


60
1962 - 2022
Years of Impact

United Way



United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee



2021-2022

**United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee**

United Way



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Vanessa Farnes, Seacoast Bank
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Elijah Wooten Jr., City of Port St. Lucie

United Way of St. Lucie
&
Okeechobee

Follow us!

www.uwslo.org
772-464-5300



CURRENT STAFF

Thomas Espky, Interim President & CEO
Lorina Beniamino, Director of Community Partnership School
Denise Helms, Director of Development
Jeff Howard, Director of Collaborative Impact
Dolores Jensen, Family & Community Engagement Coordinator
Jason Meyer, Expanded Learning Coordinator
Esperanza Morales, Director of Finance & Administration
Avery Tomlinson, Director of Community Engagement
Yolanda Vicens-Rosario, Campaign & Finance Assistant

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



For 60 years the United Way of St. Lucie County has remained steadfast to the mission of creating a better life for every member of our community. When our children have access to quality education, our residents are healthy, financially stable, and their basic needs are met we all win. I am pleased to share with you our 2021-2022 impact report.

In 2022 we celebrated the first anniversary of our merger with our neighbors in Okeechobee County. Our geographic proximity made sense to better collaborate. We look to create efficiencies and strengthen our work in our new relationship as the United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee. We believe that together, we foster the opportunity to move our impact forward in our community to better serve our stakeholders.

The pandemic of 2020 continues to create new challenges for our communities, businesses, non-profits, and local government. Nevertheless, we remain committed to meeting the needs of our ALICE (Assess Limited Income Constrained Employed) population. Throughout this report you will see examples of our collaborative impact. Our collaborative impact model allows us to partner with strategic stakeholders to identify community needs along our 4 pillars, measure our results, and adapt as our community needs change.

I encourage you to read the report to see how the collaborative impact model fosters community partnership to effectively make an impact in the areas of education, health, financial stability, and basic needs. Through the mobilizing and caring efforts of our community, the United Way of St. Lucie and Okeechobee County (UWSLO) acquired funding for over 30 essential programs and initiatives across the 2 counties. For this we say thank you to our donors and supporters. These essential programs would not be possible without your generous donations.

Above all else, UWSLO continues to be more than a fundraiser. Our vision is to continually be the catalyst to achieve a sustainable community. Other impacts include:

- Community Partnership Schools (University of Central Florida at White City Elementary)
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program
- Tools for Schools St Lucie teacher resource store
- Day of Caring- over 100 volunteers
- Disaster recovery support

Despite the great work we were able to accomplish this year, there is still so much more we can do. I invite you to come be a part of the catalyst for change. Join others who have made the pledge with us to give, volunteer, advocate. LIVE United!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shelly Thomas". The signature is stylized and includes a horizontal line at the end.

Shelly Thomas, Chair
St. Lucie County Property Appraiser

YOUR IMPACT



IN 2021-2022
WE CAME
TOGETHER TO
PROVIDE:

EDUCATION
\$95,950.00

BASIC NEEDS
\$190,732.00

**FINANCIAL
STABILITY**

\$98,130.00

HEALTH
\$162,569.00

**FOR THE
RESIDENTS OF
ST. LUCIE &
OKEECHOBEE**



**United
Way**



**United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee**



Mission Statement

To improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.

Vision Statement

The United Way of St. Lucie County & Okeechobee will be the catalyst to achieve a sustainable community in the areas of health, education, and financial independence.



DAY OF CARING

Day of Caring is an annual community-wide effort that brings together volunteers and local businesses to provide short term, project-focused volunteer service with non-profit and public organizations to experience the intrinsic rewards of contributing to the well-being of our region.



PROGRAM PARTNERS



United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee

BASIC NEEDS

Children's Home Society

Wave C.R.E.S.T. Shelter for children & teens

GraceWay Village

GraceWay Village

House of Hope

Food Services

Life Builders of the Treasure Coast

Life Builders of the Treasure Coast

Mustard Seed Ministries

Mustard Seed Ministries

Mustard Seed Ministries

Sarah's Kitchen - Soup Kitchen

Salvation Army

Basic Needs

EDUCATION

Big Brothers, Big Sisters of St. Lucie, Indian River & Okeechobee Counties

Launching Into Literacy

Early Learning Coalition of Indian River, Martin & Okeechobee

Literacy Coach

Early Learning Coalition of St Lucie County

School Readiness for ALICE Families

Okeechobee Education Foundation

Education Foundation of Okeechobee

PACE Center for Girls -

Intervention & Prevention Day Programs

Roundtable of St. Lucie County

IGNITE Youth Alliance

YMCA of the Treasure Coast

Drumbeat Program

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Arc of St. Lucie County

Adult Day Program

Helping People Succeed

Successful Futures

Mustard Seed Ministries

Planning Your New Future

HEALTH

Florida Department of Health St Lucie

Sunny Smiles

HANDS of St. Lucie County

HANDS of St. Lucie County

Helping People Succeed

Children's Mental Health

Healthy Start Coalition of St Lucie Co.

Newborn Home Visitation

Healthy Start Coalition of St Lucie Co.

