

THE UNITED



Last month, our top corporate supporters came together for a special appreciation luncheon—an opportunity to connect, exchange campaign ideas, and share best practices. Our annual campaign is underway now! Want to get your organization involved and make a lasting impact in our community? [Learn More.](#)

Save the Date

November 3

YLS Social

November 7

[LGA](#) [Celebration](#)

November 13

CIT Appreciation

November 19

YLS Volunteer Project

November
20

**Women
United
Sip & Shop**

December 5

**Women
United
Volunteer
Project**

December
18

**YLS Season
of Giving
Dinner**

May 14

**Annual
Celebration**



LkldNow Highlights One Polk County Mom's Struggle with the Benefits Cliff



A full-time ESE paraprofessional in Polk County is facing an unexpected challenge; her recent raise pushed her over the “benefits cliff,” leaving her with fewer resources for essentials like food and transportation. Her story highlights the tough reality many working families face when small pay increases lead to a loss of critical support.

[Read More](#)

UWCF Partners with Southeastern University to Strengthen Disaster Response



UWCF is proud to announce a new partnership with Southeastern University that will bring over 40 graduate-level social work students into the heart of our disaster response efforts. In times of crisis, the need for compassionate and effective case management surges as individuals and families face the challenges of recovery. This collaboration will significantly expand UWCF's capacity

to support our community and beyond during disasters, ensuring that no one faces hardship alone.

Watson Clinic Arts in Health Week



The Carol Jenkins Barnett United Way Children's Resource Center is proud to participate in Watson Clinic's Arts in Health Week 2025 with a joyful, family-friendly event designed to get everyone moving.

Location: Bonnet Springs Park Lawn

Friday, November 7

[Sign up Now](#)

This music and movement class is perfect for families with young children. Come experience the power of rhythm, play, and connection in a fun outdoor setting. It's a celebration of how the arts can support health and well-being at every age. Let's move, connect, and celebrate the healing power of the arts, together.

Volunteers in Action: Making a Difference Together



Thank you to Bank of Central Florida, The Lunz Group, Saddle Creek, and our many other corporate partners who have rolled up their sleeves to give back through hands-on volunteer projects.

Your commitment to serving others brings our mission to life and helps make Central Florida a better place for everyone.

Email RD@uwcf.org to sign up for a volunteer project for your organization.

Hardee & Highlands News

Women United for Highlands County



Our Women United ladies in Highlands County recently gathered for a fun and meaningful meeting! This inspiring group continues to grow and make waves across the community, empowering women, supporting local families, and creating lasting change.

Women United is a network of women who invest \$1,000+ annually in United Way and give back through impactful volunteer projects and community engagement.

Want to join Women United?

Email WU@uwcf.org or

visit uwcf.org/WU to learn more and get involved today!

Additional Food Sites Open

Thanks to generous support from the State of Florida, we're expanding our reach to serve families in Hardee and Highlands counties better.

Hardee County

- Cutting Edge Ministries (Zolfo Springs) officially launched earlier this month! Distributions will take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- Central Florida Health Care (Wauchula) is scheduled to begin food distributions on the 2nd and 4th Mondays at 9:00 a.m., with a tentative start date of October 27.

For a full schedule, visit uwcf.org/food.

Get Involved

ReadingPals Needs Volunteers



ReadingPals are volunteers who spend one hour each week in kindergarten classrooms throughout Polk County, helping students read. We need volunteers for the upcoming school year!

Interested in joining us? We would love to have you be a part of this program.

[Learn more.](#)

[Sign Up!](#)

Young Leaders Society Social at Bowen Yard



Join us for an evening of connection and community at the Young Leaders Society Social!

Friday, November 3 | 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Bowen Yard, Winter Haven

Enjoy casual networking, great conversation, and a relaxed atmosphere with fellow young professionals who are passionate about making a difference in

Central Florida. Whether you're a longtime member or new to the group, this is a great opportunity to get involved and learn more about upcoming initiatives.

Join Women United for Sip & Shop



Women United invites you to a Sip & Shop Social at Gaines Jewelers on **Thursday, November 20, from 5 to 7 p.m.**

Enjoy an evening of conversation, shopping, and community connection while browsing beautiful jewelry and spending time with fellow Women United members. Don't miss this opportunity to connect, relax, and celebrate the impact women make in our community.

Find Help

End Hunger Initiative



Are you struggling to put food on the table? With 20 healthy food pantry sites around Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties, UWCF is helping to supply families with boxes of frozen meat, fresh produce and dry goods at no cost!

[Find Your Nearest Healthy Food Pantry](#)

Thank you to our Polk County Food Pantry Sponsor, The George Jenkins Foundation, our Highlands County Food Pantry Sponsor, AdventHealth and our Hardee County Food Pantry Sponsor, the State of Florida.

211 Get Connected. Get Help.



United Way's 211 is the most comprehensive source of human and social services information in the country. Our teams of compassionate, highly trained specialists are available 24/7 to connect you with the best services available in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties.

[Find Help Now](#)

[MAKE A DONATION](#)

[LOCAL RESOURCES](#)

[VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Our mission is to inspire our community to give, advocate and volunteer by identifying needs and mobilizing vetted resources to create positive, local change.



MISSION PARTNERS

