

Community Report

Your 2025-2026 Charlotte County Impact

60 YEARS OF SHOWING UP

United Way Charlotte County

UNITED WAY
Charlotte County

60 Years
SINCE 1966



60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

One community. Six decades of impact. A future we are building together.

For 60 years, United Way Charlotte County has brought people together around a simple belief: when we work together, everyone has a greater opportunity to thrive.

Our community has changed. The challenges facing our neighbors have changed. But one thing has remained constant: **Charlotte County shows up.**

Volunteers give their time. Donors make critical work possible. Businesses contribute resources and expertise. Nonprofit organizations serve our neighbors every day. Community partners bring solutions that no one organization could create alone.

MOBILIZE • CONVENE • INVEST • PROVIDE

This is how we show up.
We mobilize people and resources, bring the right partners together, invest in solutions and provide programs when there is a compelling community need.

Our role is to bring those strengths together–mobilizing people and resources, convening partners around shared challenges, investing in solutions and providing programs when a direct response is needed.

This report reflects what our community made possible together in 2025–2026. Behind every number is a person who chose to help–and a neighbor whose life was strengthened because someone showed up. As we celebrate 60 years of service, we are not simply looking back. We are building what comes next. From bringing Charlotte County's first Community School to Peace River Elementary to strengthening working families through United at Work and investing in local organizations, the next chapter is already underway.

Thank you to every volunteer, donor, business, nonprofit partner, board member and neighbor who has been part of this work. Your commitment is helping shape Charlotte County's next chapter.

Together, we are showing up for Charlotte County.

Angie Matthiessen
Chief Executive Officer

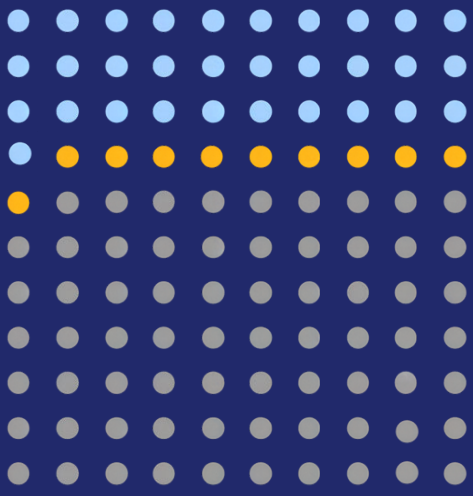
WHY THIS WORK MATTERS

41%

of Charlotte County households live below the ALICE Threshold.

That's 38,707 households.

OUT OF 100 HOUSEHOLDS



31 ALICE 10 POVERTY 59 ABOVE

UNDERSTANDING CHARLOTTE COUNTY

ALICE

ASSET LIMITED INCOME CONSTRAINED EMPLOYED

ALICE IS A MEASURE OF WHAT IT COSTS TO GET BY IN AMERICA

ALICE households earn above the Federal Poverty Level but struggle to afford the basic costs of living. They include workers, caregivers and neighbors whose income cannot consistently cover essential expenses.



ALICE is the teacher, nurse, cashier, caregiver and service worker helping Charlotte County thrive - while struggling to keep pace with rising costs.

Across Florida:

- More than half of cashiers
- 1 in 4 manufacturing employees
- 1 in 5 elementary and middle school teachers
- 1 in 7 registered nurses

WORKING ISN'T ALWAYS ENOUGH

NEARLY $100,000

A family of four with two children in daycare needs $99,372 in annual income just to afford a basic household budget in Charlotte County. Even with both parents working, making ends meet can still be a challenge.

Source: United For ALICE, 2026 Florida Report · 2024 point-in-time data

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

REAL IMPACT

THE STORMS PASSED. THE CONNECTION STAYED.

The Gasparilla Inn

The resort needed rebuilding. So did the lives of the people who kept it running.

After Hurricanes Helene and Milton, Gasparilla Inn employees faced damaged homes, displacement, power outages and transportation barriers. Portions of the resort closed for repairs, interrupting work while pressures at home continued to mount.

Through United at Work, UWCC connected employees with resources and assistance during this uncertain time. What began as support during a crisis became a lasting relationship.



Today, Gasparilla Inn is helping make that same support possible for others through a generous corporate partnership. Its commitment extends beyond financial giving to include 250 backpacks for Peace River Elementary's Community School and 40 boxes of clothing and uniforms for local families.

