

WHAT WE DO



UNITED WAY
Hernando County

Meeting People Where They're At



ASSESS & ASSIST



- Providing financial assistance to Hernando County residents financially struggling
- Restricted funds used to prevent homelessness, evictions, utility disconnections, & food assistance

85

Hernando Households Assisted

(89 CASES & 262 ppl)



\$142,810

Total Invested through Emergency Assistance FYTD

(\$70,576 Invested thru DRA & LTR)

July 1, 2024 – July 18, 2025

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

Client needs & qualifications vary



"I just wanted to say THANK YOU & GOD BLESS YOU for helping us with our rent. You all have been a God send to my husband and I. This gives us HOPE that things will all work out."

-This individual originally communicated they've recently had suicidal thoughts due to financial stress.



\$59,827

RENT/ MORTGAGE CASES:

34



FOOD ASSISTANCE:

6

Gift Cards
\$975



\$6,030

UTILITIES CASES:

16



UNIQUE CASES:

4

\$5,402



- Hurricane Idalia (Long-Term Recovery)**
 - Repairs, move in costs, relocations
- Brooksville Tornado (August 2024)**
 - Meter Repair & Reconnection
- Hurricane Debby (August 2024)**
 - Pole & Meter Repairs
- Hurricane Helene (September 2024)**
 - Pole & Meter Repairs, food, unmet needs
- Hurricane Milton (October 2024)**
 - Move in costs, travel expenses, repairs

DRA + LONG-TERM RECOVERY CASES:

10

\$29,225



DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE

TRAVEL TRAILER UNIT PLACEMENTS

19

Electrical Hookups
\$31,750

Permit Fees
\$700

Towing Fees
\$2,700

Title Transfers
\$2,531.64

Plumbing Fees
\$3,670.23

TTU TOTAL INVESTMENT:

\$41,351

THOSE WE HELP

- ➔ An elderly veteran diagnosed with stomach cancer fell behind on bills after increased medical expenses. Water bill was past due.
- ➔ A hard working disabled resident fell and could no longer go to work. He was in need of a wheel chair & transportation to their neurologist appointment in Tampa.
- ➔ A grandmother with 2 small children recently survived a stroke, but found herself stressing over not having basic back to school needs for them.
- ➔ A senior became victim of a "get rich quick scheme" and was served with an eviction due to this pushing her behind on rent.
- ➔ A human trafficking survivor called UW from the hospital, for she was being discharged and didn't have a place to live.
- ➔ A homeless man had a job opportunity lined up, but didn't have the right work boots to be on-site.
- ➔ A single mother of 4 with a full time job found herself behind on rent when her landlord increased monthly payments by \$475.

"Powered by Partnerships"

"A Partner Agency reached out to United Way asking if they could assist a senior couple whose rental had just been condemned. During the intake process, they discovered that the wife had been diagnosed with Dementia. She hasn't been making their car payments for months and because of this their car was on the verge of being repossessed. The couple was quickly rehoused and United Way was able to cover their first months rent, which made it possible for them to catch up on overdue car payments and prevented them from losing their only source of transportation."



We met Chris out at the Ridge Manor Community Center. In passing, while picking up hot meals we were distributing and basic essentials (such as toilet paper and pillows) we learned that Chris and his wife have been kayaking their 3 year old and special needs brother to and from their home each day. Days after Milton, when the Withlacoochee River began to flood, he explained in detail the fear of slowly watching the water rise each hour, higher and higher overnight, reaching a total of 6 feet of brown water over their home. As renters, their FEMA assistance options were limited and found themselves in desperate need of a habitable space. After assessing their needs on site, and managing to locate a trailer to rent, their next barrier was the first month's rent and deposit being due all at once in order to move in. With a landlord only willing to accept cash, our team swiftly connected with him onsite, vouching for payment and willing to cover expenses if this family could be placed in a dry home that night. Thanks to our flexible Disaster Relief Funding, we were safely able to rehouse this hard-working family who've unfortunately lost everything, but hope.

A working gentleman at a local distribution center was evicted from his apartment & had been living out of his car. He made a livable income but because of his eviction, it became impossible for him to rent another apartment with this on his record. He was connected with United Way by his employer, where we were able to fully assess and assist his needs. He shared that he had not been allowed to see his 3 year old son while living in his car and that he was concerned for his safety with hurricane season quickly approaching. Our team was able to match him with a previous client of ours who had a room for rent and was in search of a tenant. He could afford the rent but needed help with initial move-in costs. United Way covered his deposit, allowing him to move into his new room that same day. After sleeping in a bed again, he called to express how happy he was to no longer be displaced and that he couldn't wait to see his son.



