability to open our doors to more of the community and provide many opportunities to bring awareness to local residents about services available to them.
REMEMBERING CAROL

In December of 2021 we lost an invaluable member of our community.

The legacy Carol Jenkins Barnett left is vast and wide. For United Way of Central Florida, Carol transformed the organization into what it is today.

Carol knew that community change is built on a foundation of solid early childhood education. In 1995 she discovered Success by 6 in Minneapolis and brought the program to United Way of Central Florida. She formed a “Blue Ribbon Committee” comprised of local CEO’s that drove an initiative to help with early childhood education. Together, they created the Success By 6 structure that exists today. Her vision brought organizations together and provided resources to unite them in a common goal.

In 2001 Carol helped start Family Fundamentals, a resource center for Success By 6. Twenty years later 37 agencies offer services on-site to provide a one-stop opportunity for parents. In 2012, she helped found ReadingPals, a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for students from Voluntary Prekindergarten (VPK) to 3rd grade. In conjunction with local school districts, Early Learning Coalitions, Children’s Services Councils and The Children’s Movement of Florida, ReadingPals, has expanded to 17 Florida United Ways servicing communities in 26 counties.

Penny Borgia, former COO and Success By 6 Director of UWCF shared, “Of all the work done in my 17 years at UWCF, I am most proud of the documented accomplishments in early childhood education made possible by Carol Barnett. Carol had ideas of her own and she duplicated ideas that worked well in other states but Carol also listened to local professionals about specific local needs. She improved life in Central Florida and beyond by building a strong foundation for children of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds. It would be impossible to calculate how many students graduated from high school, attended college, and are living successful lives because of Carol Barnett. I am proud to have known Carol and more proud to have served her vision.”

Yet another program that Carol funded under Success By 6 was the Master Teachers program. It provides intense on-the-job training for childcare paraprofessionals. The childcare teachers improve their skills in the reality of their own classroom, with the assistance of a trusted mentor.
Giving fulfilled
Carol and the
energy she
created moved
me and many
others.

Cindy Alexander
Former Executive Vice President and COO of
United Way of Central Florida

Penny Borgia explained, "Carol also understood the need for holistic services. The
services she funded were required to report sustainable, measurable results. She asked
tough questions and required collaboration when funding services to improve quality
childcare, teacher training, parent education, and early literacy. Carol put hundreds of
thousands of books into the hands of children. Her generosity helped to train thousands
of volunteers in kindergarten classrooms across the state. She provided mentors and
internships for preschool teachers to measurably improve teaching skills, which resulted
in improved kindergarten readiness scores for the children they taught."

In addition to shaping our programming and community impact, Carol believed in
bringing like-minded individuals together to accomplish our goals. She was active in the
Leadership Giving Association as a member of the Alexis de Tocqueville Society and was
instrumental in the formation of Women United. Carol and Barney were honored with the
National Alexis de Tocqueville award from United Way of America in 2002.

Her legacy will live on through the programs she created and the opportunities she
gave to thousands of individuals. Her service to our community knew no limits. Our
organization will forever be grateful for the vision and support of Carol Jenkins Barnett.

“As we mourn the loss of Carol Jenkins Barnett, we
remember a woman with an incredible legacy in our
community and beyond. I am personally grateful for the
many opportunities she continues to provide our United
Way team to serve our mission of improving lives and
strengthening the community. Carol taught so many of
us how to be problem solvers and to not take no for an
answer.”

Christina Criser Jackson
President and CEO of United Way of Central Florida
United Way of Central Florida honored community members at its Annual Meeting, awarding Philanthropist of the Year, George W. Jenkins Outstanding United Way Volunteer, Citizen of the Year and more.

Greg Littleton, President & CEO of Citizens Bank & Trust and UWCF 2021 Board Chair, announced new Mission and Vision statements for the organization and acknowledged awards UWCF received over the last year, like the Exemplary COVID-19 Response Award from United Way Worldwide.

Entertainment was provided by the Elbert Elementary school choir and a keynote message was given by Coach and Consultant, Emily Rogers.
ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR

Candidates for this award are considered by their long-term and continuous service to United Way, their involvement in other civic and nonprofit organizations and how they inspire others to LIVE UNITED.

Ronnie and Laura Hedrick have been Alexis de Tocqueville (ADT) and Young Leaders Society members for six years. Collectively, they have served on the Board of Directors, Campaign Cabinet and the ADT committee. Their involvement and commitment to United Way of Central Florida has been steadfast and strong. They have held matches for leadership gifts, hosted many events at their home including virtual events during the pandemic, and this past year extended a match request in honor of Carol Jenkins Barnett, raising record funds for early education. Their family represents three generations of giving to United Way of Central Florida.

"WE ARE HONORED TO BE AWARDED PHILANTHROPIST OF THE YEAR. OUR FAMILY BELIEVES IN DOING ALL YOU CAN TO HELP THOSE IN NEED. WE HOPE TO INSTILL THE SAME VIRTUE INTO OUR CHILDREN, AND FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME."

