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Heart of Florida United Way Hosts 6th Annual Community Baby Shower for Orange, Seminole, and Osceola County Families

ORLANDO, Fla. (June 27, 2026) — To address the rising costs of infant essentials, Heart of Florida United Way hosted its sixth annual Community Baby Shower. This three-part initiative spanned Orange, Seminole, and Osceola counties over two dates providing new and expectant families with a Basics for Babies gift package valued at \$250+, including items like a \$50 gift card, wipes, diapers, and apparel.. In addition to newborn necessities, attendees and their families received a warm meal and direct access to vital on-site community resources. Leading up to the events, dedicated volunteers from across Central Florida came together to prepare handmade baby blankets and diaper cakes.

The first two events took place at Seminole State College of Florida and Osceola High School on June 25, 2026, and the last event was held at Valencia College's West Campus on June 27, 2026. The Community Baby Shower program focuses on Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households, which are often one unexpected expense away from a financial hardship. As families continue to struggle with affordability, Heart of Florida United Way's Community Baby Shower offers immediate relief, helping families prepare for their new arrival.

"Welcoming a new baby should be a time of celebration, not a possible financial hardship," said Lynnea Crawford, vice president of development and volunteers, Heart of Florida United Way. "ALICE households can often fall through the cracks of traditional assistance programs, making it even more difficult to make ends meet. By providing essential basics and bringing community resources to a single accessible location, we're helping to remove immediate barriers and ensuring more children have a healthy foundation from day one."

The initiative represents a collaborative effort with several community organizations, including AdventHealth for Women, Truist, and Nemours Children's Health. Those interested in more information about future events, volunteer opportunities, donating or sponsorship opportunities can visit <https://www.hfuw.org/get-involved>

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 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.

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