"Full House"

"A single mother of four was abruptly given custody of her four nieces/nephews and forced to make several court appearances. This clearly interfered with her routine and took time away from her at home hair business. Now having to provide for a total of eight children, she quickly began to struggle with bills. As soon as she fell behind on rent and was scared of losing their home, she called United Way desperately looking for assistance. United Way was able to connect her with other outside resources and cover her rent for that month. This allowed her to adjust to the sudden added expenses and focus on giving the children the love and attention they need to get through this difficult time."



GRANT & SUPPORT SOURCES



UNITED WAY
Hernando County



- **Community Emergency Fund (CEF)**
 - For employed individuals who have faced a financial barrier
 - Assists with rent/mortgage, utilities, & food, etc.
 - Focused on accountability & sustainability
 - Required: proof of income/employment/partnership with CareerSource, ID, intake, valid emergency for need, supporting documents/statements/signed lease



- **Shine the Light Foundation (ENF)**
 - For Duke Energy clients who have faced a financial barrier
 - Flexible with qualifications



- **Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP)**
 - Hernando is awarded annually through FEMA
 - Phase 42 is currently pending due to FEMA structure uncertainties
 - UW's allocation assists with up to 3mo of rent/mort/utilities
 - Does not cover fees (qualifications are much more restricting)
 - Supporting documentation is essential



- **Disaster Relief Assistance & Long-Term Recovery**
 - Designed to assist residents directly impacted by local disasters, natural & man-made
 - Each grant request UW applies for is restricted to either residential unmet needs, disaster case management, capacity building, mitigation, etc.
 - This initiative is on-going, with current Hurricanes: Idalia, Helene, Milton

"Struggling & Surviving"



"A senior battling 2 different types of cancer and undergoing Chemo Therapy needed to be hospitalized for an unexpected surgery. Once she was discharged and able to go back home, she borrowed money from friends in an attempt to catch up on all her outstanding bills. She finally reached out to United Way as a last resort; where she shared that it'd be dangerous if her electric was turned off because she's Oxygen Dependent. United Way carefully went over her budget, helped identify what her barriers were, and got her back on the right track. We assisted with her overdue electric bill and were able to keep her lights and oxygen on - for this was a basic living necessity."

"United Way helped us understand what the process was in order for them to help. That they want to talk through options and understand the reason why we were behind. The ladies worked with us so we could catch up after just moving - otherwise we would have been homeless. The financial breakdown sheet was also extremely helpful and we were able to see what finances we had to let go of to make things more affordable for our household size and income. They saved our family."

– June 2025 Client, Household of 4

*Financial aid is not available for the same client twice within a 12month period. Should they be a returning client, it is required for them to take a one-on-one or group workshop with Florida Master Money Mentors through the Hernando County Extension Office. Facilitator Scott Taylor must sign off on a client verification form prior to moving forward with United Way conducting intake. This is one small step for accountability.

INITIATIVES & FOCUS AREAS

HEALTH

Increasing Access to Health



GOAL:

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY ARE ABLE TO ACCESS AND BENEFIT FROM AFFORDABLE HEALTH SERVICES TO BETTER THEIR OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE.

Focus Areas

- Access to Care and Available Health Resources
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services
- Support Services for People with Disabilities (physical, intellectual, developmental)

EDUCATION

Fostering Childhood & Youth Success



GOAL:

CHILDREN & YOUTH WILL HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY, EDUCATIONAL WRAP AROUND SERVICES TO FURTHER ENHANCE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND BEHAVIOR IN ORDER TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN SCHOOL AND AT HOME.

