



## *Heart of Florida United Way and Seniors First, Inc. - Warm Hearts Dispel Winter's Chill*

Facing what weather forecasters predicted would be the coldest night of the year, Alice\* couldn't stop shivering.

Living alone in a rented house, the 77-year-old widow had repeatedly asked the landlord repair the heater, but nothing had been done. She'd wrapped herself in extra layers of clothing and a winter coat, but nothing could dispel the bone-chilling cold, which she feared might kill her.

Recalling information about Seniors First, Inc., a United Way supported agency that provides warm meals, home improvements, medical equipment and other services to Orange County seniors, she dialed the agency's number for help.

"Alice was crying when I talked to her. I was worried that she might not make it through the night," said Linda, a Seniors First staff member who immediately purchased two electric space heaters and delivered them to Alice's home.

With the immediate crisis solved, agency staff stayed in touch with Alice over the next few weeks to make sure she had adequate food and was able to get the heating problem resolved. Thanks, in part, to funding provided United Way, Alice is living comfortably and independently in her own home – something that warms the heart of Seniors First staff and volunteers every time they talk with her.

\* To protect the client's identity, a different name has been used.

*By supporting Heart of Florida United Way, you help fund nearly 100 local agencies such as Seniors First, whose programs are making a critical difference in people's lives. You also become part of United Way's work to prevent critical problems by focusing on four key areas: Building Safe Communities; Improving Financial Stability; Developing Healthy Children and Families; and Alleviating Hunger and Homelessness.*