Moving the Needle Forward

Happy New Year to our amazing Tocqueville Society! As we start this new year and new decade, I want to share our bold goals with you and reflect on the good we have accomplished together.

Last year, our donors and volunteers raised an incredible $16.6 million to help our neighbors in need. This year, our bold goal is to raise $17.1 million as a community. We know our goal is audacious, but the need is great, and the generosity of our community is even greater. As Alexis de Tocqueville so accurately observed, “Americans make large and genuine sacrifices to the public good and… when necessary they almost never fail to lend one another a helping hand.”

Together, we are moving the needle forward. We are proud to share that United Way was ranked #1 in the Chronicle of Philanthropy list of America’s Favorite Charities in 2019. At the local level, our United Way continues to lead the way as well. In fact, we have seen a 38% growth in revenue over the past six years. With this incredible support, we are making a significant impact in our community. Some noteworthy accomplishments include:

• The number of residents who are food insecure decreased from 200,000 to 184,000, and the number of hungry children was reduced from 64,000 to 53,000.
• Our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA) program has resulted in over $343 million in taxes returned to the individuals and families over the length of the program.
• 1,088 students were matched with a mentor.

Real change is interconnected and complex. Every individual facing a crisis needs a champion in their corner. Thank you for uniting in the fight to stabilize families, empower healthy lives, and help youth succeed. Thank you for being a champion of change.

Student Urgent Relief Fund (SURF)

Success Story! Ava was involved in a car accident that forced her to quit her job. The receipt of a SURF mini grant enabled her to pay one month’s rent. She recovered, regained employment, and went on to earn a 4.0 GPA that semester. She expects to receive her associate degree soon and plans to pursue a degree in nursing.

The purpose of Achieve Palm Beach County is to ensure access to and successful completion of an education beyond high school. Our vision is every Palm Beach County high school graduate continues and completes the education required of today’s workforce within six years of high school graduation. Positive outcomes include college degrees, professional job certifications, apprenticeships, military enlistment and/or vocational training that prepare students for a meaningful career with a sustainable wage.

According to the latest Financial Security Index, nearly 3 in 10 (28%) adults in the United States have no emergency savings. Further, only one in four have a “rainy day” fund, and still don’t have enough money to cover three months’ worth of living expenses. In Palm Beach County, many students struggle to meet their basic needs and overcome other challenges. For these students, financial emergencies like a flat tire or automobile accident, broken glasses, or emergency dental work can be the things that keep them from completing that all-important education beyond high school and attaining a career with a living wage. Alleviating these financial emergencies can help students stay on their educational paths.

SURF (Student Urgent Relief Fund) serves to keep students on their educational paths by providing mini grants of up to $500 to alleviate some of the hardship that comes from emergency situations.

This program is currently offered at Palm Beach State College, where 66% of the county’s low-income high school students enroll after graduation. SURF was developed using best practice research through a collaborative effort of Achieve PBC partners.

If you would like to help support the SURF Fund, please contact:
Christine Koehn, Ph.D., Executive Director, Achieve Palm Beach County
561-375-6651 | CKoehn@UnitedWayPBC.org
Or visit UnitedWayPBC.org/Donations/Student-Urgent-Relief-Fund

UnitedWayPBC.org
Gloria is physically disabled and has a mental health condition. She depended on the Caring Kitchen for nutritious meals. However, she tragically lost her close friend who drove her there for her meals.

Thankfully, members of the CROS Ministries team stepped in and were able to help. After conducting a home visit, they learned she was struggling to afford food. The cost of rent and medications left very little to buy groceries. Even if she had the means to purchase the food, her physical disability prevented her from being able to walk into her kitchen to prepare a meal.

CROS Ministries was able to sign Gloria up for their home bound meal program. She now receives meals to her home and her nutrition has significantly improved.

Gloria is grateful for the food she receives. We are fortunate to support this program that is making a difference in our community one person at a time.

THE LITERACY COALITION

Literacy for Learning and Life Program

When Michael first came to the Literacy Coalition, he was behind in classes, quiet, and depressed. The first day, he wouldn’t smile or look his graduation coach in the eyes. Over their next few meetings, Michael began to open up. He shared that he is the youngest of his seven brothers and sisters. He has lost siblings due to gang related violence, and others are in jail.

Many told Michael over and over that he was not going to graduate. However, that did not stop his path towards greatness. Michael began completing all of his assignments and classes. He went from being a student who never took much pride in his work, to reaching out to his coach to give updates about his progress. On graduation day, his face lit up with a smile as he told his coach, “Without you, I wouldn’t have been able to graduate.”