Focus Areas

- Early Childhood Development and School Readiness
- Mentoring Support and Out of School Services
- Youth Development and Family Engagement

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Encouraging Economic Mobility



GOAL:

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES WILL BE EQUIPPED WITH RESOURCES TO ACHIEVE AND MAINTAIN SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

Focus Areas

- Financial Literacy for Youth and Adults
- Job Development and Workforce Training
- Financial Assistance Services

BASIC NEEDS/ CRISIS PREVENTION

Breaking Down Barriers

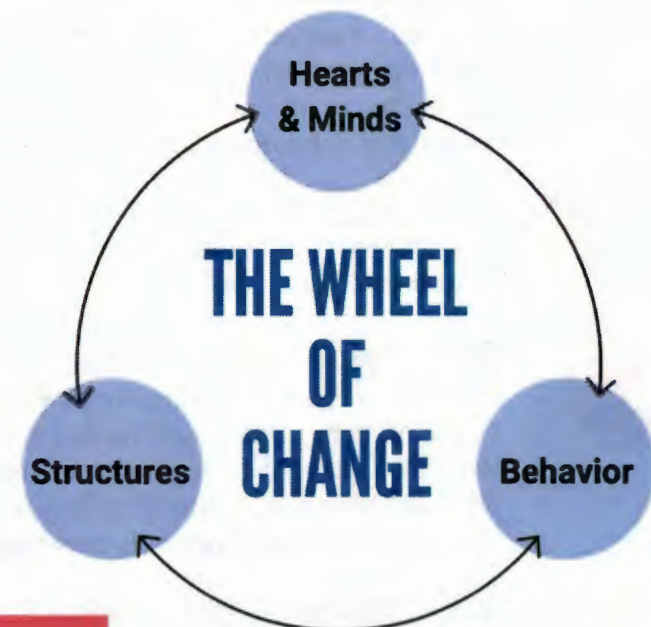


GOAL:

RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING CRISIS OR TRAUMA WILL RECEIVE EMOTIONAL, FINANCIAL, OR GENERAL SUPPORT THEY NEED TO OVERCOME LIFE'S UNEXPECTED BARRIERS.

Focus Areas

- Food Security
- Protection from Neglect, Abuse, Exploitation
- Transitional/Permanent Supportive Housing Services for Those Experiencing Homelessness



COMMUNITY INVESTMET GRANT (CIG)

\$116,500

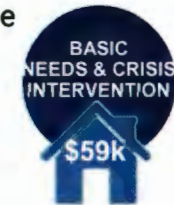
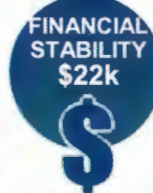
Invested thru
2024-2025 CIG

AGENCIES:

10

PROGRAMS:

11



- ✓ Quarterly Program Reports are submitted to UW, reflecting impact, # clients & units served, success stories, outcomes, activities, barriers, demographics served, & more (Q4 Programs are reflected on this snapshot and does not highlight all outcomes or # of individuals served)
- ✓ 2-year grant cycle available for Programs in good standing
- ✓ Next open CIG opportunity will be released in the Spring of 2026 for 2026-2027 FY

- **CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Foundations of Life Pregnancy Center**
(Access to Care & Available Resources) – 541 counseling/therapy sessions; 151 families received services
- **LIGHTHOUSE VIB: Adaptive & Independent Living Skills Program**
(Support Services for People with Disabilities) – 665 counseling/therapy sessions
- **NAMI HERNANDO: Education Programs**
(Mental & Behavioral Health Services) – 774 ppl gained access to support; 60 trainings were conducted

- **THE Y: Safety Around Water Program**
(Youth Development & Family Engagement) – 534 children graduated from the program; 25 classes at HCS

- **DAWN CENTER: Economic Justice Program**
(Financial Literacy for Youth & Adults) – 509 survivors gained access to support services
- **EARLY LEARNING COALITION: Early Childhood Credentialing Program**
(Job Development & Workforce Training) – 14 participants are received their credentials tuition free

- **DAWN CENTER: Domestic & Sexual Violence Victim Services**
(Protection from Neglect, Abuse, Exploitation) – 351 ppl received shelter serves; 10,891 bed nights
- **MID FLORIDA HOMELESS COALITION: Diversion & Wrap-Around**
(Transitional/Supportive Housing for those Experiencing Homelessness) – 7 homeless crisis interventions
- **PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE: Weekend Blessings Program**
(Food Security) – 73,587 lbs distributed; 1,711 children/families benefited
- **ST. VINCENT DE PAUL: Food Pantry**
(Food Security) – 1,283,180 lbs distributed; 64,159 individuals helped
- **YOU THRIVE: Children's Advocacy Center**
(Protection from Neglect, Abuse, Exploitation) – 2,849 therapy sessions, 378 ppl in crisis helped