**At a glance…**

**Our mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.**

**We work towards a future in which every person in our community can thrive.**

**Who We Are**

Our United Way brings together thousands of donors and volunteers, businesses, and agencies throughout our community to help those in need. We are part of an international network of United Ways but operate as an independent, self-sufficient 501(c)3 not-for-profit serving Collier and Monroe Counties.

**What We Do**

Health - We believe that access to quality, affordable healthcare is a foundation on which stable and productive lives are built.

Education - We believe that education is the most powerful tool families can use to transform their lives for the better.

Financial Stability - We believe that offering a hand up when people need one empowers them to keep working towards a brighter future.

**Who We Impact**

We work alongside families and individuals who are struggling to build secure and independent lives for themselves in a world of constantly rising costs and incomes that often cannot keep up.

**Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)**

The poverty measures used by the federal government only partially demonstrate the need in a community. Every two years, the United Way conducts a study examining real costs of living and creating Survival Budgets for each county in Florida.

These Survival Budgets include only necessities for survival and employment. The United Way of Collier and the Keys focuses its resources on serving the needs of families and individuals with incomes too low to afford our counties’ ALICE Survival Budgets.

There are nearly 200,000 people in the ALICE population of Collier and Monroe combined. In these two counties, 66,315 households have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. A quarter of these households have incomes below the federal poverty line.

A family of four needs an income of $75,204 a year to survive in Collier County, or an hourly wage of $37.60. Meanwhile, in Monroe County, a family of four needs an income of $84,432, or an hourly wage of $42.22. Of the top thirty most popular professions in the state of Florida, even the highest paying profession, registered nurse, only has an average hourly wage of $30.15, which still isn’t enough to afford the family ALICE Survival Budget.

A single adult needs an income of $26,496 a year to survive in Collier County, or an hourly wage of $13.25. The same adult in Monroe County needs $30,216 to survive. The most common job in Florida, retail sales, pays an average hourly wage of $10.33, or nearly $5,000 short of self-sufficiency each year in Collier, and almost $10,000 short in Monroe each year.

The group with the largest percentage of ALICE households in our community is families with children; 42 percent in Monroe and 52 percent in Collier have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. Roughly a third of these families have incomes below the federal poverty line.

The group with the largest number of ALICE households in our county is seniors; 25,816 senior households have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. Roughly a quarter of these households have incomes below the federal poverty line.

**Connecting Collier & Monroe Counties’ Needs and Resources**

One of the United Way of Collier and the Keys’ greatest strenghts is addressing the particular needs of our counties with its unique resources. The ALICE report, reporting from our partners, and calls to Collier 2-1-1 all help us understand our community’s evolving needs.

Our local, statewide, national, and international networks make us a trusted partner in mobilizing resources wherever they are needed in our counties, especially in times of crisis.

Our most important relationships, however, are with the thousands of donors throughout our community who answer their neighbors’ call for help with compassion and generosity. Their trust is our most important asset.

**Internal Programs**

**Collier 2-1-1** is a free helpline, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to anyone in Collier County. The helpline connects people in need with services available at more than one hundred partner programs. Last year there were more than 3,400 calls to 2-1-1.

**The Dolly Parton Imagination Library** mails free, high-quality books to children every month from birth until they begin kindergarten. This program is currently available to all Monroe County children under the age of five, and its Collier County counterpart pilot was launched last summer and has committed to enrolling at least 1,000 children.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax preparation to individuals and families with incomes of $56,000 or less. The VITA program brought $827,265 in tax returns back to Collier County families and $146,895 to Monroe County families this past year.

The **Volunteer Collier** program matches prospective volunteers with volunteering opportunities at nonprofit agencies throughout Collier County. In 2018, the program boasted 1,762 registered volunteers and stimulated 6,285 hours of volunteering.

**Stuff the Bus** is an annual fundraiser that provides much-needed school supplies for over 8,500 Monroe County students each year who cannot otherwise afford them.

**Build a Bike** is an annual event giving free bicycles, helmets, locks, and safety training to children from ALICE families, identified through our partner agencies. Last year, sponsors purchased 500 new bicycles, assembled and distributed by volunteers.

A Volunteer Florida grant underwrites the **Disaster Case Management Program**, administering financial assistance to households who continue to be affected by Hurricane Irma**.**

**Agency Allocations (2020–2021)**

The United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) underwrites programs at forty one agencies throughout our community serving the ALICE population.

**HEALTH**

**Burton Memorial United Methodist Church** uses their UWCK underwriting to supply groceries through their food pantry and hot dinners once a week and on holidays.

**Cancer Alliance of Naples** provides financial assistance to patients undergoing treatment for cancer and to their families with its UWCK underwriting.

UWCK underwriting supports mental health care for elementary- and middle-school students in Collier County Public Schools, families, and adults provided by **Catholic Charities**.

The **Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County** provides therapy, medical examinations, courtroom preparation, advocacy, and case management to survivors of child abuse with its UWCK underwriting.

**Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide nutritional information and education for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, infants, and toddlers, as well as

specialty foods and related supplies for families in crisis.

**Florida Keys Outreach Coalition** uses their UWCK underwriting to support their primary and secondary food pantries in Key West.

UWCK underwriting supports **Florida Lion’s Eye Clinic** in providing free eye-care to the low income and uninsured residents of SWFL.

**Independence Cay** provides hot meals and shower/laundry facilities in Marathon with their UWCK underwriting.

UWCK underwriting supports **Keys Area Interdenominational Resources** in stocking and maintaining their Marathon food pantry.

