



UNITED WAY
Collier and the Keys

DONATE

April Newsletter

Celebrating a Successful VITA Season!

United Way of Collier and the Keys is proud to celebrate **another impactful year for our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program**. Led by UWCK and supported by dedicated volunteers in Monroe and Collier counties, VITA provides free tax preparation services to help eligible individuals and families file accurately and maximize their refunds.

Thanks to the incredible work of our volunteers, here's a look at the impact we made together this season:

COLLIER COUNTY	
Taxpayers Served	360
Refunds Generated	\$227,301
MONROE COUNTY	
Taxpayers Served	322
Refunds Generated	\$157,323

We would also like to thank Florida Power & Light (FPL), Publix, and First Horizon Bank for their generous support.

- Thank you to FPL for donating laptops for our Collier County volunteers to use.
- Thank you to Publix for providing lunch to keep our Collier County volunteers fueled.
- Thank you to First Horizon Bank for opening one of your locations on a weekend, allowing us to assist even more people.

Need an IRS Account? We Can Help — for FREE

UWCK's VITA team will be at the **Marathon Library** on **Wednesday, May 21** from **1:30–4:00 p.m.** to help you set up your secure IRS ID.me account. No appointment needed — just bring a device that can receive text messages.

Questions? Contact vita@uwcollierkeys.org or **305-563-1470**.

Set Up Your IRS and Social Security Accounts!

Need an IRS Account? We Can Help—For FREE!

United Way of Collier and the Keys' Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) team will help you set up your secure IRS ID.me account.

An IRS account lets you:

- ✓ View your tax history
- ✓ Answer questions about past returns
- ✓ Speed up future tax prep

*Please bring your own cell phone or laptop that can receive text messages for ID verification.

Marathon Library
3490 Overseas Highway
Wednesday, May 21st
1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

No appointment is needed, but please call or email to register:



305-563-1470



vita@uwcollierkeys.org



UNITED WAY
Collier and the Keys

www.uwcollierkeys.org

Thank You to our VITA Volunteers!

United Way of Collier and the Keys had another incredible group of VITA volunteers serving Collier and Monroe counties this tax season. The photos below are from recent volunteer appreciation events. With April recognized as National Volunteer Month, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to each of our dedicated volunteers for making a difference in our community.



Visit VolunteerUWCK.org to explore exciting volunteer opportunities!

UWCK Announcements

Board Transitions at United Way of Collier and the Keys

UWCK extends heartfelt thanks to outgoing board members **Bill Doxey** and **Debbie Mathews-Finch** for their dedicated service. Their passion and commitment have made a lasting impact, and they will be greatly missed.

At the same time, we're excited to welcome back **Kathy Connelly**, Past Chair, who is rejoining the Board. We're grateful for her continued leadership and support.

UWCK Receives Support for School Readiness

United Way of Collier and the Keys was awarded a **\$15,900 grant** from the **Ocean Reef Community Foundation** to support our Upper Keys Success by 6 School Readiness program. This funding helps us invest in early education—supporting both long-term community success and short-term financial stability.

Click [here](#) to learn more about Success by 6.



Pictured (L to R): ORCF Grants Committee Chair Janie Sims, UWCK Vice President of Strategy and Impact Tiffany Pellicier, UWCK President and CEO Tiffani Mensch, and ORCF Executive Director Yurianna Mikolay

"First Digs" Completed

We're thrilled to share that students at **Sugarloaf School** and **Key West High School** recently completed their first digs as part of the **NOAA Ocean Guardian School District** program!

UWCK is proud to support this initiative alongside the Monroe County School District, now the first district on the East Coast—and the largest in the country—to participate in this national effort to protect our oceans.

With Key West High and Sugarloaf joining Poinciana Elementary, three local schools have now installed rainwater filtration gardens to help reduce stormwater runoff and improve water quality. We can't wait to see more schools get involved in Year 2!

Sugarloaf School Photos:





Key West High School Photos:



UWCK Grant Supports Pathways Shade Structure

Thanks in part to a \$50,000 grant from United Way of Collier and the Keys, **Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee** has installed a new shade structure over its playground. This addition provides critical sun protection for children during outdoor play and physical activity, supporting their health, safety, and development.



Community Investment Grants in the News

Thank you to Gulf Coast News for highlighting UWCK's recent Community Investment Grants! Nearly \$600,000 was awarded to nonprofits in Collier and Monroe counties for the 2025–2026 cycle. These grants support programs serving hardworking ALICE households in our core impact areas: Community Resiliency, Financial Security, Healthy Community, and Youth Opportunity.


[Learn More](#)

COMMUNITY GRANTS
UNITED WAY OF COLLIER AND THE KEYS

- ▶ NEARLY \$600,000 AWARDED
- ▶ 40 ORGANIZATIONS, 27 IN COLLIER CO.
- ▶ FUNDING FOCUSED ON:
COMMUNITY RESILIENCY,
FINANCIAL SECURITY, HEALTHY
COMMUNITY, AND YOUTH
OPPORTUNITY

UNITED WAY
Collier and the Keys

GULF COAST NEWS
5:25 | 67°
GULFCOASTNEWS.COM

 Bonita Springs
Sunny

Cape Coral
Sunny



Touring Keys Marine Laboratory and exploring its programs, research, and impact.



Sharing updates on UWCK programs, new partners, and upcoming initiatives with the Key Largo Rotary.



VP of Philanthropy Brittini Brown attending Taste of Immokalee's 'Taste of Difference' Luncheon.



A huge thank you to American Heart Association and CITY Furniture for donating CPR Training Kits to our United Way office.



VP of Strategy and Impact Tiffany Pellicier visiting Guidance Care Center to distribute Keys Resource Guides.



Visiting Monroe County Tax Collector and UWCK Board Member Sam Steele to distribute Keys Resource Guides.



Distributing Keys Resource Guides to every deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Office.



Distributing Keys Resource Guides to SOS Foundation and touring their Key West facility.

UWCK is Here to Help!

Did you know UWCK offers valuable programs like **Collier 211** and **KeysHelp.org**?

The new Keys Resource Guides are here! Pick up a copy at the Monroe County Tax Collector's Offices or explore the virtual guide at [KeysHelp.org](https://www.KeysHelp.org).



Powered by United Way
of Collier and the Keys

Collier 211 is a resource for non-emergency needs, where you can call to connect with trained specialists for assistance.

Dial 2-1-1 or 239-263-4211
Text your zip code to 898-211

Double Your Impact!

New **Women United** donations will be matched dollar for dollar—up to \$10,000—thanks to UWCK Board Member and Women United Chair Janet Pogar. **Give \$100 or more and help grow this powerful community of women driving change!**

[Join Women United now!](#)



Donate

UWCollierKeys.org

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