**At a glance…**

**Our mission is to improve lives by mobilizing the caring power of our community.**

**We work towards a future in which every person in our community can thrive.**

**Who We Are**

Our United Way brings together thousands of donors and volunteers, businesses, and agencies throughout our county to help those in need. We are part of an international network of United Ways but operate as an independent, self-sufficient 501(c)3 not-for-profit serving Collier County.

**What We Do**

Health - We believe that access to quality, affordable healthcare is a foundation on which stable and productive lives are built.

Education - We believe that education is the most powerful tool families can use to transform their lives for the better.

Financial Stability - We believe that offering a hand up when people need one empowers them to keep working towards a brighter future.

**Who We Impact**

We work alongside families and individuals who are struggling to build secure and independent lives for themselves in a world of constantly rising costs and incomes that often cannot keep up.

**Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE)**

The poverty measures used by the federal government only partially demonstrate the need in a community. Every two years, the United Way conducts a study examining real costs of living and creating Survival Budgets for each county in Florida.

These Survival Budgets include only necessities for survival and employment. The United Way of Collier County focuses its resources on serving the needs of families and individuals with incomes too low to afford our county’s ALICE Survival Budget.

There are more than 100,000 people in Collier County’s ALICE population. In our county, 50,228 households have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. A quarter of these households have incomes below the federal poverty line.

A family of four needs an income of $58,272 a year to survive in Collier County, or an hourly wage of $29.14. Of the top thirty professions in the state of Florida, only nursing has average hourly wage ($30.15) that makes the family ALICE Survival Budget affordable.

A single adult needs an income of $22,392 a year to survive in Collier County, or an hourly wage of $11.20. The most common job in Florida, retail sales, pays an average hourly wage of $10.33, or nearly $2,000 short of self-sufficiency each year.

The group with the largest percentage of ALICE households in our county is families with children, 46 percent have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. Roughly a third of these families have incomes below the federal poverty line.

The group with the largest number of ALICE households in our county is seniors, 19,963 have incomes below the ALICE survival threshold. Roughly a quarter of these households have incomes below the federal poverty line.

**Connecting Collier County’s Needs and Resources**

One of the United Way of Collier County’s greatest strenghts is addressing the particular needs of our county with its unique resources. The ALICE report, reporting from our partners, and calls to Collier

2-1-1 all help us understand Collier County’s evolving needs.

Our local, statewide, national, and international networks make us a trusted partner in mobilizing resources wherever they are needed in our county, especially in times of crisis.

Our most important relationships, however, are with the thousands of donors throughout our county who answer their neighbors’ call for help with compassion and generosity. Their trust is our most important asset.

**Internal Programs**

**Collier 2-1-1** is a free helpline, available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to anyone in Collier County. The helpline connects people in need with services available at more than one hundred partner programs. Last year there were more than 3,400 calls to 2-1-1.

**The Dolly Parton Imagination Library** mails free, high-quality books to children every month from birth until they begin kindergarten. The United Way of Collier County is piloting this program this year and has committed to enrolling at least 1,000 children.

The **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** program offers free tax preparation to individuals and families with incomes of $66,000 or less. The VITA program brought $827,265 in tax returns back to Collier County families this year.

The **Volunteer Collier** program matches prospective volunteers with volunteering opportunities at nonprofit agencies throughout Collier County. In 2018, the program boasted 1,762 registered volunteers and stimulated 6,285 hours of volunteering.

**Build a Bike** is an annual event giving free bicycles, helmets, locks, and safety training to children from ALICE families, identified through our partner agencies. Last year, sponsors purchased 500 new bicycles, assembled and distributed by volunteers.

A Volunteer Florida grant underwrites the **Disaster Case Management Program**, administering financial assistance to households who continue to be affected by Hurricane Irma**.**

**Agency Allocations (2019–2020)**

The United Way of Collier County (UWCC) underwrites programs at twenty-one agencies throughout our county serving its ALICE population.

**HEALTH**

**Cancer Alliance of Naples** provides financial assistance to patients undergoing treatment for cancer and to their families with its UWCC underwriting.

UWCC underwriting supports mental health care for elementary- and middle-school students in Collier County Public Schools, families, and adults provided by **Catholic Charities**.

The **Children’s Advocacy Center of Collier County** provides therapy, medical examinations, courtroom preparation, advocacy, and case management to survivors of child abuse with its UWCC underwriting.

UWCC underwriting supports the Access 2 Care program, giving children and their families access to behavioral and health screening and assessment through the **National Alliance on Mental Illness Collier County**.

The UWCC underwrites the **Senior Friendship Health Center** Friend in Need Uninsured Patient Fund, to provide medical and dental care to ALICE patients.

**EDUCATION**

UWCC underwrites the Bright Beginnings family literacy program at **Grace Place for Children and Families**, building the kindergarten-readiness skills of children and the parenting and English language skills of their parents.

UWCC underwriting supports the Afterschool Tutoring & Summer Enrichment Program at the **Guadalupe Center**, providing year-round academic support and out-of-school-time care to elementary school students in Immokalee.

UWCC underwriting provides services and scholarships to students working to earn credentials necessary to obtain well-paying jobs after high school graduation through the **Immokalee Foundation** In Demand career program.

**Literacy Council of the Gulf Coast** offers adult and family English language and literacy training at three locations in Collier County with its UWCC underwriting.

**New Horizons of Southwest Florida** offers out-of-school-time educational and enrichment programs to kindergarten through twelfth-grade students at four locations in Collier County with its UWCC underwriting.

**Pathways Early Education Center of Immokalee** provides high quality early-childhood education to preschool students building towards kindergarten readiness in Immokalee with its UWCC underwriting.

This year, UWCC is purchasing computer workstations for the **Pelican Community Center**, in Golden Gate, for use by students building their English language and literacy skills.

**Redlands Christian Migrant Association** provides early-childhood education and afterschool programs to students in East Naples and Immokalee with its UWCC underwriting.

UWCC underwriting supports afterschool programming provided by **The Salvation Army** for children in grades one through eight in East Naples, including tutoring and instruction in the culinary and performing arts.

UWCC underwriting supports the onsite Child Care program at **The Shelter for Abused Women and Children**, serving child survivors of domestic violence from birth through five years old.

The UWCC underwrites the Marco Y Early Learning program at the **YMCA of South Collier** (formerly the Greater Marco Family YMCA), providing a high quality early-learning environment for preschoolers building kindergarten readiness.

**FINANCIAL STABILITY**

UWCC underwriting supports the Empowerment Program provided by **Catholic Charities**, which helps people achieve stable employment and financial independence with intensive case management and support resources.

UWCC underwriting supports the **Goodwill Industries** Job-Link and Family Strengthening Centers, providing free access to employment counseling services, skills training, and computers and internet for job searches and applications.

**Legal Aid Services of Collier County** will provide services, focused on the high impact areas of housing and income preservation, to ALICE clients with its UWCC underwriting.

UWCC underwriting will enable **Lighthouse of Collier** to offer a Job Readiness Program for the blind and visually impaired.

UWCC underwriting provides transportation services for Collier County residents with moderate to severe developmental, intellectual, and physical challenges who attend the **United Cerebral Palsy of Southwest Florida** Adult Day Training Center in Naples.

The UWCC underwrites the Rapid Re-Housing Program, managed by **Youth Haven**, providing intensive case management and financial resources to families in jeopardy of becoming homeless or who are currently homeless.