FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heart of Florida United Way Invests $1.275 Million to Stabilize Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed Households in Tri-County Area

15 agencies awarded to provide needed basic needs support to ALICE families

ORLANDO, Fla. (Dec. 13, 2021) – Today, Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) announced investments in community agencies that provide basic needs support to stabilize Central Florida families. In total, $1,275,000 was distributed for immediate use by 15 agencies to help address growing, basic community needs in Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. The investments range from $45,000 to $195,000 and are based upon scale of programs, capacity to serve, and continued increased demand.

“Our local nonprofit agencies have been and will continue to work tirelessly as we navigate ourselves and our residents out of the COVID pandemic,” said Jeff Hayward, President and CEO of HFUW. “Given ALICE was already one crisis away from financial ruin, many have either depleted or have limited savings to make ends meet. These investments in partner agencies allow for more support to ALICE families.”

The following agencies received a portion of the $1.275 million investment in basic needs:

1. **Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc.**: $45,000 (Tri-County)
   - **Issues Addressed**: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Affordable Housing), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food)

2. **Central Florida Regional Housing Trust (dba housd)**: $50,000 (Tri-County)
   - **Issues Addressed**: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Affordable Housing, Manageable Expenses)

3. **Christian Service Center for Central Florida, Inc.**: $70,000 (Orange County)
   - **Issues Addressed**: Financial Stability (Income Supports), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food)

4. **Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida**: $150,000 (Orange County)
   - **Issues Addressed**: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Affordable Housing), Basic Needs (Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Housing, Congregate Meals and Food)

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5. Harbor House of Central Florida: $90,000 (Tri-County)
   - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Manageable Expenses), Basic Needs (Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Housing, Congregate Meals and Food), Health (Access to Health Care)

6. Help Now of Osceola: $90,000 (Tri-County)
   - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Manageable Expenses), Basic Needs (Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Housing, Congregate Meals and Food), Health (Access to Health Care)

7. Jobs Partnership of Florida: $45,000 (Tri-County)
   - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Family-Sustaining Employment)

8. Meals on Wheels Etc, Inc.: $50,000 (Seminole County)
   - Issues Addressed: Basic Needs (Services for Seniors)

9. Osceola Council on Aging: $95,000 (Osceola County)
   - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Family-Sustaining Employment, Income Supports, Affordable Housing), Health (Supporting Healthy Choices), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food, Services for Seniors)

10. SafeHouse of Seminole: $90,000 (Tri-County)
    - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Income Supports, Manageable Expenses), Health (Access to Health Care), Basic Needs (Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Housing, Congregate Meals and Food)

11. The Salvation Army, Orlando Area Command: $195,000 (Orange & Osceola Counties)
    - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Income Supports), Basic Needs (Low Barrier Emergency Shelter/Housing, Congregate Meals and Food)

12. The Salvation Army, Sanford Corp: $45,000 (Seminole County)
    - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Income Supports), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food)

13. Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida: $130,000 (Tri-County)
    - Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Family-Sustaining Employment, Income Supports), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food)

14. Seniors First, Inc.: $85,000 (Orange County)
    - Issues Addressed: Basic Needs (Services for Seniors)

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15. The Sharing Center: $45,000 (Seminole County)
   – Issues Addressed: Financial Stability (Family-Sustaining Employment, Income Supports, Manageable Expenses, Savings and Assets), Basic Needs (Congregate Meals and Food)

This is the second in a series of investments under HFUW’s revamped “Investor Model,” which allows for flexibility 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 and have greater impact, but continues to allow HFUW to capture performance outcomes.

As a result, HFUW made a $250,000 unrestricted investment in five local nonprofit agencies to support the stabilization of the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) population, which accounts for more than half of the tri-county area residents. It also represents families who were one paycheck and one crisis away from financial ruin prior to the COVID pandemic.

To further support ALICE during the pandemic, HFUW also launched the COVID-19 ALICE Recovery Fund in the middle of 2020 with the help of individual donors and corporate citizens who invest and partner in the organization’s work. As of June 30, 2021 HFUW distributed more than $7.51 million in emergency financial assistance to 13,519 tri-county households providing rent, mortgage and utility payments for residents who qualified. In December 2020, HFUW invested more than $1 million amongst eleven (11) local agencies to support the basic needs of the families they serve. And in March 2021, HFUW invested an additional $150,000 in three (3) agencies providing legal representation for families facing COVID-related eviction. In November 2021, the organization made a $75,000 investment in nine local nonprofit agencies within the tri-county area to support capacity building efforts and the continuing education of agency leadership through the Edyth Bush Institute (EBI). Since the start of the pandemic, HFUW has invested more than $10.26 million overall in programs to support ALICE across the tri-county region.

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 vital 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 211, Central Florida’s information and assistance, crisis, suicide and referral 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. Visit www.HFUW.org for more information, or call (407) 835-0900. Follow us on Facebook at Heart of Florida United Way and on Twitter and Instagram @hfuw.

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