



October 2024 Newsletter

Hurricane Milton Resources

In a post-Hurricane Milton Wellness Survey conducted by United Way of Collier and the Keys, **1,701 responses** over three days identified **food** as the most urgent need. **Household goods** also ranked among the top five. The survey was shared via text and email with Collier County residents identified as likely to be in need.

View the full survey results and a map of response locations [HERE](#).

[Apply for Support](#)

United Way of Collier and the Keys is providing eGift cards for essential items like food, gasoline, and hygiene products to help families regain stability. If you were impacted by Hurricane Milton, we're here to offer immediate relief during this challenging time.

\$100,000 DONATION MATCH

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT FOR HURRICANE MILTON RELIEF!

- ✦ Every dollar you donate will be matched thanks to the generous pledge from Mrs. Ellen Vanderburg.
- ✦ Support immediate aid and long-term recovery efforts through the United Way of Collier and the Keys' Disaster Resiliency Fund.

DONATE NOW!
UWCOLLIERKEYS.ORG/GIVE



In response to Hurricane Milton, we are honored to announce that Mrs. Ellen Vanderburg has generously pledged to **match donations up to \$100,000 to our Disaster Resiliency Fund.**

This vital fund ensures immediate relief and long-term support for our most vulnerable residents in the wake of disaster. Your contribution, matched dollar for dollar, will help build a stronger, more resilient community and help our neighbors in need when it matters most.

Double Your Impact and Donate Now!

Thank you for your unwavering support during this critical time. Together, we will ensure that no one is left behind in the wake of any disaster.

Additional Assistance

2-Years After Hurricane Ian

September 28th marked the two-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian, and many in our community are still recovering. Thanks to United Way of Collier and the Keys and our partners, residents like Naples' Mr. Smith are back in their homes.

"United Way got me over the hump—from survival to living again," said Mr. Smith.

Since Ian, UWCK has provided \$1.75 million in direct aid to nearly 14,000 people, helping 40 households rebuild with support from partners like the American Red Cross.

Watch the video below to hear Mr. Smith's story, and click [here](#) to see ABC7's coverage.



UWCK President and CEO Tiffani Mensch was also featured in Naples Daily News. Read her article on building resilience and recovery two years after Hurricane Ian [here](#).

Andy's Gone Fishing Retirement Celebration & Fundraising Event

On October 12th, we gathered at Beachside Key West to celebrate Andy Griffiths' remarkable 32 years of service on the Monroe County School Board.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of attendees and donors, we're thrilled to announce that **more than \$70,000 was raised to support our community!** This impactful support will create lasting change for families throughout the Keys, and we couldn't be more grateful.

A heartfelt thank you to our 28 [Timeline Sponsors](#) and Supporting Sponsors:

- FBMC Benefits Management, Inc.
- Viva The Keys
- Ajax Building Company

A special shoutout to the amazing DJ Cardi and comedian Stephanie Kaple for making the night unforgettable!



Download Party Pictures

Women United Pre-Kickoff



WOMEN UNITED

The October 17th pre-kickoff was a fantastic start to our mission of inspiring and empowering women to create change—ensuring everyone in our community gets the support they need to thrive.

Ready to make a difference? Sign up today!

Join Women United!



Tiffani Mensch Named Top Nonprofit Executive

Congratulations to UWCK President and CEO, Tiffani Mensch, for being recognized as one of Southwest Florida's Top 30 Nonprofit Executives of 2024!

Tiffani's passion, dedication, and hard work inspire us every day, and we are grateful for her leadership at UWCK.



211 Grant

UWCK Grant in Action



Thanks to the Minnesota Twins Community Fund, UWCK received a Southwest Florida Community Grant to expand 211 services and connect more people to the help they need.



Coral Shores High School students practiced their skills and conducted fish species and abundance surveys while snorkeling, thanks to UWCK's Marine Science Education Grant.



VITA Volunteers Needed

UWCK is seeking VITA volunteers in Monroe and Collier Counties!

Volunteer Opportunities:

- **Reviewer:** Have an eye for detail? As a Reviewer, you'll ensure tax returns are accurate & complete, giving clients peace of mind. It's a rewarding way to put your skills to good use!
- **Greeter:** Be the welcoming face for our clients! As a greeter, you'll help them feel comfortable & prepared, while ensuring everything runs smoothly. It's a great way to connect with your community!
- **Site Coordinator:** Lead & inspire as the backbone of our VITA site! You'll manage volunteers & ensure everything runs smoothly, gaining leadership skills while making a real impact.
- **Preparer:** As a Tax Preparer, you'll help clients with their taxes, impacting their financial well-being while gaining valuable skills & becoming a trusted community resource.

Interested in volunteering or need more information?

Email: VITA@uwcollierkeys.org for Monroe County
or Carolina.Heiser@uwcollierkeys.org for Collier County.

Watch the video below to hear from some of our VITA volunteers!



[Donate](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



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