



UNITED

THERE'S HOPE

2021 Annual Report

UNITED WAY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY



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United Way of St. Lucie County

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April King, Coca-Cola Beverages FL
Kevin Perry, Ph.D., St. Lucie Public Schools
Andy Treadwell, Indian River State College

Staff

Jessica Parrish, President/CEO
Deana Shatley, Director of Collaborative Impact
Esperanza Morales, Director of Finance & Administration
Roxanne Hall, Director of Campaign
Jeff Howard, Campaign & Finance Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



It is a pleasure to present our 2020/2021 annual report. The following information exemplifies how the initiatives of United Way positively supports and impacts our community.

After the retirement of our long-serving CEO in March of 2020, we welcomed Jessica Parrish into the role just days before a global pandemic took over our lives. Like you, we learned to pivot during 2020 and Ms. Parrish led our team to some new ways of supporting our community.

United Way of St. Lucie County assumed the responsibilities of recommending the disbursement of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners nonprofit funds this year and also managed the disbursements of nonprofit, as well as faith-based, CARES dollars locally. We continued to provide tax assistance through the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program with a realized total of 842 federally-accepted tax returns that resulted in more than \$1,151,689 invested back into our community. Additionally, we provided \$106,725 in school supplies directly to teachers in our county. All this along with the continuous support of 36 programs in our community that focus on basic needs, education, financial stability and health.

The ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constraint and Employed) report tells us that 46% of the families in our community cannot afford, or struggle to afford, their basic needs. Individual neighborhoods, alongside government entities and private industry, provided funding to allow access to any neighbor in need. Special thanks to Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, and Publix Supermarkets for their leadership during this unique year. We are thankful for every donation of time, talent and funds that made such an impact this year.

I encourage you to take a moment to review this report and better understand the impact each supporter can have. There are many simple ways to improve our community and I am encouraging you to change your life by helping someone change theirs.

Let's all LIVE UNITED.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle".

Michelle Franklin, Chair
St. Lucie County Property Appraiser

United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good. Locally, the United Way of St. Lucie County is working hard to achieve this by focusing on basic needs, education, financial stability and health. These are the key pillars needed for a good life and lead to a quality education, a stable job to support a family and good health.

Through a Collaborative Impact Model, we engage partners in solving some of St. Lucie County's most pressing issues. United Way's goal is to create long-lasting change by addressing the underlying causes of community problems, and "Living United" means being a part of that change. It takes everyone in the community working together to create a brighter future. So we bring together people from all across the community—government, business, faith groups, nonprofits, the labor movement, ordinary citizens—to tackle the issues. Because we all win when a child succeeds in school, when a family becomes financially stable, and when people have good health.

United Way of St. Lucie County awarded a total of 39 programs funding to address the key pillars of:

Education

Helping children and families achieve education, focusing on:

- Kindergarten Readiness;
- Proficient Reading by 3rd grade;
- Chronic Absenteeism;
- Behavioral Issues;
- Academic Achievement;
- College and Career Readiness

Financial Stability

Helping families become financially stable and independent by focusing on the following areas:

- Obtain and maintain safe, decent and affordable housing.
- Job Readiness Training/Skills for individuals to acquire basic education, post-secondary training and soft skills needed in the workforce.
- Stabilization for low-income families to access the supports necessary to manage their expenses.

Health

Improving people's health & well-being by focusing on:

- Access to healthcare for people with limited to no access to services, including caregivers;
- Decrease infant mortality; and
- Access to preventative care for children through age 20 and the elderly.

Basic Needs/Safety Net

Ensuring residents have access to basic needs, such as:

- Access to food;
- Access to temporary or permanent shelter;
- Assistance with rent/mortgage payments;
- Assistance with utility payments; and
- Removing other immediate and short-term barriers to safety or work.

UNITED WE'RE SMARTER

Tools for Schools St. Lucie seeks to serve the needs of children throughout the St. Lucie Public School system by providing donated school supplies. This rewarding opportunity not only helps students but teachers by alleviating the worry of inequity when planning classroom projects.

An affiliate of the Kids in Need Foundation national network of Teacher Resource Centers, Tools of Schools support the United Way's pillar of Improving Lives through the Power of Education.



More than half of St. Lucie County families struggle to afford school supplies and 74% of students are on the free or reduced lunch program. Additionally, one in ten teachers spend over \$1,000 of their own money on supplies for their classroom and students.

