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Second Annual 'Be Like Mike' Week Achieves Remarkable Success

Empowered Keys Residents Drive Positive Change and Foster Community Engagement

Florida Keys – “Mangrove” Mike Forster was a force in our community and his legacy lives on through what is now the annual ‘Be Like Mike’ Week. Created in 2022, the goal was to remember the Monroe County Commissioner and restaurateur, who was a member of the United Way of Collier and the Keys’ Local Advisory Board at the time of his passing in 2021. UWCK staff and board members planned an entire week to honor Forster’s untiring commitment to making life better for Keys residents.

The tradition continued this year, spanning from October 16th to the 20th. UWCK partnered with Reef Relief to organize 3 impactful shoreline cleanup events, which achieved remarkable success cleaning up more than 600 pounds of trash, thanks to over 60 dedicated volunteers.



Indian Key Fills:
165lbs of trash
Long Key State Park:
340.7lbs of trash
White Street Pier & Higgs Beach:
103lbs of trash



UWCK also partnered with Burton Memorial Church (BMC) in Tavernier, Keys Area Interdenominational Resource (KAIR) in Marathon and Star of the Sea Foundation (SOS) in Key West, for a food drive. **A total of 8,099 pounds of food was collected across the three sites.**



“The commitment to cleaning our shorelines and ensuring the nourishment of the community exemplifies a powerful continuation of Mike’s enduring legacy,” said Leah Stockton, UWCK Keys Area President. “Thank you to every volunteer, supporter, and our partners, who made this possible.”

To download all photos, click this [link](#).

About United Way of Collier and the Keys:

United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the education, health, and economic mobility of our neighbors in Collier and Monroe Counties. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative efforts, UWCK addresses critical social issues and works towards driving positive, sustainable change to build stronger, healthier, and more resilient communities.



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