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

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.

18 Agencies • 23 Programs • 13,251 Lives Impacted

Educational Success

873 children received financial assistance for early education opportunities
26,279 books distributed to preschool age children
99% of regular attendees of an after-school program achieved on-time grade advancement
20,720 volunteer hours spent mentoring at-risk youth

Devin 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."

48 beds provided to children in foster care
100% of Bridges Out of Poverty participants remained stably housed at least 6 months after completion of class
80% of unsheltered Veterans were sheltered within 24 hours
87% reduction in the number of chronically homeless individuals from previous Point-in-Time Count
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."

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.

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