A Year of Impact - A Year of Hope
Local Government Funded Programs - October 2020-September 2021
Charlotte County Board of County Commission and City of Punta Gorda

18 Agencies • 23 Programs • 13,251 Lives Impacted

Educational Success

Devon began attending the YMCA of Southwest Florida's School Age Care program in the 1st grade. He could not sound out letters or read sight words. Devin didn't even score at a preschool level for early reading skills. YMCA staff connected with his teacher, school liaison, and his parents to work together to help Devin. In a few months, the extra support paid off - Devin was reading at grade-level and on target to advance into 2nd grade.

Financial Stability

"Prior to this program [Bridges Out of Poverty] I was lacking significant knowledge about poverty and resources to seek out when needed. I was living paycheck to paycheck while wasting my money.

I have a savings account now and put money into it every payday. In a few months to a year I plan to be in my new home with my children creating memories."

2022 BOCC & COPG Impact Statement - www.unitedwayccfl.org
**Hope**

/hōp/ noun

an optimistic state of mind that is based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large.

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**Health and Well-being**

"I was 26 years old, and just beginning to face the challenges of marriage, parenthood, and career changes. Denise from Healthy Families took the time to get to know me, my situation, and my family. She encouraged me and helped me to set goals. With Denise's help, I have worked on parenting, my education, and my career. Not only has Denise helped me be the best parent I can be, she is now a lifelong friend and an extension of our family."

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**Basic Needs**

Senior Friendship Centers offers meals to seniors in their homes, but encourages socialization through in-person dining sites. Paula had been absent from the dining hall due to physical limitations and staff took notice. A power wheelchair was located and revamped to meet Paula's needs. The wheelchair was outfitted with a basket and a bow and was a welcomed surprise the next time Paula was able to attend the dining site. Since that day, Paula has participated as a diner frequently, rekindled friendships, and resumed a well-rounded social life.
$71,480 invested

Kids Thrive
41 households served with individualized support and interventions

Newborn NICU Length of Stay
The average length of stay for substance exposed newborns has decreased from 27 days to 10 days since 2017.

Developmental Delays
78% of children screened scored within the age-based developmental schedule

Circle of Parents
83% of peer support group participants improved their self-sufficiency

51% of participants reside in 33952
Charlotte County Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Supporting interventions to increase early childhood literacy from Birth to 3rd Grade

**BIRTH TO AGE 5**

- 2,200 children received monthly books from Imagination Library
- 1,800 Kindergarten Readiness Bags distributed to preschool children

**KINDERGARTEN TO 3RD GRADE**

- 65% of children matched with a mentor for reading support were on grade level by the end of the year

Charlotte County Public Schools jumped from 33rd in the state to 13th in state rankings!

*$41,610 invested*
$145,300 invested

Ending Youth & Chronic Homelessness

As of December 31, 2020, collaborative efforts effectively ended chronic homelessness in Charlotte County as defined by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Unsheltered Chronically Homeless Annual PIT Survey

80% Approval Rate for Benefits

The 2020 National Approval Rate on Initial SOAR Applications averaged 65%.

37 chronically homeless individuals and 7 unaccompanied homeless youth were permanently housed.

81% of individuals housed since 2017 have remained housed.

26 homeless clients received pharmacy services & 41 were provided clinic services.
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

695 Income Tax Returns Filed
Tax Year 2020

$26,617 invested

695 Income Tax Returns Filed
Tax Year 2020

31 Volunteers

2,547 Volunteer Hours

$22,382 average Adjusted Gross Income of clients served

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$1,047,287 economic impact*
(up from $754,336 from the previous year)

*Tax Payer Savings + Total Refunds + Volunteer Hours Value = Economic Impact
Season of Sharing
558 Households Served with Rent/Mortgage/Utility Assistance

Nearly half of those served by SOS are employed. These are our ALICE families.

The zip codes with the highest number of households below the ALICE threshold: 33952, 33950, 34224, 33948
Season of Sharing

Reduced income was the #1 reason for needing SOS assistance. *(Most pandemic-related issues were categorized as reduced income.)*

Help with costs associated with rent accounted for over half of all SOS requests.