



# 2024-2025 Impact Report

**UNITED  
WE RISE**



# UNITED IS THE WAY



Mobilizing the power of our community so all can thrive.



**The change we need now for the future we want to create.** Our vision is ensuring brighter futures for youth, financial stability for families, healthier communities, and resilience in the face of challenges.

Along with our partners, businesses, and volunteers, we tackle the most pressing issues by combining resources, funding effective programs, and providing direct assistance.

## We Serve ALICE

**ASSET LIMITED, INCOME CONSTRAINED & EMPLOYED**

90,360 Households in Charlotte County

43.7% Below Alice Threshold

### Who Falls Under the ALICE Threshold in Charlotte County

- 49% of residents 65 & older
- 79% Single Female Households with Children
- 62% Single Male Households with Children

## Basic needs has outpaced wages.

A Charlotte County family of four with two children in childcare needs \$85,080/year to survive – far above the \$27,750 federal poverty line.\*

\*2025 Alice Report: Learn more: [unitedwayccfl.org/alice](https://unitedwayccfl.org/alice)

## Strategic Priorities

Together we can expand impact, elevate relevance and strengthen sustainability.

Foundation	Steps to Self-Sufficiency			Additional Support
<b>1 Basic Needs</b> food, childcare, housing, financial assistance	<b>2 Educational Success</b> parent engagement, trauma informed care, school readiness, successful transitions	<b>3 Financial Empowerment</b> increased employability, asset accumulation and sustainment	<b>4 Seniors</b> reduce barriers that isolate seniors from their peers and community	<b>5 Communication &amp; Navigation</b> prioritize time, talent, and treasure for communication, navigation, and volunteer efforts

## 3 Focus Areas

We fund, manage and operate dollars and impact. We mobilize people and resources to empower the residents of Charlotte County to THRIVE!

Family Empowerment	United at Work	Ageless Engagement
Investing in families' growth enables them to thrive and build a lasting legacy of achievement for future generations.	Equipping businesses with resources and emergency support to help employees thrive and communities stay strong.	Mobilizing volunteers to reduce isolation, providing opportunities for engagement and connection.
Charlotte County Reads, Kids Thrive, Women United, Children's Scholarship Fund	United at Work Summit, Workplace Thrive Academy, Community Resource Navigation	Ageless United, VITA, Friendship at Home, Senior-Focused Community Events, Digital Navigation



# UNITED WE THRIVE

Mobilizing the power of our community so all can thrive.



At United Way Charlotte County, we harness community power to help everyone thrive. Collaborating with partners, businesses, and volunteers, we address key issues like health, financial security, education, and community resilience through resource allocation, program funding, and direct support.

## YOUR DOLLARS YOUR IMPACT

### PROGRAMS OPERATED BY UNITED WAY CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- Ageless Engagement
- Children’s Enrichment Fund
- Parent Advisory Council
- Season of Sharing
- United at Work
- Women United
- VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance)

### PROGRAMS MANAGED BY UNITED WAY CHARLOTTE COUNTY

- Charlotte County Reads | Reading Buddies
- Kids Thrive | Circle of Parents

### PROGRAMS FUNDED (Funding cycle from October 2024 to September 2025)

- **A.N.A.’s Friends**  
Children’s Needs
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast**  
One to One Mentoring
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County**  
After School Program & Summer Brain Gain Camp
- **Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies (C.A.R.E.)**  
Emergency Shelter Services
- **Children’s Network of Southwest Florida**  
Family Intensive Treatment Support & Family Stabilization
- **Drug Free Charlotte County**  
Kids Thrive Literacy Project
- **Early Learning Coalition of Florida’s Heartland**  
Child Care for Economically Disadvantaged
- **Florida Center for Early Childhood, Inc.**  
Healthy Families & Early Childhood Therapy Services
- **Gilstad Literacy Foundation, Inc.**  
Charlotte County Imagination Library
- **Loveland Center, Inc.**  
Charlotte County Adult Day Training
- **Pregnancy Solutions, Inc.**  
Client Services
- **Senior Friendship Centers**  
Senior Nutrition & Friendship at Home
- **St. Vincent de Paul, Sacred Heart Conference, Inc.**  
Fix-It Ministry
- **St. Vincent de Paul CARES**  
Shelter
- **The Dubin Center**  
Caregiver Education and Social Support
- **Valerie’s House**  
Grief Support Services & Peer to Peer Grief Support
- **Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic**  
Medical Clinic & Pharmacy Services
- **YMCA of Southwest Florida**  
Community Navigation for YMCA Literacy Volunteers & School Age Care



