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Heart of Florida United Way Launches Mobile Hub to Deliver Critical Resources Directly to Central Florida Communities in Need

ORLANDO, Fla. July 29, 2026 — As part of its longstanding commitment to support and empower Central Florida individuals and families, Heart of Florida United Way has partnered with Wells Fargo to launch the United Learning Lab, a retrofitted 51-passenger bus serving as a mobile hub for technology, community resources and lifelong learning. The new initiative is made possible, in part, due to a \$500,000 philanthropic investment from Wells Fargo and the Wells Fargo Foundation.

Equipped with Starlink internet, the United Learning Lab offers laptop access, social services and educational programming—delivering direct support and expanding Heart of Florida United Way's reach to underserved individuals and families, particularly those considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

"Our mission has always been rooted in showing up for our neighbors in their moments of need," said Jeff Hayward, president and CEO of Heart of Florida United Way. "No matter their circumstances or the storms they are facing, this mobile hub ensures that help and a path forward is never out of reach."

Nearly half of Florida households—47% —do not make enough to afford basic expenses, despite being employed. For the ALICE population, rising living costs paired with stagnant wages increase the need for financial and educational resources to support economic upward mobility and stability.

Designed as a flexible, adaptable space that can evolve with community needs across Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties, the United Learning Lab will launch with programming spanning disaster response, financial empowerment and free tax assistance, crisis and referral services, digital access, education and workforce support, veteran services, and early childhood screenings.

"When communities have access to the tools and resources they need to succeed, the impact extends far beyond any one individual or family," said Bonnie Wallace, Head of Financial Health Philanthropy at Wells Fargo. "Through our support of the United Learning Lab, we're helping expand access to education, financial resources and workforce opportunities that can strengthen communities across Central Florida."

The United Learning Lab is expected to reach thousands of Central Floridians annually. As part of its programming, by 2027, the initiative aims to help at least 400 households increase their savings by a collective total of \$500,000, provide at least 300 people with financial coaching,

empower 125 individuals to pursue sustainable employment, and deliver financial education workshops to at least 150 high school students and their families.

Upcoming United Learning Lab Appearances:

Aug. 5 – Osceola High School

Aug. 7 – Midway Elementary School for the Arts

For more information – including technical specs and individual program overviews – download the attached fact sheet or visit the [United Learning Lab's webpage](#).

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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