THE DIFFERENCE
Connection lasted beyond recovery. Today, Gasparilla Inn is a major corporate partner and donor.

HELP WHEN IT MATTERED. STABILITY TO MOVE FORWARD.

Through United at Work and Season of Sharing, UWCC helps households facing hardship address essential needs, maintain housing stability and move forward.



Stabilizing workers. Strengthening businesses. Uplifting our community."

IMPACT ACROSS UNITED AT WORK

$981,907
INVESTED IN WORKING HOUSEHOLDS

$15,442
ESSENTIAL NEEDS: UTILITIES, FOOD AND GAS

$966,465
HELPED PRESERVE HOUSING STABILITY

612
HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVED DIRECT ASSISTANCE

Data reported from Oct 25-Sept 26.

NEW THIS YEAR: 211 IN CHARLOTTE COUNTY

3,498 calls | 7,973 referrals

For too long, Charlotte County lacked a simple, reliable starting point for finding help.
This year, UWCC partnered with United Way of Lee County to bring 211 service to our community.



Connecting neighbors to help.

STABILITY AT WORK STRENGTHENS THE WHOLE COMMUNITY.

When employees can remain housed, connected to work and able to care for their families, businesses are stronger and Charlotte County is better prepared for whatever comes next.

> **One less worry when everything felt uncertain.**
>
> With her son hospitalized and her electric bill overdue, a mother of seven was facing an overwhelming financial burden. United at Work stepped in to pay the past-due balance and provide an additional month of electricity, giving her one less worry as she focused on caring for her family
> -Funding recipient.

STABILITY CHANGES EVERYTHING.
When immediate needs are met, employees can remain connected to work, care for their families and keep moving forward.

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

STRONGER STARTS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

Children thrive when they have opportunities to learn, grow and build confidence–and when families have the support they need. Through Reading Buddies, the Children's Enrichment Fund, kindergarten readiness initiatives, Pop-Up Laundry and family engagement, UWCC and its partners help remove barriers and expand opportunities for children and families.

Together, these efforts are helping build the foundation for Charlotte County's first Community School.



Women United Soup Sisters

IMPACT ACROSS CHILDREN & FAMILIES

89%
Reading Gains
Reading Buddies Program

96%
Math Gains
Reading Buddies Program

166
Scholarships
Children Enrichment Fund

1150
Kindergarten Readiness bags
Early Literacy Initiative

Data reported from Oct 25-Sept 26.

MEASURABLE GAINS · MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES · STRONGER FAMILY VOICE


Opening doors to discovery, confidence and possibilities.

ONE CONTINUUM OF SUPPORT

SKILLS. OPPORTUNITY. FAMILY VOICE.

The new **Children's Enrichment Fund Scholarships** remove financial barriers to experiences that build confidence, skills and belonging. Through a growing network of enrichment partners, donor support is opening doors for children across Charlotte County while strengthening the local programs that serve them.

THE IMPACT: 166 scholarships awarded, totaling more than $55,000, helping children across Charlotte County access enriching experiences and reach their potential.

STRONGER CHILDREN. CONNECTED FAMILIES. A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT.
From learning opportunities to shared meals and parent conversations, your support helps families meet everyday needs, connect with neighbors and shape what comes next.

PEACE RIVER ELEMENTARY
A UNITED WAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Charlotte County's first Community School at Peace River Elementary.

In just five months, UWCC and Charlotte County Public Schools moved from planning to action–building a network of community partners, resources, and opportunities at Peace River Elementary, right where children and families are.

LAUNCHING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

A dedicated connection

A Community School Coordinator connecting families, school staff and community partners.

Partners working together

A network aligning local resources around student and family needs.

Support closer to home

Coordinated referrals and welcoming opportunities for families to access help and get involved.

THIS YEAR: LAYING THE FOUNDATION

Planning & preparation

Establishing the framework, connections, and procedures for the launch.

Grant support

A grant by Charlotte Impact NOW! Initiative, a partnership between the Elsa & Peter Soderberg Charitable Foundation and Gulf Coast Community Foundation has kicked off this initiative.

Parent & partner involvement

Engaging families and community partners in the planning process.

SUPPORT EARLIER. POSSIBILITIES AHEAD.

Your support helps build a place where families can connect before challenges become crises.

THE STORIES

BEHIND THE IMPACT

REAL IMPACT

Children's Enrichment Fund

HER HARD WORK DESERVED A MOMENT TO SHINE.