GEORGE W. JENKINS OUTSTANDING UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER

Candidates for this award are nominated by the past recipients and the board of directors and the winner is selected by the past five recipients. Nominees are considered for their United Way involvement, volunteer experience and overall leadership roles.

Bruce Abels has served United Way of Central Florida for twenty-three years. He has been an Alexis de Tocqueville member for twenty-one years and has served on the Impact Cabinet, Health Steering Team, Community Impact Team, Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Governance Committee. Additionally, he has served on the boards of VISTE, The Salvation Army, Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine, Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center and Catholic Charities of Central Florida. In his spare time, he was the President for Saddle Creek Logistics Services and currently is the President and CEO of Fairfield Logistics Advisors.

DIFFERENCE MAKER

The name Difference Maker comes from an Elie Wiesel Quote. "One person of integrity can make a difference."

Kyle Jensen goes above and beyond to lend a hand to those in need. He is a past chair of our Young Leaders Society as well as a member of the Lighthouse Ministries Board of Directors, Lakeland Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and a supporter of the George Harris Youth Shelter. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, he provided United Way with legal guidance that allowed the organization to distribute federal CARES Act Funding to our Central Florida residents.

SPIRIT OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The Spirit of Central Florida Award acknowledges an organization that has surpassed all expectations and exemplifies the giving spirit in Central Florida.

The Polk County Sheriff’s Office has truly arrested us by their generosity. The number of supporters they have rounded up and rallied to our cause is staggering. Holding special events like the Judd Jog and Haunted Jail Tour, they continue to help fundraise for and bring awareness to UWCF. With money still rolling in from their last special event, they are currently looking at a more than $30,000 campaign increase from last year.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a volunteer for their involvement, experience, and leadership.

Tripp Barnett has demonstrated consistent commitment to our organization and staff. Always ready to lend a helping hand, he also lights up the office with his smiles and willing attitude. His involvement with UWCF spans fifteen years. Beyond our doors he has been a volunteer for over 30 years with Habitat for Humanity and Angel Flights, putting his pilot license to use by providing free medical flights for patients in the southeast. His involvement in our community continues and we are so grateful for his dedication to United Way of Central Florida.
This year’s community fundraising campaign kicked off in August 2021 with our annual Pacesetter campaign.

United Way hosted a virtual kickoff on September 2, 2021 with Board Chair Greg Littleton starting the day with an encouraging video on social media and call to share your #UWCFSpirit. Throughout the day, videos recognizing pacesetters, Top 50 contributors and our incredible donors aired on social channels and YouTube.

We were so excited to have you join in with your swag boxes, filling the internet with United Way of Central Florida fans, pom-poms and even some cutouts of our favorite Sheriff’s likeness.

Pacesetters

At the start of each race, pacesetters emerge to set the tone and pace. UWCF’s campaign is no different with several companies and individuals leading by example, showing how committed they are to help UWCF improve lives and strengthen Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties. We are thankful for all of the partners that helped create a strong start to our 2021-2022 campaign!

THANK YOU TO THESE 2021 CAMPAIGN PACESETTERS:

- Achievement Academy, Inc.
- Bank of Central Florida
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County
- Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council
- Central Florida Regional Planning Council
- Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center
- Children’s Home Society of Florida
- City of Auburndale
- EMERGE
- Fairfield Logistics Advisors
- First Southern Bank
- Fulmer Law, P.A.
- Heart of Florida Legal Aid Society, Inc.
- Heartland National Bank
- HELP of Fort Meade, Inc.
- Iron Horse Family Foundation
- Kindelan McDanal & Associates
- Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine
- Learning Resource Center
- Lighthouse for the Blind & Low Vision
- Peace River Center for Personal Development, Inc.
- Polk Vision Inc.
- Ridge Area Arc
- Studio C Solutions
- The Heacock Group
- True North Farms
- United Way of Central Florida
- Women’s Resource Center
- YMCA of West Central Florida
- John and Libba Attaway
- Nolen and Ashley Bailey
- Jack and Ann Barnhart

- Bill and Amanda Drost
- The Elmhorst Family Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation
- The Fitzwater Family Fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation
- Funk and Patti Foster
- Clifton Garcia
- The James L. and Verna L. Gassett Family Trust
- George and Joy Kirkland
- Peter Golotko
- Benjamin and Susan LeFrancois
- Jim and Vicky Luffman
- Mark Miller
- Robert and Brittany Sale

Current Year Support

Thank you to Publix Super Markets, Inc., the #1 Global Corporate Leader for the third year in a row!
Workplace Campaign Awards

United Way recognizes organizations annually that run outstanding workplace campaigns through our Summit Awards. Organizations are grouped into categories based on number of employees and evaluated based on participation, per capita giving and percent increases in giving from the previous year. This year’s recipients are:

Black & Brew Coffee House

PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS, INC.

