



# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Heart of Florida United Way Invests Additional \$1.1 Million to Community Programs Aiding Central Floridians**

*Three-Year Competitive Grants Take Aim at Removing Barriers to Education, Income & Health*

**ORLANDO, Fla. (July 31, 2017)** – Heart of Florida United Way, Central Florida's most comprehensive health and human services agency, recently announced additional investments totaling \$1.1 million for local community programs. The funds, which were awarded through a competitive grant process, will allow agencies in Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties to initiate or expand services. This is in addition to \$2.6 million that will be disbursed in 2017 as part of previously awarded grants. Through all funding sources, Heart of Florida United Way estimates it will invest \$25.3 million into community programs this year.

The funds will support 11 programs at 11 organizations that enhance United Way's fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Central Florida. Partner agencies awarded funding include:

- **Hope CommUnity Center** will provide academic support for post-secondary persistence to students and graduates of Apopka and Wekiva High Schools.
- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida** will help determine an educational roadmap to match a student's college or career path.
- **Orlando Community & Youth Trust** will expand the Parramore Kidz Zone model of wrap-around academic support services to youth in the Holden Heights neighborhood.
- **United Against Poverty** will help family stabilization through ongoing case management, emotional intelligence training and long-term career development.
- **Christian Sharing Center** will find rapid re-housing for those families residing in Seminole County who are currently homeless or on the verge of homelessness.
- **Orlando Neighborhood Improvement Corporation** will increase participants' financial stability by providing information and opportunities to increase financial assets.
- **Early Learning Coalition of Seminole** will serve families through the development of a comprehensive sustainability plan and affordable, quality child care.
- **Community Coordinated Care for Children (4C)** will provide financial assistance for child care that helps children prepare for kindergarten.
- **Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families** will provide evidence-based assessment and intensive home-visiting services aimed at preventing child abuse.
- **UCP of Central Florida** will offer the BETA Teen Parent program providing holistic, multi-faceted intervention that delivers a continuum of care for the adolescent parent and child.
- **Health Care Center for the Homeless** will provide pediatric oral health services including emergency dental care, screenings, oral health education and instruction at the OCPS Academic Center for Excellence in Parramore.

Grantees submitted applications to be considered for a three-year grant and endured a thorough screening process evaluating the solvency and efficacy of the proposed program. Board and committee members weigh many factors in the selection process, ranging from organizational capacity and efficiency to collaboration and alignment with United Way's goals.



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“There is a tremendous amount of good work happening in Central Florida and we are proud to be able to invest in some of the most needed services and programs,” said Jeff Hayward, president & CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. “These grants are just one piece of a \$25.3 million investment by United Way in community programs and services this year. We’re grateful for our donors’ generosity to be able to make these investments happen.”

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## 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 \$24.4 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 650,000 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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