

Why United Way of Charlotte County?

UNITED WAY OF

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

MISSION

Mobilizing the power of our community to break the cycle of poverty



VISION

A community where all citizens achieve their potential through education, financial stability, and healthy lives.

Local Impact

United Way of Charlotte County operates autonomously from United Way Worldwide and has achieved much in recent years through our own community efforts. Our commitment is to mobilize the power of our community to break the cycle of poverty - **in Charlotte County**. We do this with minimal overhead. Our administrative costs have stayed at 11% year over year, well below industry standards.

Connection to United Way Worldwide

United Way Worldwide is a trade association of more than 1,200 independent United Ways throughout the country. Each United Way is a separate 501(c)(3) organization with a governing board of directors made up of local community members who volunteer their time. The boards are independent and make all policy and funding decisions for each local United Way.

Being under the umbrella of United Way Worldwide comes with accountability to meet the highest standards. Standards are reviewed and confirmed annually to ensure compliance and alignment with industry best practices.

UWCC voluntarily pays dues to United Way Worldwide in exchange for valuable information and referral services, consultation, supplies, publications, training and grant opportunities, and conferences. Networking with other United Ways allows us to share ideas, materials, and other resources. United Way of Charlotte County receives tremendous benefit from the support we obtain from United Way Worldwide, but rest assured, local support stays local.

Ethics and Accountability

Locally, United Way of Charlotte County does not tolerate any form of sexual harassment, harassment and bullying, discrimination, or wrongdoing. We value our staff, our Board of Directors, our volunteers, and our partners. Misconduct would only stand in the way of the good work we are all passionate about.

We are a local, independent organization that strives for the highest ethical standards in our work. We are deeply committed to ensuring a positive work culture where all employees can thrive.

We seek accountability by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of members of our local community. And we offer transparency by having our financial records easily accessible to the public on our website. Questions about our work are always welcome. Please feel free to reach out to our Executive Director, Angie Matthiessen at director@unitedwayccfl.org.

Local Government Funding

Local government dollars come from the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Punta Gorda. These dollars are used to support health and human service programs in the County. United Way of Charlotte County (UWCC) has been trusted to vet and administer this funding through a rigorous grant process. Throughout the length of each grant, UWCC also provides a layer of oversight for the funded programs, monitoring progress and effectiveness as well as tracking the population served.

Donor and Grant Funding

UWCC receives donations and grant funding to support our operations and direct services. These direct services include the **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA)** and **Season of Sharing (SOS)**. VITA provides free tax preparation for low- and moderate-income individuals and families. This service helps keep dollars in our residents' pockets and ensures that they receive all deductions and credits they qualify for.

Season of Sharing is a fundraising partnership created by The Herald-Tribune Media Group and The Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Funds received on behalf of Charlotte County are distributed to those in need to be used for rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to help families restore a sense of security when it is needed most urgently.

Local donor dollars also provide support for innovation and collective impact through our United Way of Charlotte County Community Collaborations. **Ending Youth & Chronic Homelessness** is a partnership between Gulf Coast Partnership, Virginia B Andes Volunteer Community Clinic, Charlotte Behavioral Health Care, and the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. This Community Collaboration has already effectively ended chronic homelessness in Charlotte County and is pivoting its focus to unaccompanied homeless youth.

Kids Thrive brings together Drug Free Charlotte County, Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland, Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition, Healthy Families of Charlotte County, Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County, and Charlotte County Imagination Library to improve health outcomes for substance exposed newborns and help their parents and caregivers be successful in raising these precious children.

Additionally, UWCC is the Lead Agency for the **Charlotte County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading**. We are a convener of location literacy initiatives aimed at setting our youngest residents up for long-term educational success.

Our work across the community has set us up to be a convener in other areas as well. We take pride in making connections across sectors. We bring together donors, volunteers, advocates, nonprofits, business leaders, and more to tackle Charlotte County's most pressing needs.