During Fiscal Year 2020–2021, our first as a merged organization serving both Collier County and the Florida Keys, the needs of our communities were greater than ever before. The global pandemic created both a health crisis and an economic tragedy. Through it all, our United Way offered a hand up to people in need to help them endure and build better lives for themselves.

Convening our communities’ human services nonprofits, we worked continually to innovate and find solutions to the problems facing people in Collier County and the Florida Keys.

While helping families cope with the fallout of the pandemic, we kept our promise to stay the course with families whose homes were damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Irma and helped make them whole. We partnered with the governments of Collier County and the City of Key West to help over 8,000 people whose economic situations were affected by COVID-19. We also maintained funding to our agency partners region-wide, working hard to ensure that vital ongoing programs and services remained available.

Through your investments, our United Way’s Board leadership, and our dedicated staff, we together are making a huge difference for those in need throughout Collier and the Keys. Foreseeing still a long road ahead for many in our communities, your generosity and trust are the bedrocks on which we will help families thrive.

Sincerely yours,

Steven L. Sanderson, CFRE
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UNUNITED WAY IMPACT

IN AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR, OUR UNITED WAY COMMITTED TO MEETING THE GREATLY INCREASED NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE POURED RESOURCES INTO PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO PEOPLE IN NEED THROUGH BOTH OUR INTERNAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNER AGENCIES.

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES
TOTAL: $4,100,715

$3,442,892 PROGRAMS
$278,358 MANAGEMENT AND GENERAL
$224,390 FUNDRAISING
$155,075 DONOR DIRECTED FUNDS

BALANCE SHEET

BEGINNING OF YEAR | END OF YEAR
---|---
Assets | $9,701,947 | $10,636,236
Liabilities | $5,542,620 | $5,492,647
NET ASSETS | $4,159,327 | $5,143,591

TO VIEW THE FULL 2020 FINANCIAL AUDIT AND FORM 990, PLEASE VISIT UWCOLLIER.ORG/FINANCIALS
HELPED MORE THAN 1,100 COLLIER COUNTY RESIDENTS STAY IN THEIR HOMES WITH THE CARES ACT

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELPED NEARLY 300 HOUSEHOLDS COLLECT MORE THAN $360K IN TAX RETURNS

REPAIRED OR REBUILT 58 HOMES DAMAGED BY HURRICANE IRMA

HELPED MORE THAN 11,000 PEOPLE CONNECT WITH THE SERVICES THEY NEEDED THROUGH COLLIER 2-1-1

FED NEARLY 10% OF MONROE COUNTY’S POPULATION

$8M IN HOUSING AID & FOOD ASSISTANCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COLLIER COUNTY & THE CITY OF KEY WEST

PROVIDED MORE THAN 550 BOOKS TO PRESCHOOL CHILDREN THROUGH DOLLY PARTON’S IMAGINATION LIBRARY

$1.2 MILLION IN FUNDING TO 42 NONPROFITS THAT HELP INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN NEED
As COVID-19 became a national pandemic, Immokalee became a hot spot for the virus in Collier County. Like many families there, Danielle, Lionel, and their three young sons were put under devastating financial strain by the pandemic. Lionel was furloughed from his job at an insurance office for three months with no pay. Danielle's work hours were significantly reduced as well. Misinformed about their eligibility for reemployment benefits, the couple never applied.

For almost a year, keeping current with bills became impossible. The sudden drop in income, combined with the stress of the pandemic, caused immediate problems in their lives. With their children using a virtual platform for school, keeping the internet on became a priority. Ordering groceries and personal hygiene products to isolate in their home and decrease their chances of becoming infected became crucial. But the money for these things had to come from somewhere, and with little money coming in, the family fell behind on their rent and utility bills.

While Danielle and Lionel's family finances were falling apart, United Way of Collier and the Keys was building partnerships to help. Working with Collier County, The United Way of Collier and the Keys began processing applications for rental and childcare assistance funded by the Federal CARES Act. The resulting Collier CARES program ultimately helped 1,100 people stay in their homes.

In August 2020, Danielle applied for financial assistance through the Collier CARES program to pay her past due rent. While her family’s application was being processed, they were protected from eviction by the CDC moratorium. Unfortunately, they had also exhausted their ability to extend the payment period for their electricity service, and power to their home was cut off.

Danielle reached out to the United Way of Collier and the Keys for help with her utilities. She had funds to contribute toward her bill, but not enough to pay off the past due amount and get her power back on. United Way staff got in touch with our partner agency, The Salvation Army, who provided the assistance Danielle needed that same day. With her account up to date, the utilities company immediately restored the electricity service to the family’s home.