**Metropolitan Community Church Key West** uses their UWCK underwriting to deliver meals and groceries to elderly Key West shut-in residents.

**Monroe Association for ReMARCable Citizens** provides nutritious lunches and teaches cooking skills and basic healthy eating for clients with developmental and intellectual disabilities with their UWCK underwriting.

UWCK underwriting supports the **Physician Led Access Network (PLAN)**, which functions as a medical referral network program for low income, uninsured residents of Collier County.

**Star of the Sea Foundation** uses their UWCK underwriting to obtain bulk and recovered food throughout the Keys to make fresh produce and nutritious foods available to low-income families.

**Wesley House Family Services** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide a backpack of nutritious food each weekend for children enrolled at the Inez Martin Daycare Center in Key West and their siblings.

**EDUCATION**

**Bahama Village Music Program** uses its UWCK underwriting to support before and after school music lessons for children in the Lower Keys.

**Boys & Girls Club of the Keys Area** provides scholarships for summer camp fees for children with its UWCK underwriting.

**Burton Memorial United Methodist Church** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide childcare scholarships for Upper Keys children at their Child Development Center.

UWCK underwrites The Hammock House program by the **St. Columba Episcopal Church**, which provides an educational summer program for the children of the Middle Keys community.

**Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition** uses their UWCK underwriting to facilitate early childhood programs Keys-wide to educate young children and to strengthen and nurture the parent-child relationship.

UWCK underwrites the Bright Beginnings family literacy program at **Grace Place for Children and Families**, building the kindergarten-readiness skills of children and the parenting and English language skills of their parents.

**Grace Jones Community Center** uses their UWCK underwriting to keep costs low at their childcare center for children of working parents in the Marathon area.

UWCK underwriting supports the Afterschool Tutoring & Summer Enrichment Program at the **Guadalupe Center**, providing year-round academic support and out-of-school-time care to elementary school students in Immokalee.

UWCK underwriting provides services and scholarships to students working to earn credentials necessary to obtain well-paying jobs after high school graduation through the **Immokalee Foundation** In Demand career program.

**Kreative Kids** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide a secure and healthy environment for children in Marathon to learn and be nurtured.

UWCK underwrites **Marathon Recreation Center,** which provides safe and nurturing after school care to those children whose parents are least able to afford standard rates.

**New Horizons of Southwest Florida** offers out-of-school-time educational and enrichment programs to kindergarten through twelfth-grade students at four locations in Collier County with its UWCK underwriting.

**Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee** provides high quality early-childhood education to preschool students building towards kindergarten readiness in Immokalee with its UWCK underwriting.

This year, UWCK is purchasing computer workstations for the **Pelican Community Center**, in Golden Gate, for use by students building their English language and literacy skills.

**Redlands Christian Migrant Association** provides early-childhood education and afterschool programs to students in East Naples and Immokalee with its UWCK underwriting.

UWCK underwriting supports afterschool programming provided by **The Salvation Army** for children in grades one through eight in East Naples, including tutoring and instruction in the culinary and performing arts.

UWCK underwriting supports the onsite Child Care program at **The Shelter for Abused Women and Children**, serving child survivors of domestic violence from birth through five years old.

The UWCK underwrites the Marco Y Early Learning program at the **YMCA of South Collier** (formerly the Greater Marco Family YMCA), providing a high quality early-learning environment for preschoolers building kindergarten readiness.

**YMCA of South Florida** uses their UWCK underwriting to support the Upper Keys YMCA after school program.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

UWCK underwriting supports the Empowerment Program provided by **Catholic Charities**, which helps people achieve stable employment and financial independence with intensive case management and support resources in Collier County, provide emergency financial assistance for Keys residents in the form of rent or mortgage and utilities assistance.

**Dolphins to Stop Domestic Violence** uses their UWCK underwriting to support the Living Water Rx Project, providing critical prescription medication assistance to Monroe County residents.

**Florida Keys Area Health Education Center Program** uses its UWCK underwriting to offer primary care medical services at school clinics throughout the Keys.

UWCK underwriting supports **Florida Keys Outreach Coalition** in preventing homelessness of financially challenged and housing insecure residents by providing emergency assistance throughout Monroe County.

UWCK underwriting supports the **Goodwill Industries** Job-Link and Family Strengthening Centers, providing free access to employment counseling services, skills training, and computers and internet for job searches and applications.

UWCK underwriting supports **Habitat for Humanity** in its mission to provide housing for the vulnerable members of our community.

The UWCK underwrites **Housing Development Corporation of SWFL, d/b/a HELP**, which educates and counsels vulnerable individuals in SWFL on homeownership, helping them understand their financial capability and prevent foreclosures.

**Independence Cay** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide housing, support, guidance and referrals for men in the Marathon area.

UWCK underwriting supports **Keys Area Interdenominational Resources** in helping Middle Keys families with obtaining or maintaining housing.

**Legal Aid Services of Collier County** will provide services, focused on the high impact areas of housing and income preservation, to ALICE clients with its UWCK underwriting.

**Legal Services of Greater Miami** uses their UWCK underwriting to provide Legal Assistance Clinics to assist Monroe County’s residents in removing legal barriers to financial stability.

UWCK underwriting supports **Sunrise Community Group**, which provides disabled individuals the assistance and support to contribute to the community.

The UWCK underwrites the Rapid Re-Housing Program, managed by **Youth Haven**, providing intensive case management and financial resources to families in jeopardy of becoming homeless or who are currently homeless.