## Kids Thrive | Circle of Parents

A collaboration between Drug Free Charlotte County and United Way Charlotte County, follows the Two-Generation (2Gen) approach. The focus is on both children and parents, promoting parent-child interactions, literacy skills, and family cohesion for long-term stability and success.

Literacy,  
Readiness &  
Family  
Connection



October 2024-  
March 2025



**63** FAMILIES



**98%** SET GOALS TO BUILD FAMILY STABILITY



**79** PARENTS RECEIVED COACHING & RESOURCE NAVIGATION



**83.6%** CHILDREN RECEIVED EARLY LITERACY SUPPORTS



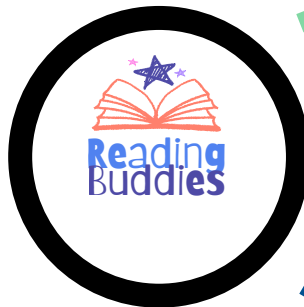
The Kids Thrive program strengthens children and families by empowering parents and fostering positive parent-child relationships for lasting resilience and success.



## Charlotte County Reads | Reading Buddies

The UWCC leads a coalition with Charlotte County Public Schools, the YMCA, the Boys & Girls Club, and community volunteers. Funding literacy initiatives, coordinating volunteer efforts in after-school programs. The focus is on personalized mentoring to boost struggling readers' confidence. Volunteers and students also engage in after-school activities at the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA.

ONE Hour A Week,  
Can Shape A  
Student's  
Success.



School Year  
2024-2025



**114** STUDENTS



**64** VOLUNTEERS



**816** HOURS OF SERVICE



**87%** STUDENT GROWTH IN READING



**90%** STUDENT GROWTH IN MATH



**CHARLOTTE COUNTY READS**  
a community collaboration

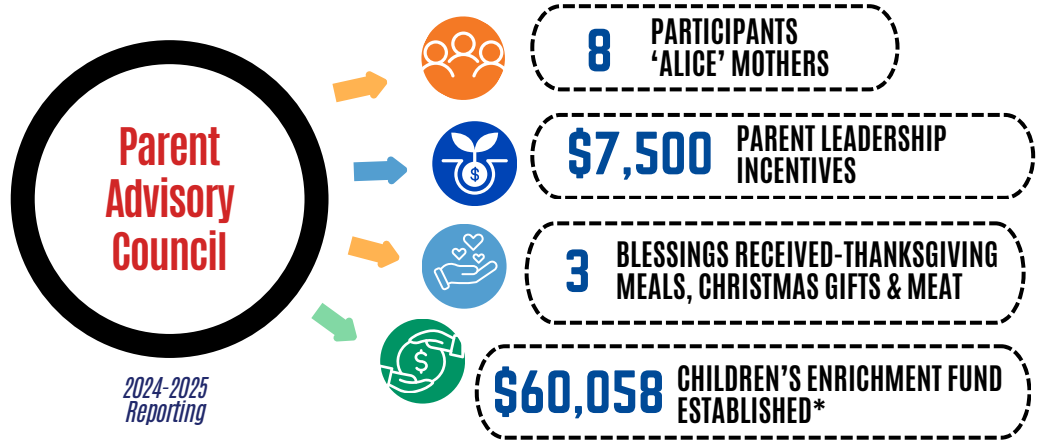




## Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Amplifying the voice and lived experience of parents, helping shape United Way initiatives. Through their guidance and feedback, the council ensures initiatives address community needs, strengthen family outcomes, and drive lasting impact.