Not long after the power was restored, the family’s Collier CARES funding was approved to cover their past due rent. Danielle and Lionel finally felt a sense of normalcy and relief. Back at work and freed from the crushing financial burden of the payments they were forced to miss, Danielle and Lionel are again self-sufficient.
WHILE FAMILIES’ FINANCES WERE FALLING APART, UNITED WAY OF COLLIER AND THE KEYS WAS BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS TO HELP.
For many households, tax season brings hope of some financial relief in the form of much needed tax returns. Especially for families with low incomes, a tax return of a few hundred or even a few thousand dollars can be a financial lifeline. The COVID-19 pandemic created uncertainty for many people wondering whether their returns would be the help they needed during these difficult times.

As a single-mother, Connie’s top priority is caring for her four-year-old son. Although she became unemployed due to COVID-19, she was quick to apply for assistance through the state, and this assistance became the majority of her income for 2020. Unfortunately, when Connie tried to do her taxes herself, it seemed as if the tax break on unemployment benefits caused her income to become too low for her to qualify for the tax credits that she and her son usually depend upon.

Thankfully, Connie reached out to our United Way’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program for help. In this program, United Way trains volunteers to be certified tax preparers. Individuals and families with low incomes can then sign up to have their taxes prepared for free. Frequently, the program helps people avoid simple errors that can cost them thousands of dollars.

After registering for the VITA program, Connie was paired with an IRS-certified volunteer. The VITA volunteer quickly realized that Connie was in fact eligible to receive both the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit. Connie went from anticipating a return of $0 to receiving a return of nearly $5,000.

Connie’s story is just one of dozens every year, where the VITA program helps a family in a way that transforms their financial outlook.
It's no secret that prices on everyday items are going up. For those living at or below the poverty line in both Collier and Monroe Counties, increased prices on things like school supplies, sheets, blankets, and towels add stress and pressure to already tight budgets.

This year, the United Way of Collier and the Keys connected with CC’s Wish List, one of the most unique programs in our area. Utilizing decades of experience in corporate buying, CC’s Wish List purchases brand-new, quality items at incredibly low prices that are then donated to nonprofit organizations at no cost. UWCK partnered with The Salvation Army in Collier County to accept and distribute over 12,000 donated items.
COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND AGENCIES – COLLIERS

CANCER ALLIANCE OF NAPLES
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF COLLIER COUNTY
CHILDREN’S ADVOCACY CENTER OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
FLORIDA LION’S EYE CLINIC
GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
GOLDEN GATE PELICAN COMMUNITY CENTER
GRACE PLACE FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
GUADALUPE CENTER
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF COLLIER COUNTY
HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF SWFL, DBA HELP
LEGAL AID SERVICE OF COLLIER COUNTY
NEW HORIZONS OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
PATHWAYS EARLY EDUCATION CENTER OF IMMOKALEE
PHYSICIAN LED ACCESS NETWORK (PLAN)
REDLANDS CHRISTIAN MIGRANT ASSOCIATION (RCMA)
SUNRISE COMMUNITY GROUP (FORMERLY UCP)
THE IMMOKALEE FOUNDATION
THE SALVATION ARMY OF COLLIER COUNTY
THE SHELTER FOR ABUSED WOMEN AND CHILDREN
YMCA OF SOUTH COLLIER
YOUTH HAVEN OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND AGENCIES – THE KEYS

BAHAMA VILLAGE MUSIC PROGRAM
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE KEYS AREA
BURTON MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI
DOLPHINS TO STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FLORIDA KEYS AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER
FLORIDA KEYS HEALTHY START COALITION
FLORIDA KEYS OUTREACH COALITION
GRACE JONES COMMUNITY CENTER
INDEPENDENCE CAY
KEYS AREA INTERDENOMINATIONAL RESOURCES
KREATIVE KIDS
LEGAL SERVICES OF GREATER MIAMI
MARATHON RECREATION CENTER
METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH KEY WEST
MONROE ASSOCIATION FOR REMARCABLE CITIZENS
ST. COLUMBA EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STAR OF THE SEA FOUNDATION
WESLEY HOUSE FAMILY SERVICES
YMCA OF SOUTH FLORIDA
JOIN US IN STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES THROUGH ADVOCACY, VOLUNTEERISM, AND PHILANTHROPY!