A student who had the odds stacked against him was able to graduate with a sense of direction and a new friend because of the funding provided by United Way of Palm Beach County.
Tocqueville Society MEMBERS

MILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE
$1,000,000 and above (Cumulative Giving)
Council Henrietta de Hoernle*
Mrs. Sara Jo Kobacker*
Mrs. Mary Ann Perper*
Mr. John F. Scarpa
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zimmerman

NATIONAL SOCIETY
$100,000 - $999,999 (Annually)
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zimmerman

ORDER OF EQUALITY | $50,000 - $74,999
Anonymous
Mr. and Mrs. Bob & Peggy Walter

ORDER OF LIBERTY | $25,000 - $49,999
Anonymous
Mr. Robert M. Beren
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen & Gabriella Demerritt
Mr. and Mrs. George & Mary Giguerre
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gilbane, Jr.
Mr. James Robo
Mr. Ramona Ann Spears
Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Walsh

ORDER OF INDEPENDENCE | $15,000 - $24,999
Anonymous (x2)
Mr. and Mrs. William & Mary Donnell
Mr. George T. Elmore
Mr. and Mrs. Brett & Brijin Frazee
Mr. Cary Ginter
Mr. and Mrs. Tom & Mary Giuffrida
Mrs. Martha B. Hartfield
Mr. and Mrs. Brand & Pamela Meyer
Mr. Stephen C. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Lee & Jenny Owen
Mr. Armando Pimentel
Mr. and Mrs. Del & Barbara Williamson
Mr. Paul S. Tischler

SOCIETY MEMBERS | $10,000 - $14,999
Anonymous (x2)
Mr. Miguel Arechabala
Mr. and Mrs. Barney Barnett
Mr. Arthur P. Bells
Mr. and Mrs. Gene & Joyce Bolton
Mr. David Laeb Brodsky
Mr. Larry E. Brown
Mrs. Fabiola Brumley
Mr. Dan Cane
Mrs. Deborah H. Caplan
Mr. and Mrs. Larry & Christine Carasman
Mr. and Mrs. Al & Karen Castaldi
Mr. Sean Cooper
Ms. Denise Crumm
Ms. Julie Fisher Cummings
Ms. Edith Di Francesco
Mr. and Mrs. Frank & Helga Doyle
Mr. and Mrs. Michael T. & Ruth Ann Dunn
Ms. Laura Anne Elder
Mr. and Mrs. Ray & Nancy Faloma
Mr. Alfonso "Alfy" Fanjul
Mr. Jose "Pepe" Fanjul
Mr. and Mrs. David & Tricia Foley
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney & Madeline Forbes
Mr. Sam A. Forrest
Mr. and Mrs. David & Judy Frey
Mr. Jim Salyer & Dr. Laurie J. George
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. & Summer J. Groves
Gursahaney Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Lew & Sherry Hay
Mr. George M. Jamgochian
Mr. and Mrs. John & Michelle Ketchum
Mr. Berton Korman
Dr. Rene Leere
Mr. and Mrs. Jon & Lori Levinson
Mr. Robert Levinson
Mr. Brinck Lowery
Mr. Mark Maisto
Mr. John Marasco
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur & Susan Menor
Ms. Kimberly R. Mullins
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nicklaus
Ms. Heather Nisbeth
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Perrella
Ms. Christine Petranka
Mr. and Mrs. Steve & Nancy Schwartz
Mr. Eric Silag
Mr. Lawrence Silverstein
Mr. Jeffrey Sopochin
Mr. James M. Strathmeyer, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. William Striebe
Mr. Keith A. VanderVeen
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Walcott
Mr. Peter Wellman
Mr. and Mrs. Charles & Meryl Witmer
Mr. William L. Yeager

*Deceased

If we have inadvertently made an error or omission, please accept our sincerest apologies. So we may correct the oversight, please contact:
Brian Edwards, Vice President of Major Gifts and Planned Giving
561-375-6649 or BrianEdwards@UnitedWayPBC.org

As of December 2019

JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING TOCQUEVILLE EVENTS!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH
An Evening with Harry Benson
5:30 – 8:00 PM | EMKO

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH
Honda Classic

Thank you Rehmann and Morgan Stanley for sponsoring this year’s exclusive United Way Day at The Honda Classic.
United Way of Palm Beach County hosted the 29th annual Project Thanksgiving this past year. The collaboration between United Way of Palm Beach County and CBS12 News aims to make sure every family has a warm meal on the table over the holiday season.

The community and local businesses hosted food drives and donated money that was used to provide families with grocery gift cards, so they could do their own shopping. In total, we raised more than $54,000 and collected 8,517 pounds of food from 17 collection sites. As a direct result of the generosity of our community, 7,097 meals were provided to 1,774 families through Project Thanksgiving. United we win!

Attendees had the unique opportunity to hear from one of America’s top business leaders, Jim McNerney. McNerney, former executive at GE and Boeing, shared personal stories and insights regarding leadership in this new era. Members enjoyed the candid conversation and a delicious meal at the chic Table 26° Palm Beach.