When Hayley first watched her cousins showing their animals, she knew she wanted to try. Through 4-H, the once-shy child began finding her confidence–taking on leadership roles and learning to speak before a crowd.

But this year, the cost of attending fairs threatened to keep her home, despite the work she had put into her animals. A Children's Enrichment Fund scholarship helped her participate in the Charlotte County and Southwest Florida fairs, where she earned first place in chicken showmanship–and her first belt buckle.

Once a quiet child, Hayley now takes on leadership roles and speaks in front of crowds. The ribbon marks an achievement; finding her voice will stay with her far beyond the fair.

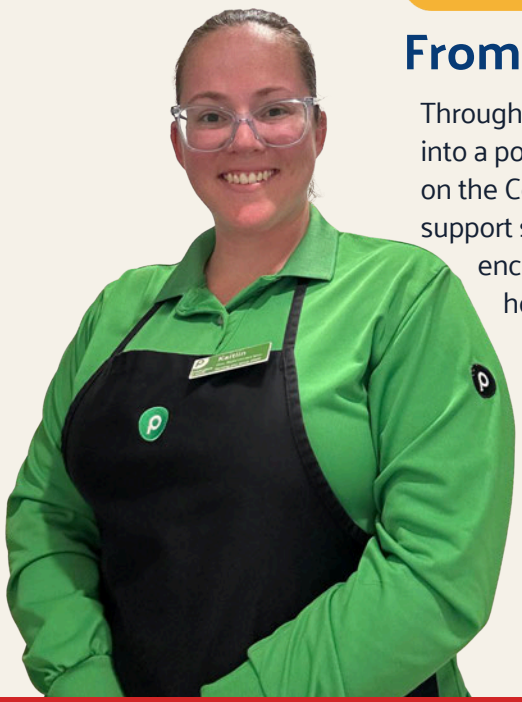


Why It Matters: Every child deserves the opportunity to discover their talents, develop new skills, and belong. CEF helps remove financial barriers so more children can say YES to opportunities that shape their future.

The Leadership Charlotte Class of 2025 established the Children's Enrichment Fund with a simple belief: investing in children means investing in Charlotte County's future.

LEADERSHIP CHARLOTTE Class of 2025

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



From Parent to Community Leader.

Through the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Kaitlin transformed her perspective as a parent into a powerful voice for her school and community. Her engagement led to a leadership role on the Community School Steering Committee, where she helps shape initiatives that support students and families. Her commitment extended beyond the council when she encouraged her employer, Publix, to invest in the Community School–demonstrating how empowered parents can mobilize broader community support.

Why It Matters: The PAC does more than give parents a seat at the table; it helps develop advocates and leaders who influence decisions, strengthen partnerships, and shape solutions. When parents are empowered to use their voices, the impact extends well beyond their own families to benefit an entire school community.

The PAC was made possible through the generosity of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, investing in parent voices and lived experience across Charlotte County.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION of Sarasota County

UNITED IS THE WAY!

The connections we build in our community ripples into life changing opportunities.

Practical tools. Stronger household finances.

When families can keep more of what they earn and make informed financial decisions, they have more room to absorb setbacks and move forward. Through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and financial literacy workshops, UWCC helps residents access valuable tax credits, keep more money in their households and build financial confidence.



BUILDING FINANCIAL CONFIDENCE with VITA

IMPACT ACROSS FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

$1.77M
TOTAL ECONOMIC VITA IMPACT

1170
ACCEPTED TAX RETURNS

$342,822
EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT

$169,486
CHILD TAX CREDIT

2
FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS

Data reported from Oct 25-Sept 26.

VITA: Volunteer Incomer Tax Assistance

VITA's dedicated volunteers provide free, expert tax preparation with compassion and encouragement, helping residents facing rising household costs keep more of what they earn. With **65% of clients over age 65** and often living on fixed incomes, the program offers meaningful financial relief while helping working families access the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. **Saving clients an average of $300** in preparation fees leaves more money for essentials–strengthening household finances and providing trusted community support..



VITA volunteer social

MORE THAN PROGRAMMING

Confidence is part of stability. Workshops & VITA gave residents practical tools to understand their finances.

AGELESS ENGAGEMENT

A place to belong.

People to connect with.