Guided By Parents, Focused On Families, Committed To Change.



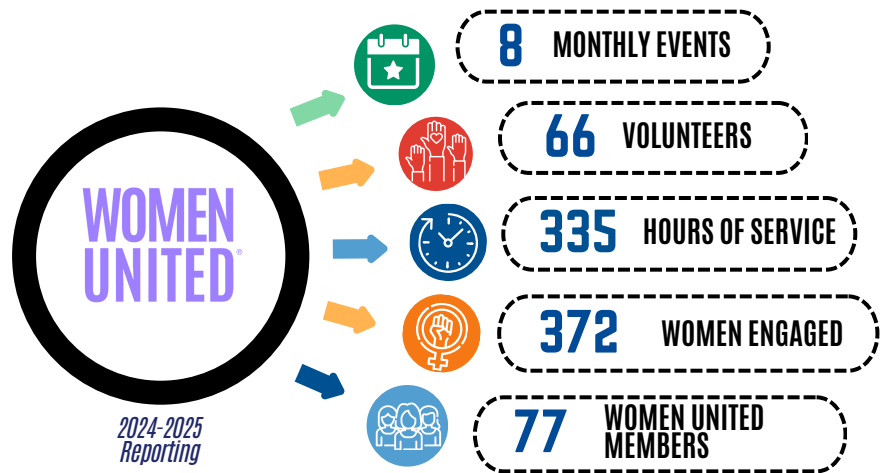
\*Founded by the Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 and inspired by the voices of the Parent Advisory Council, the Children's Enrichment Fund invests in children to build Charlotte County's future.



## Women United

Women United is a dynamic network of women leaders in Charlotte County focused on making a difference through service, philanthropy, and connection. Members participate in community activities like Habitat for Humanity projects, Art Night, and SHE Talks, fostering engagement and growth. This year, they launched the inaugural Power of the Purse fundraiser, blending fun and fashion to support local women and families.

Empowering Women. Mentoring Futures. Creating Lasting Impact.

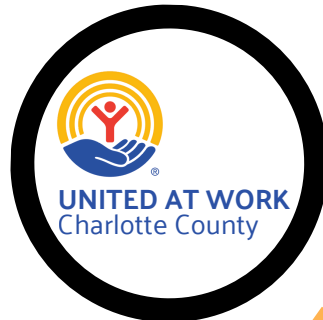




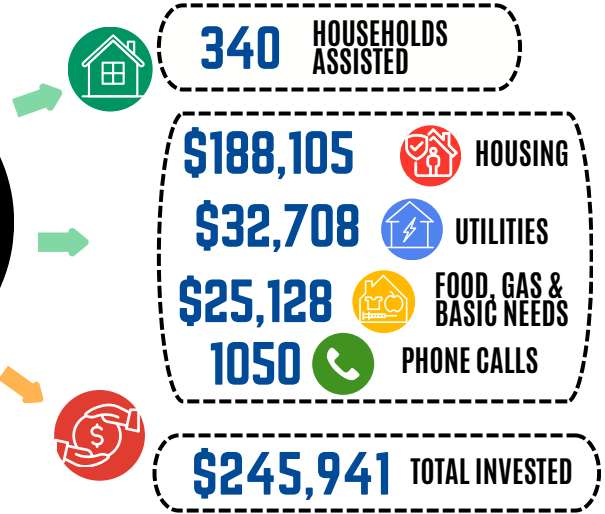
## Community Resiliency through **United at Work (UAW)**

After Hurricanes Helene and Milton, United Way Charlotte County mobilized to support community recovery. Thanks to strong partnerships and the resilience of local residents, UAW continues to help families rebuild and strengthen long-term stability across Charlotte County.

HOPE  
Delivered  
After Two  
Devastating  
Storms.



