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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UWCF PROVIDING \$4,889,173 TO SERVICES FOR CENTRAL FLORIDA RESIDENTS**

United Way of Central Florida is excited to announce our 2022/2023 funded services.

The money raised is allocated to services within Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties that focus on the areas of Early Childhood Education, Academic Achievement, Community Partnership School, Financial Stability, Health, Ending Hunger and Basic Needs.

Community Investment Team volunteers confirm that the current services UWCF purchases are the best use of our donors' investments. They do this by reviewing program applications, discussing program outcomes, and participating in site visits. Teams then make informed funding recommendations that help kids succeed in school, provide financial stability resources for individuals and families, and give everyone in our community access to services that meet their health needs.

Each team is comprised of individuals with a combination of the following skills: strategic thinking, outcome measurement, community leadership and financial expertise. Teams also meet with experts in the field, participate in a group discussion and develop an informed, consensus-based recommendation.

The Community Investment process ensures wise investment of hard-earned dollars contributed to our campaign and is unique to United Way. A full list of our 2022-2023 purchased services can be found [here](#).

The total allocation for these 80 funded services is \$4,889,173.

Jonathan Crain, Community Investment Team Chair, said the Community Investment Teams used an upgraded scoring model to carefully determined the best use of funds from donors.

"The Community Investment Teams had a very successful year in allocating funds generously given by United Way of Central Florida donors," Crain said. "The feedback from CIT volunteers and team members this year was extremely encouraging with overwhelmingly positive comments regarding our partner agencies. I'm very proud of the work our agencies and CIT volunteers are doing and would like to congratulate them on this year's success!"

In addition to our funded services, UWCF receives donor designated funds to benefit a specific initiative or agency. This year \$25,875 was given with this designation. Distributions were disbursed to The Salvation Army, Church Service Center, Mulberry Community Service Center, Catholic Charities of Central Florida, NU-HOPE Elder Care Services, VISTE, Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council, Children's Home Society and Florida Children's Museum for various, specific programs.

"I am proud of the comprehensive and meticulous process used to evaluate programs and services provided to our community; and to fund those which make the most measurable and impactful changes within our seven initiative areas," said Rod Crowley, UWCF Chief Operations Officer.

"We are grateful for the dedication and professionalism of the Community Investment Team volunteers and leaders who made this year's process a success," Crowley said.

Individuals interested in being on the Community Investment Team can contact Christy Apisa at [christy.apisa@uwcf.org](mailto:christy.apisa@uwcf.org) or 863.648.1500 ext 272.

### ***About United Way of Central Florida***

United Way of Central Florida works to improve lives and strengthen our community by identifying gaps in services and providing solutions. UWCF works with qualified partners to improve the health, education and financial stability of people in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties and provide a safety net in emergencies. United Way works to amplify donor dollars with local matches, convene partners to improve efficiencies and broker services that produce the best return on investment in the areas of most critical need. United Way believes no one can do their best if they are hungry, sick or in pain. To learn more, visit [uwcf.org](http://uwcf.org) or call 863.648.1500.