Everyone needs relationships that offer encouragement, understanding and support. Yet caregiving, work and everyday responsibilities can leave little room to build them. Through Women United and Ageless Engagement gatherings, UWCC creates opportunities for neighbors to connect, share experiences and develop relationships that strengthen belonging and community involvement.



Women United **Power of the Purse**

CONNECT — Build relationships and reduce isolation

ENGAGE — Participate in community life

LEARN — Access new opportunities

THRIVE — Remain active, independent and connected

> **CONNECTION THAT LIFTS US UP**
> I am a full time caregiver for my mother. My social activities are very limited, these events offer a variety of inspiring women to speak with and lift me up.
> – Event participant

> **THE POWER OF FEELING SEEN**
> It feels good to be recognized, to be called by name, to be valued and appreciated.
> – Event participant

IMPACT ACROSS AGELESS ENGAGEMENT

CONNECTION & BELONGING

Welcoming gatherings that build relationships and encouragement.

416
PARTICPANTS ENGAGED

9
CONNECTION EVENTS

86%
WOMEN UNITED MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Data reported from Oct 25-Sept 26.



Women United connection events





CONNECTION SUPPORTS WELL-BEING
Your support creates opportunities to build friendships, feel valued and find encouragement–strengthening both individual well-being and our sense of community.

AGELESS ENGAGEMENT

A chance to contribute. A community strengthened.

Volunter mobilization.

United Way Charlotte County creates opportunities for people of all ages to contribute their time and talents, build connections and strengthen their community. Through volunteer engagement and the UWCC Volunteer Hub, we connect people with meaningful ways to serve.



Pop-up Laundry Volunteer

IMPACT ACROSS AGELESS ENGAGEMENT

VOLUNTEERS MOBILIZED

323
VOLUNTEERS ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS

5681
VOLUNTEER HOURS

UWCC VOLUNTEER HUB

181
VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED

22
AGENCIES ENGAGED

Data reported from Oct 25-Sept 26.

MORE WAYS TO SHOW UP.

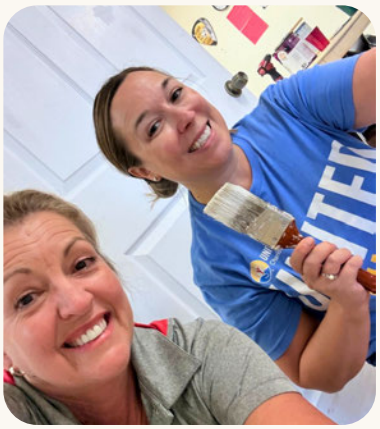
Through the generosity of Roger and Karen Klotz and the Charlotte Community Foundation, UWCC launched a community-wide Volunteer Hub powered by Get Connected.

The hub connects residents with meaningful volunteer opportunities, helps organizations recruit and engage volunteers, and strengthens UWCC's ability to connect community talent with local needs.



Day of Caring volunteer events







YOUR TIME. YOUR TALENTS. LASTING LOCAL IMPACT.

Volunteers turn their skills and compassion into support for local families, stronger nonprofits and a more connected Charlotte County.

Community Investment Funding

SUPPORTING LOCAL AGENCIES.

STRENGTHENING CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

$876,546 Investment

14,720 Individuals & families impacted*
25 Programs · 19 Agencies

- A.N.A.'s Friends
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Charlotte County
- Center for Abuse and Rape Emergencies
- Charlotte County Healthy Start Coalition
- Charlotte County Homeless Coalition
- Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support
- Charlotte Players
- Children's Network of Southwest Florida
- Drug-Free Charlotte County
- Early Learning Coalition of Florida's Heartland
- Florida Center for Early Childhood
- Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida
- Senior Friendship Centers
- Valerie's House
- Virginia B. Andes Volunteer Community Clinic
- YMCA of Southwest Florida

*2024-2025 Impact Data.



Together, we help neighbors find safety, stay connected, grow and build stability.

WHAT OUR PARTNERS MADE POSSIBLE

UWCC manages funding from the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners, supporting 19 local partner agencies. Through competitive applications, staff and volunteer impact-panel review, and ongoing performance monitoring, we help ensure responsible investment and measurable results for Charlotte County individuals and families.

BASIC NEEDS

75.6%

of shelter clients achieved a positive housing destination.

34 homeowners remained safely housed | **87** adults found immediate safety | **26** children supported

SVDP CARES + C.A.R.E. + CHILDREN'S NETWORK

SENIORS

51,596

Meals helped older adults remain nourished and connected.

