



BECAUSE SURVIVAL IS AN INSTINCT, NOT A LIFESTYLE

BASIC NEEDS

Food and shelter are necessities everyone requires. However, according to the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Report, nearly half of Central Florida's population consistently struggles to afford the basics. Due to the possibility of an unexpected emergency, many ALICE households face the terrifying prospect of going hungry or becoming homeless.

At United Way, we have a high-level view of the most critical issues in our community. We invest in strategic partnerships to address the multitude of barriers that can keep a family from being able to provide the basic essentials. By focusing on the whole picture, we meet the immediate and long-term needs of ALICE households.

"Sometimes, I feel like I'm running in place."

Damaris is no stranger to hard work. The 22-year-old had worked hard over the years to help pay her way through college to pursue a career as a neonatal nurse. She had gotten all the pieces lined up to set herself up for success, but then COVID-19 happened.

"I had a grant to pay for school, I had just gotten two jobs to pay the bills while I finished my last two semesters of school. I could see the light at the end of the tunnel. But then, COVID-19 threw it all off. All of my plans that I had worked so hard on weren't an option anymore."

Damaris lost both of her new jobs and had to put school on hold until she could figure out how to pay her bills. She had never gone through anything like this before and didn't know where to turn. Then she found United Way.

She picked up her phone and called the 211 Information and Referral Crisis Line for help. Damaris was one of the nearly 50,000 calls United Way received in March 2020 following the initial outbreak of COVID-19 in Central Florida. In anticipation of community needs, United Way launched the ALICE Recovery Fund to support families and prevent homelessness by providing rent, mortgage, or utility assistance. Damaris met the criteria for the fund to receive assistance. She said, that phone call changed her frame of mind.

"It was very emotional. I was so relieved to hear that I was able to receive some support to help me get by. It made me believe that I should still have hope."



222,611

individuals were
assisted by United
Way's 2-1-1
Information and
Referral Helpline

Heart of Florida United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Central Florida.

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At United Way, we identify the critical issues facing families who are unable to provide the basic necessities. We invest in sustainable solutions for immediate and long-term needs as well as address the root cause of the issues.



The numbers represented below are a direct result of Heart of Florida United Way's efforts to support basic needs and provide emergency assistance in the community during the previous fiscal year.



834

families avoided homelessness with the help of United Way case management



\$1.8 million

in emergency assistance was distributed to ALICE households throughout Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties



44,797

people received emergency assistance, food, and/or shelter services



1,000,000

meals were served through United Way programs and services



293,780

individuals received assistance from United Way for a crisis level situation

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UNITED WAY FIGHTS FOR THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL STABILITY OF EVERY PERSON IN CENTRAL FLORIDA.

