



UNITED WAY

Collier and the Keys

DONATE

March Newsletter

Time is Running Out –Free Tax Prep Ends Soon!



Tax season is in full swing, and the deadline is fast approaching! United Way of Collier and the Keys is offering **FREE tax preparation** through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program—but only for a few more weeks.

Our trained volunteers are here to help eligible individuals and families file accurately and maximize their refunds. Don't miss this opportunity for free, reliable tax assistance!

Collier County VITA Information:

Location: UWCK Office
9015 Strada Stell Ct #204
Naples, FL 34109

Schedule: Every Wednesday
Now – April 16, 2025
9 a.m. – 3 p.m. (final appointment at 2 p.m.)

[Make Appointment](#)

Monroe County VITA Information:

Key West

Harvey Government Center (Board of
County Commissioners Meeting Room)
1200 Truman Ave

Tuesdays: Apr 1, 8, 15
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Marathon

Marathon Library
3490 Overseas Hwy

Wednesdays: Apr 2, 9
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

***No Appointment Necessary**



See UWCK's VITA Program in Action!

Gulf Coast News featured our FREE tax prep program—hear from a VITA volunteer and our CEO about its impact. Watch the video below!



UWCK Announcements

UWCK Announces Community Investment Grant Recipients



United Way of Collier and the Keys (UWCK) is proud to announce the 2025-2026 Community Investment Grant recipients, with **nearly \$600,000 in funding awarded to nonprofit organizations across Collier and Monroe counties.**

This year's grant process focused on identifying partners aligned with our impact areas: **Community Resiliency, Financial Security, Healthy Community, and Youth Opportunity.** These areas are designed to support ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households—hardworking families struggling to afford basic needs despite earning above the Federal Poverty Level.

“UWCK brings people together to create lasting change,” said Tiffani Mensch, UWCK President & CEO. “These grants strategically fund programs that help ALICE families move from crisis to stability and, ultimately, to thriving.”

Collier County Community Investment Grant Recipients:

Alliance for Period Supplies of SWFL, Baker Senior Center Naples, Beverly's Angels, Cancer Alliance of Naples, Catholic Charities of Collier County, Children's Advocacy

Center of Collier County, Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Fun Time Early Childhood Academy, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida, Grace Place for Children & Families, Guadalupe Center, Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, Help a Diabetic Child, Housing Development Corporation of SW Florida, Inc. (HELP), Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance, The Immokalee Foundation, Legal Aid Service of Collier County, NAMI Collier County, New Horizons of SWFL, Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee, Project Build SWFL, Redlands Christian Migrant Association, The Salvation Army Naples, The Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Sunrise Community of Southwest Florida, Inc., YMCA of Collier County

Monroe County Community Investment Grant Recipients:

Burton Memorial United Methodist Church, Florida Keys Children's Shelter, Florida Keys Healthy Start Coalition, Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Grace Jones Community Center, Hammock House, Heart of the Keys Recreation Center, Independence Cay, Keys AHEC Health Centers, Keys Area Interdenominational Resources, Presents in Paradise, Samuel's House, Star of the Sea Foundation

The 2025-26 UWCK Community Investment Grant process was competitive and transparent, with awards determined through a thorough volunteer-led review. The FY25-26 grant cycle begins April 1, ensuring funding is allocated to programs that will maximize positive impact and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Apply Now for UWCK's Marine Science Scholarship

Applications for the final year of UWCK's Marine Science Educational Advancement Scholarship **close on April 24**. This scholarship supports Monroe County residents pursuing degrees in marine science or marine technology-related fields, helping to strengthen our local workforce for reef restoration efforts like NOAA's Mission: Iconic Reefs. Since 2022, UWCK has awarded nearly \$70,000 to aspiring marine scientists.

Click [here](#) to learn more or apply.



Marine Science Scholarship recipient ('24-'25) Robert Saylor is making waves! As he nears graduation, he's gaining hands-on experience with the FWC Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's lobster team in Marathon.

A Fond Farewell and Warm Welcome to Our Board Members

United Way of Collier and the Keys is saying goodbye to outgoing board members **Maria Jones** and **Thaddeus Cohen**. Both Maria and Thaddeus made a tremendous impact in Monroe County and were deeply dedicated to UWCK. We will miss them dearly.

We are also pleased to welcome incoming board members **Brandi Horton** and **Richard Tamborrino**. Both have previously been involved with UWCK's mission in the Keys, and we're grateful to have them join our board.

UWCK Welcomes New Board Members



Richard Tamborrino

Brandi Horton

Additionally, UWCK bids farewell to **Leah Stockton**, who stepped down as Keys Area President on March 4. Leah has played an instrumental role in expanding United Way's impact and strengthening our presence in Monroe County. We thank her for her leadership and dedication.

We are excited to announce that **Tiffany Pellicier** has been promoted to Vice President of Strategy and Impact! We are thrilled to see Tiffany take on this new role, where she will continue driving UWCK's strategic initiatives and impact in the community.

In The Community



UWCK is a grateful recipient of the 2025 Big Green EGGfest in Bonita Springs, where food and fun were enjoyed by all!



Poinciana Elementary students, supported by UWCK, installed rainwater filtration gardens around campus storm drains.



UWCK President & CEO Tiffani Mensch and VP of Philanthropy Brittni Brown attending Hats in the Garden.



UWCK President & CEO



UWCK at the Emergency



UWCK VP of Community

Tiffani Mensch attended the FPL Southwest Florida Symposium.

Management ESF-15 Convening, discussing emergency preparedness.

Impact, Ashley Jones, attended a hurricane resilience forum in Naples.



UWCK hosted a successful **Women United Networking Event** on March 27th at Fifth Third Bank in Naples! Dozens of women gathered to connect, share ideas, and discuss meaningful ways to support our community through Women United. The event also provided an opportunity to give back by collecting supplies for the Alliance for Period Supplies of SWFL.

Women United inspires, educates, and empowers women to create change, ensuring everyone in our community has the support to thrive.

In case you missed it – UWCK Board Member and Women United Chair, Janet Pogar, is matching every new donation to Women United in 2025, up to \$10,000! Donate at least \$100 annually, and your gift will make an even greater impact.

JOIN NOW!

UWCK is Here to Help!

Did you know UWCK offers valuable programs like **Collier 211** and **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

KeysHelp.org is your go-to guide for everything from rental assistance to health services and senior care. These tools are here to support our neighbors and make it easier to find help when you need it.



[Donate](#)

UWCollierKeys.org

Join the Movement! Ready to make an impact in Collier County? Visit VolunteerUWCK.org to explore exciting volunteer opportunities!

United Way of Collier and the Keys | 9015 Strada Stell Ct, Ste 204 | Naples, FL 34109 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!