



BECAUSE IT'S NOT ALWAYS AS EASY AS A-B-C

EDUCATION

A good education can set the foundation towards a better life. But for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families, it's not as easy as it sounds. Across Central Florida, students are struggling to overcome barriers to their academic success. Not having access to food to fuel their brains. Not having help with homework because mom works two jobs. Not having a place to study because their family has to live out of a car.

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 student from succeeding. By focusing on the whole picture, we meet the immediate and long-term needs of ALICE households.

Sara had beaten the odds. She considered herself lucky. After emerging from the foster care system, she had worked tirelessly to pave her way into college to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. She proves she's motivated every day by working two jobs to cover bills while she attends school part-time.

She's not afraid of obstacles or working hard to achieve her goals, but now, there is a big challenge standing in her way, COVID-19.

"I was lucky enough not to get sick, but I'm definitely feeling the impacts of this disease."

Sara was furloughed from both of her jobs and had no luck with cracking the widely-criticized unemployment system. With no income, no unemployment assistance, no support system to turn to, and bills due now, Sara didn't know what to do.

She remembered seeing a poster at her school about United Way and decided it was worth a shot. After connecting with a case manager who assessed her situation, Sara got the call back she had been hoping for. United Way's Destination Graduation program at Seminole State College in partnership with Truist (formally SunTrust) supported Sara with rental assistance to help get her through this tough time, but she is determined not to lose sight of her goals.

"Pushing through and having determination is going to make this happen for me. People need a support group to help you plan and overcome challenges. United Way was that for me in this instance. They lifted me up."

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



17,600
children and

parents/
guardians received

assistance from
United Way

programs and
services to help

boost a student's
chance for

success in school



BECAUSE IT'S NOT ALWAYS AS EASY AS A-B-C

At United Way, we identify the most crucial issues stopping students from succeeding. 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 education in the community during the previous fiscal year.



344

low-income, first-generation and veteran students at Seminole State College received the resources they needed to stay enrolled through the Destination Graduation program



100%

of high school seniors impacted by a United Way program graduated on time



132

four year olds participating in VPK classrooms participated in weekly reading comprehension activities in the ReadingPals program that helped develop essential literacy skills



100%

of students impacted by a United Way program improved their attendance rate



17,600

children and parents/guardians received assistance from United Way programs and services to help boost a student's chance for success in school

[HFUW.org/JoinTheFight](https://www.hfuw.org/JoinTheFight)