Nurse Family Partnership

Hibiscus Children's Center

Community Mental Health

Inner Truth Project

Sexual Trauma & Prevention

Light of the World Charities

Little Lights Dentistry Program

Martha's House

Healthy Relationship Education Program

Okeechobee Healthy Start

Prenatal, Planning & Post-Partum Women's

Project Lift

Project Lift- Fort Pierce

Tykes & Teens

Infant Mental Health

Tykes & Teens

School Based Services

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL

A Community Partnership School has been established at White City Elementary. Community Partnership Schools improve student outcomes by transforming schools into resource hubs that offer a range of supports and opportunities to children, families and the surrounding neighborhood.

Community Partnership Schools focus on academics, health, social services and community engagement.

FACT: Community Partnership Schools lead to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities

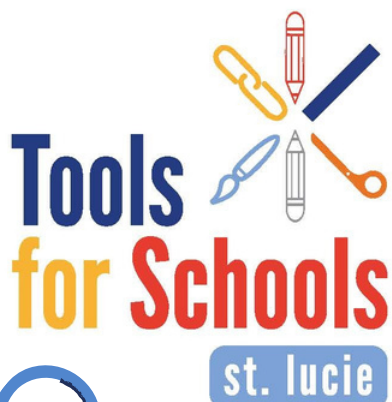


TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS

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

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

FACT: 553 teachers receive more than \$71,482 in supplies to benefit more than 14,000 students each year.



VITA



VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

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



The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals. VITA sites offer free tax help to:

- People who generally make \$58,000 or less
- Persons with disabilities; and
- Limited English- speaking taxpayers

While the IRS manages the VITA program, the sites are operated by IRS partners such as the United Way and staffed by IRS- certified volunteers. VITA services are not only free, but a reliable and trusted source for preparing for tax returns.

FREE TAX PREPARATION
Earn it. Keep it. Save it.

FREE tax preparation at a
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) site
if you earn less than \$60,000

Site	Contact	Hours	Open/Close
Family Success Center 714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce	211	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 9am - 1:30pm	February 6, 2023 April 12, 2023
Fort Pierce Library Ritter Branch 101 Mendly Lane, Fort Pierce	211	Saturdays, 10am - 2pm	February 18, 2023 April 8, 2023
Indian River State College 3209 Virginia Ave., Fort Pierce Bldg. Y Rm. 102	211	Thursdays, 2pm - 7pm	February 9, 16, 23 March 2, 9, 23 Closed March 16

United Way
United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee

ST LUCIE
COUNTY
FLORIDA

IRSC
Authorized
e-file
Provider

FACTS

- 4 locations open for 82 days of service
- 897 federally accepted tax returns completed
- \$1.3 million in tax refunds returned to the community



TOP 10

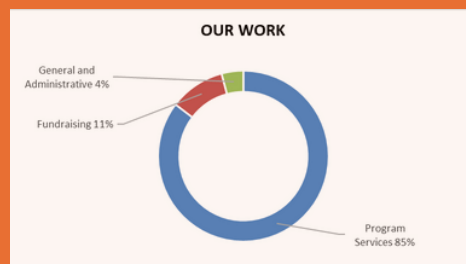
MOST GENEROUS WORKPLACES



- 1 Publix Super Markets
- 2 St. Lucie County Administration BOCC
- 3 Florida Power & Light
- 4 Bernard A. Egan Foundation
- 5 UPS
- 6 Seacoast Bank
- 7 City of Port St Lucie
- 8 School Board of St. Lucie County
- 9 Enterprise Leasing Company of Florida
- 10 St. Lucie County Property Appraiser's Office

FINANCIALS

Public support, grants, and other revenue	\$1,576,056
Less: Amounts raised on behalf of others (designated gifts)	(189,457)
Less: Provision for uncollectible pledges	(143,832)
Total support and revenues	1,242,767
Program service expenses	1,160,875
Fundraising	143,332
General and Administrative	56,085
Total expenses	1,360,292
Loss on disposal of fixed assets.....	(8,627)
Change in Net Assets	(126,152)
Net assets - July 1, 2021	3,360,027
Net assets - June 30, 2022	\$3,233,875





United Way of
St. Lucie & Okeechobee



ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

United Way allocates donations
Over \$1 million distributed

Sarah Myrick
TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

St. Lucie United Way recognizes volunteers during annual meeting



SERVING THE COMMUNITY



Your United Way Leaders
Painting a Brighter Tomorrow
Meet Your 1997/98 Campaign Cabinet



ST. LUCIE COUNTY — United Way volunteers in the past year to health and human service agencies that provide programs to improve the quality of life for local residents volunteered their time to United Way's distribution of campaign funds. United Way board members Fran Stein and Thom Epsky led the entire process in a matter of days.

"It's a very difficult process because we have so many great needs in our community and we don't have enough resources to fund them all," Epsky said. "It's a multi-step process of evaluations and then we go through the process of the community."

While the United Way raised a record amount of money for specific programs that marked a significant portion of the money in the general fund, Epsky said, "It's a very difficult process because we have so many great needs in our community and we don't have enough resources to fund them all."





UNITED WAY TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY

The Alexis de Tocqueville Society is United Way's most prestigious giving society and is recognized throughout the world. Members of the Tocqueville Society make an annual investment of \$10,000 or more in support of United Way's mission to improve people's lives.

2021-2022

\$167,273.92

The 11 members of the Tocqueville Society contributed \$167,273.92 in the last fiscal year to lead the fight for health, education, and financial stability of every person in St. Lucie & Okeechobee.



**UNITED WAY OF
ST. LUCIE & OKEECHOBEE**
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