



**UNITED IN BUILDING
STRONGER COMMUNITIES**



United Way of Central Florida





Each of us can
spark change for our
neighbors and transform
our community.

**Together, we are united
in purpose.**

Your generous support of United Way is creating measurable lasting change across Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties. UWCF invests in more than 80 local services that fill the gaps.

What connects us? A belief that people want to help each other and an understanding that education, financial stability and health are the cornerstones of a good life.

While there is no quick fix to break the cycle of poverty, UWCF is closing gaps and opening opportunities for everyone.



Early Childhood Education services give children from birth to age 5 the support and early learning opportunities they need for success in school and life. Improving early literacy is the most effective way of improving high school graduation rates, job readiness and home ownership.

Academic Achievement services provide tutoring, homework assistance and mentors to improve promotion rates, attendance and grades in core subjects for underserved students.

Community Partnership School services have transformed Crystal Lake Elementary into a community hub with a full-service health clinic, family financial education, adult education and academic support for students, families and neighbors.

Financial Stability services include opportunities to earn credentials that increase family income, while also establishing emergency savings and realistic family budgets.



SEVEN INITIATIVES

Health services improve the physical, mental and behavioral health of adults and children while reducing unnecessary emergency room visits and days in the hospital. Services can also reduce the number of days in institutions, psychiatric units, detox centers and jail.

End Hunger healthy food pantry sites increase access to healthy foods and help to eliminate food insecurity for Central Florida residents at 21 locations across Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties. The sites also create awareness for other health, education and financial stability programs.

Basic Needs services stabilize short-term crises by providing critical interventions and referrals. When individuals or families are devastated by a natural disaster, acts of violence, hunger, homelessness or grief, United Way partners provide support.



UWCF PROGRAMS

Success By 6 is our in-house early childhood education program that provides direct and tangible support and early learning opportunities for children and families. Services are designed to give children the best foundation possible for learning because if a child starts behind, they stay behind.

The Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children's Resource Center at Bonnet Springs Park is a learning and resource center that provides fun, engaging, developmental classes for children as well as support groups and free services for caregivers.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library provides children with a free, new book every month through their 5th birthday to help inspire a love of reading and learning in children.

Master Teachers provide intense on the job training for paraprofessionals and directors at early education centers resulting in improved learning, a more effective classroom environment and greater kindergarten readiness.



The Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children's Resource Center

ReadingPals is a statewide early literacy initiative that provides volunteer mentors for kindergarteners in small group settings to help emerging readers and build social emotional support.

Community Wellness, made possible through a grant with Polk County, uses Community Wellness Navigators to spread awareness of the Polk HealthCare Plan and assist them with the online application. These Navigators are unique in that they can also advise individuals on other community programs to provide wrap-around services and support.

211 is the most comprehensive source of human and social services information in the country. Our teams of compassionate, highly trained specialists are available 24/7 to connect you with the best services available in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties. 211 provides information about after school programs, clothing, emergency shelter, financial counseling, food distribution centers, mental health services, senior assistance, substance abuse programs and more.



Community Investment Teams

CIT volunteers research the best possible options for investing donations. They make the decisions that help kids succeed in school, promote financial stability and improve health indicators.

Day of Caring

Hundreds of participants from across Central Florida come together throughout the year for UWCF's quarterly Day of Caring events to participate in volunteer projects, including cleaning local parks, stocking shelves, painting and more.

Healthy Food Pantries

Our 21 George W. Jenkins End Hunger healthy food pantry sites are powered by volunteers. Serving more than 25,000 customers a month, volunteers are helping us end food insecurity in Central Florida.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ReadingPals

ReadingPals volunteer for one hour, one day a week, using curriculum designed for Polk County Public Schools to help students learn the fundamentals of reading, while making it fun and engaging. Activities complement the competencies kindergarteners need to master resulting in measurable academic increases.

Tax Preparation

To help Central Florida residents get the most out of their tax return, UWCF works with the Personal Finance Center of Polk County to train volunteers to provide free tax preparation services.

**TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
UWCF.ORG/VOLUNTEER.**

WHAT YOUR DOLLARS BUY

What can you do to strengthen 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 MONTH / \$1.25 A WEEK

sends a home-delivered meal to eight senior citizens.

\$20 A MONTH / \$5 A WEEK

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

\$40 A MONTH / \$10 A WEEK

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

\$50 A MONTH / \$12.5 A WEEK

provides legal services to a victim of domestic violence.

\$80 A MONTH / \$20 A WEEK

funds a literacy camp for underserved preschoolers who are falling behind.

2.1.1

Get Connected. Get Help.™

**TO LEARN MORE,
VISIT UWCF.ORG/211.**

MISSION

To inspire our community to give, advocate and volunteer by identifying needs and mobilizing vetted resources to create positive local change.

VISION

To unite our community and empower everyone to achieve their full potential.

READY TO JOIN US?

Email us at liveunited@uwcf.org
Call us at 863.648.1500

Sign up for volunteer
opportunities
uwcf.org/volunteer

Donate online
uwcf.org/give



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