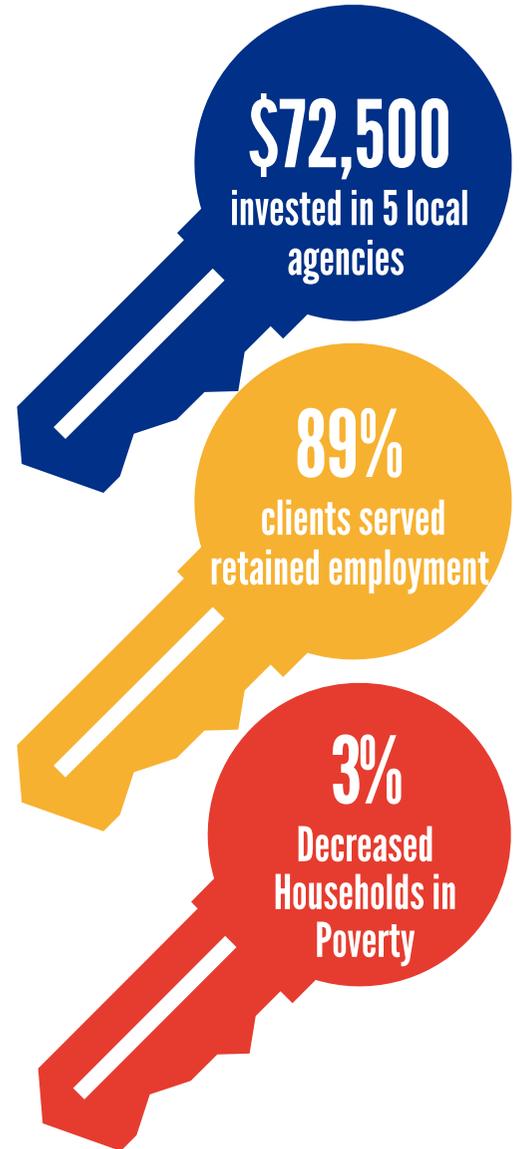
"During my first year of teaching, I was shocked and dismayed by the number of students that did not have school supplies. After hearing excuse after excuse, I realized that many of them could not afford them." ~ St. Lucie County High School Science Teacher

Tools for Schools believes every student should have access to the tools they need to succeed, regardless of income.



UNITED WE'RE STRONGER

Creating opportunities for all through financial stability is a pillar of the United Way of St. Lucie County. This empowers hardworking families with the tools, training and opportunities to prosper.



VITA Volunteer Income Tax Assistance

The VITA program offers free tax assistance to individuals and families earning less than \$56,000 per year. IRS certified volunteers provide free basic tax return preparation with electronic filing.

5 Locations **842** Accepted Returns
\$1,151,689 in Total Refunds

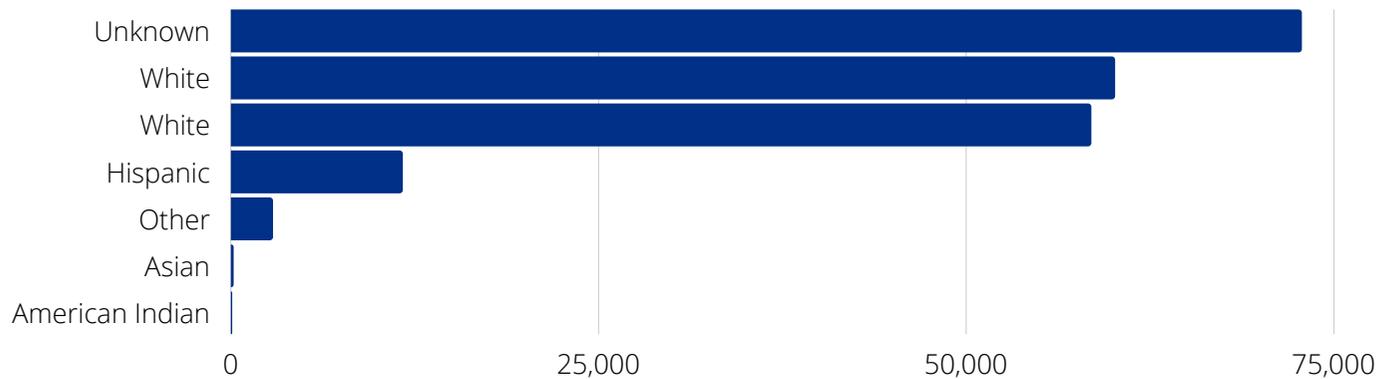
UNITED WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your donations to United Way of St. Lucie County are used to improve lives by helping those in our community who need it most. Here are just a few examples of how contributions to our campaign last year are working to build a brighter future for people in our community.

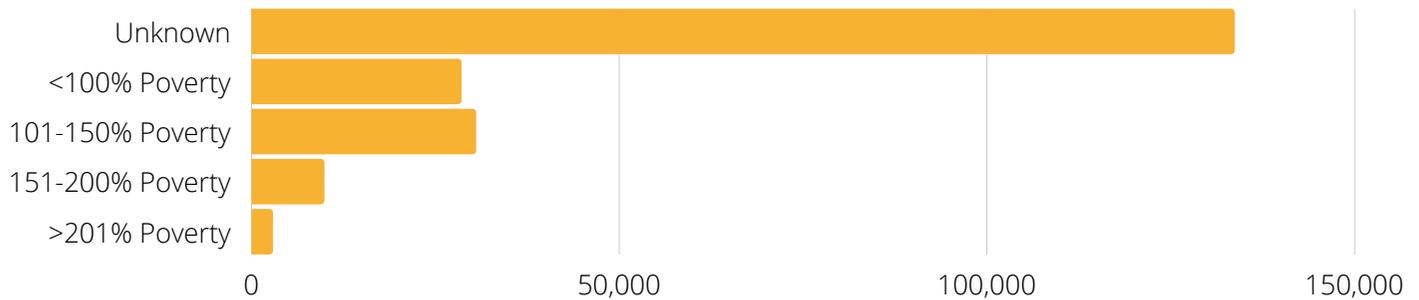
Age



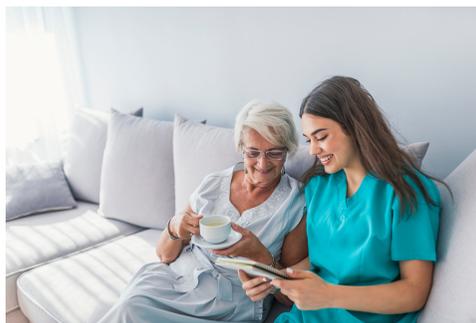
Race



Income



Location



UNITED WE RESPOND

It's not getting any easier. Across the world, COVID-19 deaths continue to rise. In the U.S., the economic fallout continues to hit low-wage Americans the hardest, along with people of color and those lacking a college degree. One in 4 adults have had trouble paying bills, especially rent or mortgage payments. One in 6 have borrowed money from friends or received food from a food bank.

Half the adults who lost a job due to COVID-19 are still unemployed. And 211, the go-to information resource, is still fielding more than double its normal calls, mostly for help with housing, bills and food.

Working with the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, we're doing all we can to mitigate the impact. In the 2020-21 funding year, United Way of St. Lucie County awarded more than \$1 million in C.A.R.E.S. Act funds to 43 local organizations.

ARC of St. Lucie County
Alzheimer's Community Care
Bethel Church of Port St. Lucie
Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Indian River, St. Lucie and Okeechobee
Boys and Girls Clubs of St. Lucie County
Care Bag
Council on Aging of St. Lucie County
End It Corp.
First United Methodist Church
Fresh Wind Fresh Fire Church of God
Frontline for Kids
General Conference of Seventh Day Adventist
God's Kingdom Station House of Prayer
Grace Packs Incorporated
GraceWay Village
Habitat for Humanity of St. Lucie County
HANDS of St. Lucie County
Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County
Heathcote Botanical Gardens
Holy Family Catholic Church
In the Image of Christ, Inc.



Inner Truth Project
Joi Enterprise Ministries
Multicultural Resource Center
Mustard Seed Ministries
New Horizons of the Treasure Coast
PACE Center for Girls
Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc
Sarah's Kitchen
Save Our Children
Seventh-Day Adventist
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
St. Bernadette Catholic Church
St. Lucie Catholic Church
St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce Foundation
St. Lucie County Education Foundation
Sunlight Community Church
SWORD Outreach Mentoring and Resource
Temple Beth El Israel
The Salvation Army of Martin, St. Lucie & Okeechobee
United Against Poverty
Westside Baptist Church
Woman's Club of Ft. Pierce
Word of Faith Christian Academy

FUNDED PROGRAMS & WORKPLACE CAMPAIGNS



Basic Needs

2-1-1 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast
 American Red Cross Heartland to Coast Chapter
 Children's Home Society of the Treasure Coast
 GraceWay Village
 Life Builders of the Treasure Coast
 Mustard Seed Ministries
 Sarah's Kitchen

Education

Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
 Multicultural Resource Center
 PACE Center for Girls
 Roundtable of St. Lucie County
 Tools for Schools St. Lucie

Financial Stability

Helping People Succeed
 Mustard Seed Ministries
 United Against Poverty
 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Health

Tykes & Teens
 Alzheimer's Community Care
 Drug Abuse Treatment Association (D.A.T.A.)
 HANDS of St. Lucie
 Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie
 Inner Truth Project
 Light of the World Charities
 SafeSpace, Inc.



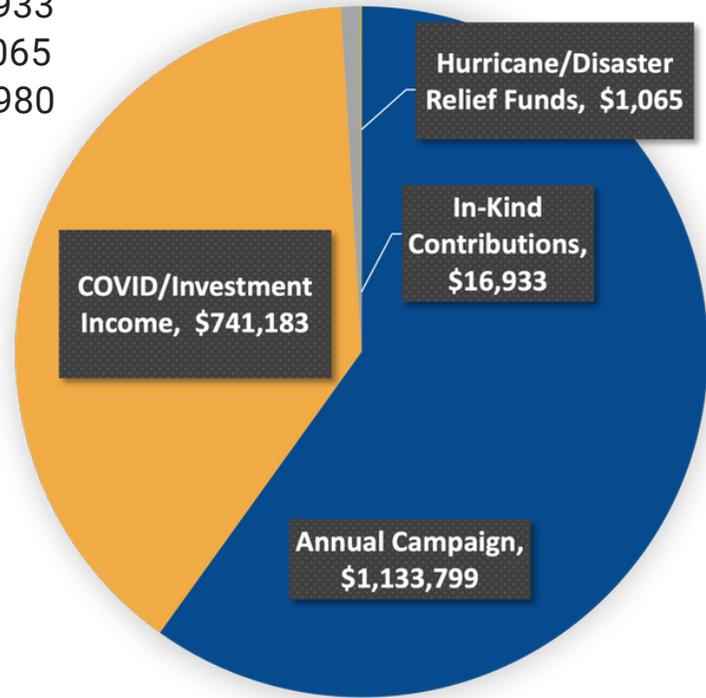
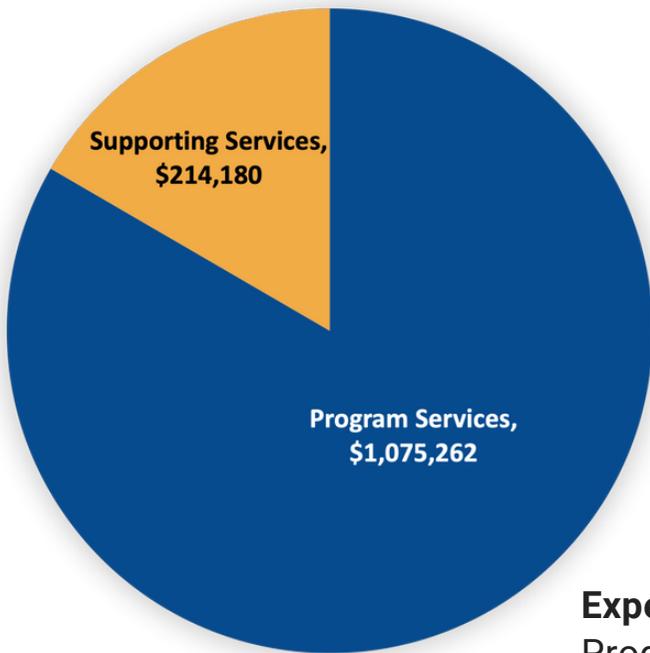
Campaigns

1. Publix
2. Harbour Ridge Yacht & Country Club
3. St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners
4. Florida Power & Light
5. UPS
6. Seacoast Bank
7. City of Port St. Lucie
8. Walmart Foundation
9. Pratt & Whitney
10. St. Lucie County Property Appraiser

FINANCES

Support & Revenues

Net Annual Campaign.....	\$1,133,799
COVID/Investment Income.....	\$ 741,183
In-Kind Contributions.....	\$ 16,933
Hurricane/Disaster Relief Funds.....	\$ 1,065
Total Support & Revenues.....	\$1,892,980



Expenses

Program Services Expenses.....	\$ 1,075,262
Supporting Services.....	\$ 214,180
Total Expenses.....	\$ 1,289,442

Change Over Prior Year

Net Assets as of July 1, 2020.....	\$ 2,599,968
Net Assets as of July 1, 2021.....	\$ 3,203,506

The United Way of St. Lucie County values its fiduciary responsibility to donors, funders and the community and strives to operate as efficiently as possible. Nearly 83 cents of every dollar raised is invested in local programs and services.

Audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 are available for review online at UnitedWaySLC.org.

UNITED WE'RE STRONGER

THANKS TO THE UNITED WAY OF ST. LUCIE COUNTY

"The COVID-19 Grant from the United Way is important to GraceWay Village because it allows us to reach further into the neighborhood of need in St. Lucie County."

Cathie Mouring, CEO | GraceWay Village

"A lot of my students are unable to get the supplies for themselves...they don't have to stress over whether they have the tools they they need to do their job every day."

Shawnalee Reeves

Tools for Schools Recipient

"KINDNESS
is the language which the
BLIND CAN FEEL
and the
DEAF CAN HEAR."

Mark Twain

"VITA is a great way to work with others in the community to save money so they don't have to pay to have their taxes done and in many cases are able to receive a refund or credit to help supplement their income."

Lori Coyle | VITA Volunteer

"The United Way has been there for us, our day-to-day jobs, but when there is a disaster, they are the first person to call and ask 'are you okay?' They will fight hard for us."

Stacy Malinowski | Mustard Seed Ministries

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