CPS INVESTMENT ADVISORS

Employee Coordinator Awards

Employee Coordinators serve as ambassadors for United Way in their workplace. The Employee Coordinator awards recognize individuals who lead their organization in holding an exemplary campaign with increases in participation and per capita giving.

BRANDY MANN, THE LUNZ GROUP

GABI AGUIRE, POLK COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

KRISTIN AIKEN, ACHIEVEMENT ACADEMY

CARLI MALERI, GEICO

PARTNER AGENCY
LEADERSHIP DONORS INVESTED

$4M+

TO SUPPORT UWCF INITIATIVES AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

In 2021-2022, 1,282 leadership donors invested over $4M to support UWCF initiatives and community partners.

Because of our Leadership Givers more children are prepared for kindergarten, families are becoming more financially stable, parents are able to put food on their table, and individuals are receiving much needed health services. Thank you for making a measurable difference in our community!
The Alexis de Tocqueville Society is a group of extraordinary community leaders and philanthropists who demonstrate their commitment to making Central Florida a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Tocqueville Society members are results-oriented individuals who generously share their financial resources, time and expertise to make a measurable difference for individuals and families throughout our community. Members donate over $5,000 each year.

COMMITTEE
Wesley Barnett, Chair
Nathan Adams
Barney Barnett
Greta Dupuy
Tip Fowler
Jim Luffman
Don Selvage
Christina Criser Jackson
Stacy Walsh, Vice President of Resource Development

Friends and Benefactors are leaders within United Way of Central Florida who transform communities across the world. Members donate between $1,000 – $4,999 each year.

“THIS ORGANIZATION ISN’T HOPING FOR SOLUTIONS. UNITED WAY IS FUNDING RESULTS. I SUPPORT UNITED WAY BECAUSE UNITED WAY SUPPORTS ALL OF US.”

Angel Davis

Why Join a Leadership Giving Association?
Formed in 1987 by volunteers to encourage and honor the generosity of families and individuals, these associations bring together community leaders through a range of philanthropic, volunteer and networking opportunities. Membership brings along additional benefits such as dedicated staff support, regular updates on how your gift is being used, recognition for your gift and invitations to special LGA events.
Members of Women United, an affinity group within the United Way Leadership Giving Association, leverage their individual strengths and collective resources to improve the lives of women, children, and families in Central Florida. More than 850 women invested more than $3.1 million through UWCF this year. This diverse, welcoming group of local female leaders are bound together by a powerful sense of commitment to Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties, each other, and the mission of United Way.

Members donate $1,000+ each year.

Young Leaders Society is for individuals within the recommended age 21-45, who are passionate about community involvement and investing in their community through UWCF. Members bring more than energy and professional stature; they are leaders with a vision for their future and our community.

Full of enthusiasm and energy, they know that collectively we can drive great community change. Young Leaders Society fosters the participation, commitment, and growth of philanthropic-focused individuals in furthering the mission of UWCF.

Members donate $1,000+ each year or participate in our step up program, starting at $250.

STEERING COMMITTEE
Christine Ehlenbeck, Chair
Ashley Bailey
Ashley G. Barnett
Stephanie Colon
Greta Dupuy
Sara Hallett
Christina Criser Jackson
Lauren Jensen
Erica Lupercio
Nyrka Riskin
Brittany Sale
Katherine Fitzwater, Staff Champion

STEERING COMMITTEE
Tori Bateman, Chair
Dr. Lauren Albaum
Zach Brown
Rachel Cashdollar
Angel Davis
Katherine Fitzwater
Erica Lupercio
Kate Wallace
Marcus Wright
Jes Garcia, Staff Champion
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Mid-State Industrial Maintenance
BIL-HED Corporation
AgAmerica Lending
The Mosaic Company
Trust
Bank of America
Dr. C.B. and Ranjan Patel Foundation
Highlands County Board of County Commissioners
The Lunz Group
Hudson Pump & Equipment
SouthState Bank
Dunson Harvesting, Inc.
Krya Solutions, Inc.
Six/Ten, LLC
AnhMaz
Early Learning Coalition of Polk County
State Attorney’s Office 10th Judicial Circuit
Polk County Tax Collector
Sale Insurance Agency, Inc.
Wells Fargo
Dixie Southern Industrial
Heartland National Bank
Central Florida Regional Planning Council

United Way Ambassadors act as consultants, relationship builders and resource development professionals who inform and share the United Way message with our community. Thank you to our 2021-2022 United Way Ambassadors David Blanco, Delonique Kemp, Carley Maleri and Camila Norona
JOIN US IN GIVING BACK TO POLK, HARDEE AND HIGHLANDS COUNTIES BY THE END OF THE YEAR! VISIT UWCF.ORG/GIVE OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SUPPORT OUR VISION TO UNITE OUR COMMUNITY AND EMPOWER EVERYONE TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

THANK YOU TO OUR MISSION PARTNERS: