

**Statement Opposing Racism**

United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee’s Board of Directors, Leadership, Staff and Volunteers reflect all of the many faces, belief systems, values, expressions and walks of life, which proudly make up our nation. We will continually strive to live according to anti-racist ideals and be a model of diversity, equity, inclusion and justice.

To value diversity is to respect and appreciate race, religion, skin color, gender, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical abilities, age, parental status, work and behavioral styles and the perspectives of each individual shaped by their experiences.

To be inclusive is to create equitable access to opportunities and resources so that all can contribute to success. It also means to leverage diversity by bringing together unique individual backgrounds to collectively and more effectively address the issues facing our communities.

It is our aim, therefore, that United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee's actions, strategies and investments reflect these core values and assist us in creating racial equity structures, organizations and communities in St. Lucie & Okeechobee Counties.

Diversity, equity and inclusion are critical components to achieving success in an everchanging environment. We understand and commit that our work must be rooted in an anti-racist framework. Our ability to employ effective inclusion practices and to make them an integral part of our business will enable United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee to fulfill its mission of improving lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

We commit to evaluate our practices, our biases, our attitudes, our investments and to be vocal on our stand against systemic racism.