October 2024 -  
September 2025



Additional Disaster Investment Grant Funding  
\$89,000 awarded to:

- St. Vincent de Paul CARES
- Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic
- United Way Lee County - 211



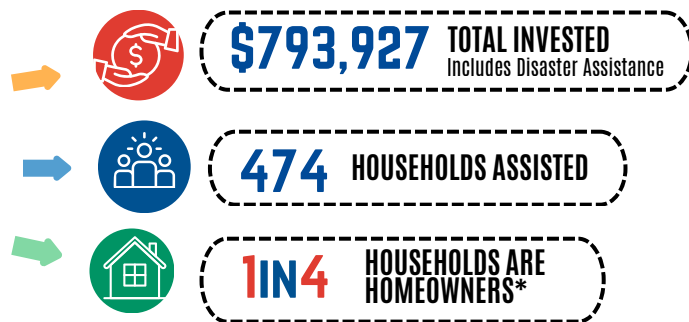
## Financial Empowerment through **Season of Sharing (SOS)**

Many families in Charlotte County face financial hardship. Season of Sharing provides one-time emergency aid for rent, mortgage, and utilities. Year-round, as the fiscal manager, UWCC partners with local agencies to deliver critical assistance and restore hope for families in need.

Emergency  
Support  
When HOPE  
Is Needed.



October 2024 -  
September 2025



\*\*With insurance and property taxes on the rise, many homeowners are now facing higher mortgage payments and financial hardship."

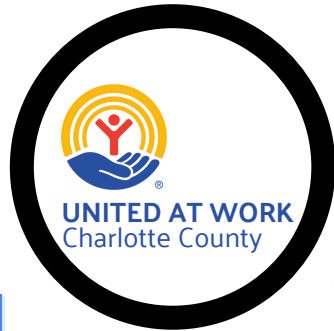


Mobilizing support and collaborations, UWCC is broadening access to vital resources and support for individuals in need through partnerships with reliable community organizations.



## United at Work Summit: Alice and Mental Health

A day of insight, action and inspiration: Local leaders gathered for a full-day event centered on **strengthening mental health** in the workplace, especially for those impacted by recent hurricanes or living paycheck to paycheck – known as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). The mental health of ALICE individuals is heavily affected by financial strain, especially related to work stress.



January 2025

Mental Health Matters To Alice in The Workforce.



**170** Summit Attendees

**58** Community Business Partners

**80%** Increased their understanding of mental health challenges

**Top Workplace Challenges:**

- Staffing Shortages & Retention
- Burnout
- Communication Gaps
- Financial Stress

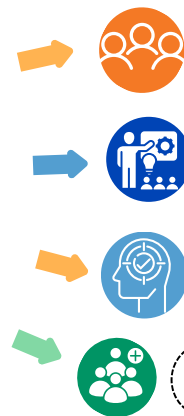


## United at Work: Workplace Thrive Academy

UWCC created Long-Term Change Beyond the United at Work Summit. Workplace Thrive Academy is a free, grant-funded program that empowers employers to develop mentally healthy, resilient teams. Over multiple sessions, participants explored how to recognize depression, respond to crisis, and build workplace wellness plans tailored to their teams.



October 2024 - October 2025



**45** Academy Participants  
**23** Business Represented

**4** Workplace Thrive Academy workshops

**4** Focus Areas: Depression, Suicidal Thoughts, Anxiety & Substance Use

**20** Wellness Plans Initiated

**“In a community still recovering from disaster and economic hardship, the Academy offered hope, healing, and a way forward. Together, we’re building resilient workplaces and changing lives.”**

