

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contacts:** Amber Hastings  
[amber@jarelcommunications.com](mailto:amber@jarelcommunications.com)  
407-748-8714

## **Heart of Florida United Way Invests \$1.8M Strategic Investment to Strengthen Central Florida**

**ORLANDO, Fla. (May 5, 2026)** – Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) announced a \$1.8 million strategic investment to strengthen a network of services supporting families and individuals across Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties.

This investment reflects HFUW’s evolution toward a more integrated approach to community impact by expanding its direct-service programs while working alongside nonprofit partners to implement coordinated solutions. While these funds continue to support programs aligned with HFUW’s focus areas of Education, Financial Stability, Health, and Basic Needs, they also help build a new investment model that connects nonprofit partners to HFUW-led initiatives.

During the next year, HFUW will expand programs and partnerships that integrate and readily support HFUW direct-service programs. While this investment supports a total of 31 nonprofit partners, several organizations are entering into enhanced collaborative efforts with HFUW to bridge the digital divide, support community schools, and ensure financial stability. These partners included:

- **Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Florida** – Offering expanded learning experiences at HFUW-led Community Schools in Osceola County
- **Hebni Nutrition** – Supporting wellness initiatives, including nutrition education and cooking classes, at HFUW-led Community Schools in Osceola and Seminole Counties

- **Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families** – Providing wellness support and initiatives at HFUW-led Community Schools in Osceola and Seminole Counties
- **Jobs Partnership of Florida** – Offering post-secondary planning and job training programs for students and parents at HFUW-led Community Schools
- **Meals on Wheels** – Supporting HFUW Digital Horizons initiatives, including device distribution, computer education, and digital skills training
- **Orange Blossom Family Health** – Serving as a core partner in providing medical, dental, and vision care for students at HFUW-led Community Schools in Osceola County
- **Osceola Council on Aging** – Supporting HFUW Digital Horizons initiatives, including device distribution, computer education, and digital skills training
- **Second Harvest Food Bank** – Providing school pantry programming at HFUW-led Community Schools in Osceola and Seminole Counties
- **Seniors First** – Supporting HFUW Digital Horizons initiatives, including device distribution, computer education, and digital skills training
- **The Sharing Center** – Offering ongoing annual HFUW Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services

“This investment reflects both where we have been and where we are going,” said Jeff Hayward, President & CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. “Heart of Florida United Way is evolving from simply funding organizations to building solutions. Our future investments will be even more intentionally connected to the work we lead in education, financial stability, health, and basic needs.”

As stewards of nearly 20,000 annual donors, HFUW’s Community Impact Committee evaluated local needs and recommended investments that strengthen families and communities throughout Central Florida.

“This is a transition year,” Hayward said. “By the end of 2026, our investments will be even more closely aligned with HFUW-led strategies that bring partners together around shared goals and measurable results. This approach ensures that every donor dollar works harder to create lasting change.”

For more information about or to contribute to the Heart of Florida United Way, visit [www.HFUW.org](http://www.HFUW.org).

---

### **About Heart of Florida United Way**

Heart of Florida United Way (HFUW) stands for the education, financial stability, health and basic needs of every person in Central Florida. Since 1939, HFUW has delivered programs, invested dollars, and convened community members around important issues impacting Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. In 2024-25, HFUW served 1 in 4 people in Central Florida through its direct service and funded programs. HFUW is home to notable community resources like the 211 Information & Referral Line; 988 Suicide Prevention Lifeline; Mission United program for Veterans; Digital Horizons, an initiative bridging the digital divide; Destination Graduation at Seminole State College; the Planning Council Support program that facilitates community planning and priority setting for HIV services. United Way partners with individuals, local businesses, government, and other nonprofit agencies to open opportunities and close gaps in Central Florida. Visit [www.HFUW.org](http://www.HFUW.org) for more information or call (407) 835-0900. Follow us on Facebook and LinkedIn at Heart of Florida United Way and on Twitter and Instagram @hfuw.

###