FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heart of Florida United Way Invests $150,000 in Tri-County Legal Aid Organizations to Support ALICE Families Facing Eviction

Three organizations receive $50,000 investments each to provide needed support to ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families in Central Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (March 8, 2021) – In an effort to continue its support of the tri-county region’s ALICE population, Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) has invested in legal representation for families facing COVID-related eviction. In total, $150,000 was invested in the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida in Osceola County and the Seminole County Bar Association Legal Aid Society.

“The impact of COVID-19 on our region will have long-term implications for the prosperity of our community,” said Jeff Hayward, President/CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. “Many residents who were struggling to make ends meet before the pandemic, are now faced with even more financial instability, including eviction due to job loss or furlough. These residents are now ALICE, or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, and are now facing eviction through no fault of their own. Many families are unaware of their rights, so through this investment in our legal aid organizations, they can receive the necessary legal counsel to navigate the court process with the hope they’ll be able to remain in their homes or secure other affordable alternatives.”

All three agencies are providing residents facing eviction with legal consultation and other services to strengthen their financial stability: in addition to legal representation when applicable.

“The Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association, Inc. is grateful for funding from Heart of Florida United Way,” said Larri Thatcher, attorney at law, deputy director and pro bono director for the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association. “It is our 60th anniversary and we’re honored to still be here for the Orange County community providing free legal assistance to those in need. With this additional funding, we’ll be able to continue our services in the areas of family, consumer, housing, immigration, and economic development for low-income residents of Orange County. Our goal is to help reduce and eradicate legal crises such as barriers to employment, unlawful evictions, and income discrepancies.”

(more)
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This is an investment under HFUW’s revamped “Investor Model,” which allows for the flexibility of partner agencies to respond to unanticipated needs, crises, or opportunities. The Investor Model also provides general operating support ensuring that the dollars are more valuable to agencies, have greater impact, and continues to allow HFUW to base the size of the investment on performance outcomes. The model also includes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) allowing HFUW to invest in, and capture all of the impact, as opposed to limiting it to discreet, compartmentalized programming, as well as maintain accountability for the performance.

Visit www.HFUW.org to learn more about Heart of Florida United Way.

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. In 2018-19, it raised and managed more than $22.4 million in total resources, including $16.6 million raised for the Community Fund that invests in dozens of vitally important programs in the community throughout Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. HFUW fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in Central Florida. It operates United Way 2-1-1, Central Florida’s information and referral assistance center, crisis, suicide and helpline; Volunteer Resource Center and the Ryan White program, which administers nearly $3.2 million to provide HIV/AIDS services and referrals. HFUW impacts more than 400,000 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. It received the GuideStar Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2020. Visit www.HFUW.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900.

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