



# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **City of Orlando, Orange County Government Partnering with Heart of Florida United Way to Manage Orlando United Assistance Center**



**ORLANDO, Fla. (July 11, 2016)** – The City of Orlando and Orange County Government are partnering with Heart of Florida United Way to manage the Orlando United Assistance Center to provide long-term assistance to those affected by the Pulse tragedy.

Starting Monday, July 11, Heart of Florida United Way will manage all daily functional activities of the center, including the oversight of the building and its staff and arrange partnerships with various service providers like the Victim Service Center, the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida and Miracle of Love, Inc., to ensure the needs of the visitors to the center are met.

“Heart of Florida United Way is uniquely qualified to manage the Orlando United Assistance Center. Through the center, we are focused on the long-term recovery needs of the survivors, victims’ families and all those who were impacted by the Pulse tragedy. By providing one-on-one support, we will continue to help those in need,” said Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer.

Heart of Florida United Way has a vast network of partners in the nonprofit sector to address the variety of needs of those impacted by the tragedy quickly and efficiently connect those in need to the resources available. Heart of Florida United Way also has experience in community recovery efforts having managed the long-term action plan after local disasters including the 2004-05 hurricane season.

“Our staff is specifically trained to help those in crisis,” Heart of Florida United Way president and CEO Robert H. (Bob) Brown said. “By leveraging our expertise and resources, we’ll be able to provide options and solutions for victims and their families. Our network and community contacts will enable us to help as many people as possible while providing excellent customer service.”

Culturally-experienced representatives from the Hispanic and LGBTQ communities will continue to be present at the center to provide support.

"As a community we've witnessed extraordinary acts of compassion and generosity. From heartfelt grass roots initiatives to the formal support of United Way and other agencies, our community has once again demonstrated our awesome culture of collaboration," said Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs. "We're a community in which diversity is viewed as one of our fundamental strengths. In caring for those wounded or grieving from the Pulse tragedy, we are providing the world with an example to emulate, as well as demonstrating that we are the best community in which to live, work and raise a family."

**Orlando United Assistance Center:**

507 East Michigan Street

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Appointments: 407.500.HOPE (4673) or [cityoforlando.net/hope](http://cityoforlando.net/hope)

#OrlandoUnited

**About Heart of Florida United Way**

*Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) is Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services charity and the largest provider of funds to the region's most critical health and human service programs. Last year, it raised and managed \$26.1 million throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW is working to advance the common good by focusing on education, income, health and basic needs. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida's information and assistance crisis, suicide and referral helpline; Volunteer Resource Center; Gifts In Kind Center; Emergency Homelessness Services; and the Ryan White Part B program, which administers more than \$2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 600,000 individuals annually through its direct service and funded programs. United Way partners with local businesses, government, other charities to increase awareness of local health and human service issues and to inspire hope, provide options and create possibilities for people in need. Visit [www.HFUW.org](http://www.HFUW.org) for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.*

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