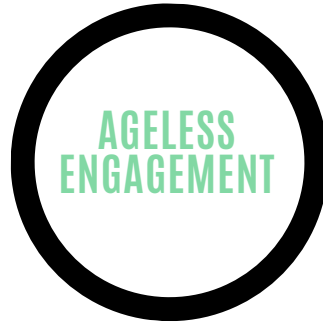




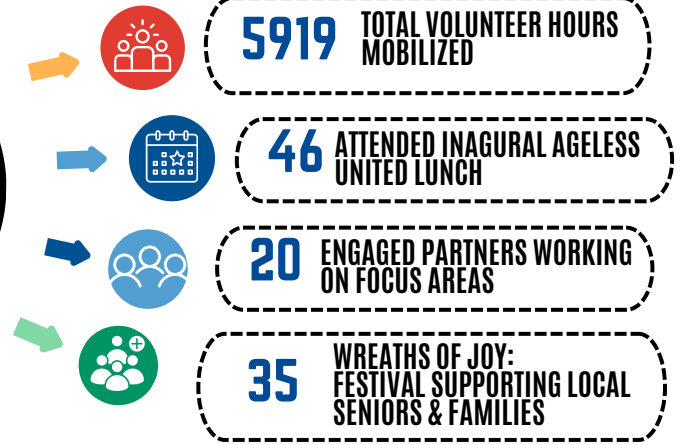
## AGELESS ENGAGEMENT

Ageless United focuses on community engagement and volunteerism, decreasing isolation for people of all ages. Our goal is to make a meaningful difference by fostering connected, enriched, and dignified lives for everyone in the community.

Decreasing Isolation & Increasing Community Engagement.



October 2024 - September 2025



We collaborated with FGCU's Shady Rest Institute on Positive Aging to provide insights for community stakeholders, strengthening the Ageless Engagement program. We also partnered with seven agencies to enhance the Senior Planet digital navigation program.



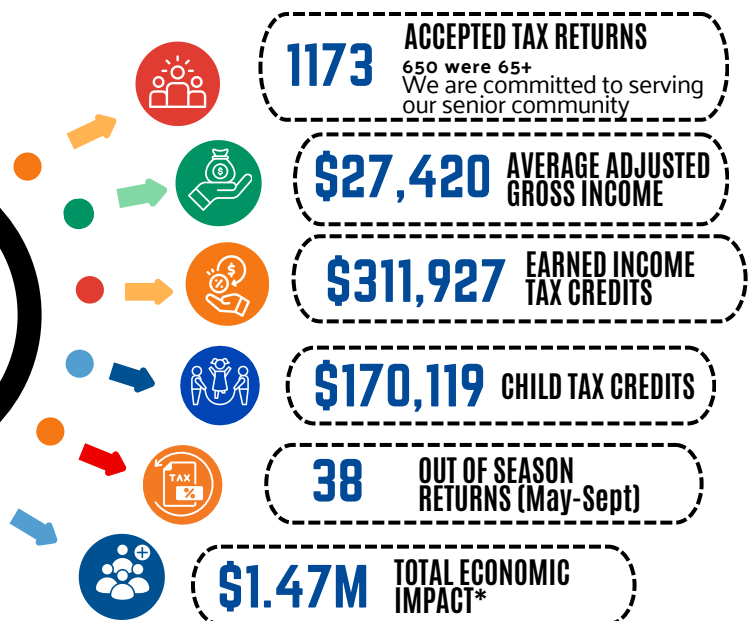
## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

The United Way Charlotte County's VITA program is an indispensable lifeline, extending far beyond free tax preparation to address Charlotte County's diverse and often profound needs.

It's More Than Just Taxes.



Tax Season 2025 (Tax Year 2024)



\*7% increase in economic impact from tax season 2024 - Economic impact includes taxpayer savings, total refunds, and financial equivalent of volunteer hours.

## Women United Luncheon



The Women United Annual Lunch is a cherished event celebrating women's leadership and change in Charlotte County. It honors the Woman of Distinction for impactful service and the Woman of Courage for resilience and support of others. These awards inspire Women United members to empower and transform lives for women and families in the community.

## Beaujolais



Our signature Beaujolais event is a celebration of collaboration, while fostering local partnerships. It supports the Charlotte Technical College Culinary Arts Program, allowing students to showcase their skills through exquisite dishes, gaining real-world experience and community recognition. This gathering unites neighbors, partners, and businesses, highlighting the synergy between philanthropy and community pride to strengthen Charlotte County.

## Ageless United Luncheon



The Ageless United Luncheon brings together community members, caregivers, and leaders in Charlotte County to address aging, connection, and belonging. This annual event focuses on reducing senior isolation and promoting positive aging through engagement. United Way Charlotte County enhances intergenerational understanding and connects older adults with resources, combating loneliness and strengthening community bonds for overall well-being.