100% of Friendship at Home clients reported less isolation and loneliness

SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CENTERS

EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

3,746

Books helped to build a foundation of early literacy skills.

561 children gained academic support
273 youth received one-to-one mentoring

IMAGINATION LIBRARY + BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS + BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT

558

children received childcare support, helping parents remain connected to work.

479 women and families supported
276 young children developmentally on track

EARLY LEARNING COALITION + PREGNANCY SOLUTIONS

SUPPORTING LOCAL AGENCIES. CHANGING LIVES.
When we invest in the agencies serving our community, we help create opportunities and lasting impact across Charlotte County.

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRUST



COMMUNITY PARTNERS AT THE TABLE
Shared priorities. Informed decisions. Greater impact.

YOUR TRUST MATTERS.

UNITED WAY Charlotte County | 60 Years SINCE 1966

INDEPENDENT RECOGNITION

100% Four-Star Charity Navigator Rating

★★★★

Every resource entrusted to United Way carries a responsibility: to listen carefully, invest wisely and demonstrate what changed.

HOW WE PROTECT COMMUNITY TRUST

01 LISTEN + REVIEW

Competitive applications and volunteer review bring community knowledge into each funding decision.

02 INVEST + MONITOR

Funding recommendations connect resources to priority needs, with performance tracked over time.

03 MEASURE + LEARN

Outcomes show what is working and help partners strengthen the community response together.

TRUSTED & ENGAGED BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Marcia M. Cullinan
Past President Kristin Cardona
Treasurer Steve Curasco
Impact Chair Kelly Carr

Sam Alexander
Wendy Atkinson
Craig Brandon
Alfred Current
Deanna Heminger
Jennifer Huber
Brandi Leclaire
Holli Livingston
Forrest G. Miller

Beth Sargent
Kathy Robinson
Claudette Smith
Eve Sweeting
Odalys Valdes
Bob White
Megan Woodring
Megan Zawaki

Community In Action


Kindergarten Readiness Bags


Power of the Purse


Community School


Women United: Woman of Distinction


Empower Her


Beaujolais



Aviation Gives Back


Sisters Serving Soup


VITA: VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE



60TH ANNIVERSARY


Charlotte County Reads /Reading Buddies



Gasparilla Inn Corporate Sponsor


WOMEN UNITED: XMAS IN JULY


Publix Appreciation


Children Enrichment Fund: 4th Fest



Festival of Wreaths


HCA FAWCETT FLORIDA: APPRECIATION


Pop-Up Laundry


FASHIONISTA FRIDAY

YOU SHOWED UP

Thank you for investing in our neighbors and strengthening the community we share.

2025-2026 Corporate Partners & Community Investors


HCA Fawcett Employees at Day of Caring

Charlotte County Florida

Charlotte County Public Schools 1921

Community Foundation of Sarasota County

FPL

Publix Super Markets Charities

Mosaic

Farr Law Firm
Farr, Farr, Emerich, Hackett, Carr & Holmes, P.A. | 1924

AdventHealth Port Charlotte

Season of Sharing
Serving Our Community Since 2000

Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Gould Family Trust

Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Miriam P. Raines Charitable Fund

HCA Florida Fawcett Hospital

Fawcett Medical Physicians Group

Charlotte County Sheriff's Office

The Daily Sun
Charlotte • DeSoto • Sarasota

Regions

The Gasparilla Inn

WrightWay Emergency Services

Charlotte Community Foundation

Fifth Third Bank

The Patterson Foundation

Life Celebration Center
of Punta Gorda

PGD
Aviation Gives Back
To United Way of Charlotte County

Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund

C&S Foundation

Visit unitedwayccfl.org/sponsors to STEP UP for Charlotte County

60 YEARS. ONE COMMUNITY
THE WORK CONTINUES.



OUR COMMUNITY. OUR SHARED FUTURE.

WHEN WE ARE UNITED, CHARLOTTE COUNTY THRIVES.

Thank you for showing up, giving generously and believing in what Charlotte County can accomplish together.

INVEST. MOBILIZE. CONNECT. THRIVE.

SHOW UP FOR CHARLOTTE COUNTY
Scan to connect with UWCC

UNITED WAY CHARLOTTE COUNTY

unitedwayccfl.org

UNITED IS THE WAY