

## SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH DISASTER PREPARATION

A MESSAGE FROM DR. LAURIE GEORGE, PRESIDENT & CEO



With the pandemic slowly subsiding and hurricane season beginning, we are reminded that disasters can devastate our community and impact our neighbors at any time. United Way of Palm Beach County works on disaster preparedness every day as we live out our mission of ensuring everyone has access to basic needs.



As the lead partner agency in Palm Beach County Emergency Management Support Function 15 (ESF-15), our team members are trained and prepared to unite resources, mobilize volunteers, and help our community before, during, and after a crisis.

Part of United Way's strength in disaster preparation comes from our listening skills and collecting data on emerging needs. We are interviewing partners and conducting survey research to understand the community's post-pandemic needs and identify resource gaps.

In this newsletter are key learnings from our recent needs assessments, the actions already taken to meet needs, and insights that will impact where we carefully invest our donor dollars, including those received from MacKenzie Scott.

Thank you for taking bold action and for being the heart of Palm Beach County! I look forward to connecting with you again soon.



### HUNGER RELIEF

*181,340 residents in Palm Beach County struggle with hunger, a 9.24% reduction since last year. 52,580 of these residents are children who do not have enough to eat on a daily basis.*

Our hunger relief team and partners have more work to do, but are energized and motivated by the reduction in number of food insecure families and individuals to pre-pandemic numbers.

#### SUMMER HUNGER

While many students rejoice at the commencement of school for the summer, 64% of students enrolled in The School District of Palm Beach County who receive free and reduced lunches lose access to regular meals, leading to malnourishment over the summer months. United Way of Palm Beach County's hunger relief partners all across the county are serving free breakfast, lunch, and snacks to students 18 years and younger throughout the summer.



United Way's Hunger Relief team also implemented Summer BreakSpot FUN activities to keep students learning, moving, and engaged over the summer. This is an online program offering virtual activities Monday through Friday at 2:00 p.m. designed to accompany the free meals offered at Summer BreakSpot sites. Activities include reading, exercise, safety demonstrations, STEM projects, a writing competition, and more. All programs are virtual, so students can participate from wherever they live.

#### INVESTING IN YEAR-ROUND HUNGER RELIEF STRATEGIES: WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

Hunger exists year-round in our community. United Way's hunger relief team works to address needs and gaps in resources for children, seniors, building infrastructure through providing cold-storage units to food pantries, and developing innovative strategies in The Glades to ensure residents have access to nutritious food.

One of these strategies to nourish children and their families is the Weekend Backpack Program. While students receive access to free and reduced lunch Mondays through Fridays, many of these students and their entire families go hungry on the weekends. Each week during the school year, 1,116 children from low-income families receive a backpack full of food that will provide meals and supplementary items to the child's entire family over the weekend, providing up to 30 servings of food.



### 2019-20 HUNGER RELIEF IMPACT

Invested in 17 Programs & Initiatives

530 Volunteers Organized | \$31,075 Impact

2,207,225 Clients Served by our Funded Hunger Relief Programs and Initiatives





## Tocqueville Society Member Invests for Impact

*"Because we have been fortunate, we hope to make a positive difference in the lives of others"*

Recently, our Tocqueville Society members, **Paul and Leigh Tischler**, invested in this successful strategy to enhance this program to feed more children and their families and provide supplemental wrap-around services to students and parents who need additional resources. Often times, hunger is linked to other persistent problems that need to be addressed such as unemployment, lack of healthcare access, or homelessness.

At United Way, we believe that compassionate individuals are at the heart of the work that we do. That is why we partnered with Paul and Leigh to develop an innovative solution to prevent childhood and family hunger in Palm Beach County. Leigh was a teacher for 36 years in Montgomery County, Maryland and has also volunteered to help teachers right here in Jupiter, FL. Over the years, Leigh saw firsthand the impact that hunger has on a student's performance and recognized that it would take more than food resources to lift children and families out of chronic hunger. An innovator at heart, Paul is a fiscal and economic consulting expert with a passion for solving complex problems in an efficient and effective way. After seeing the devastating impact that the pandemic has had on childhood and family hunger locally, they decided to take action. Their collective passion and expertise on this issue inspired the development of the Enhanced Family Weekend Backpack program, which is scheduled to pilot this fall.

Through a multi-year investment, the goal of an additional 300 children at two low-income schools in Palm Beach County will receive weekend backpacks and wrap-around services with a goal of 810 students over three years. The two schools, Northmore Elementary and Westward Elementary, were selected for participation due to existing relationships and the high number of students on free and reduced lunch who would greatly benefit from this program.

Not only does this investment meet immediate needs of food insecurity, but it also fosters healthy development of our youth to keep them on track with learning and achieving educational milestones.

To learn how you can invest in long-term hunger relief strategies that are nourishing children and families in our community, contact:

**Nicole Shaia**  
[NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org](mailto:NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org)  
561.375.6635

# GETTING TO THE HEART OF PBC'S NEEDS

## United Way Conducts NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF COMMUNITY

United Way of Palm Beach County has a track record for thoughtfully and effectively investing in strategies that make a meaningful difference in the lives of the county's most vulnerable residents.

To accomplish this and position our funding efforts to meet emerging needs while sustaining funding for ongoing needs, United Way utilizes qualitative and quantitative research methods to engage with individuals and strategic partners from local businesses, nonprofits, government entities, and the community at-large to listen and understand the breadth of issues and depth of available resources.

To understand the long-term impact of COVID-19 on families of all socioeconomic levels and to intentionally leverage MacKenzie Scott's \$10 million gift to United Way of Palm Beach County, the United Way team engaged in two research projects: a survey of community members and in-depth interviews with nearly 50 partners in our work.



From February 24 through March 17, 2021, United Way of Palm Beach County conducted a survey to better understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local households.

2,604 local residents representing a variety of demographics completed the survey and were classified by household income, above and below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Threshold.

The report data is categorized by how the pandemic impacted challenges meeting basic needs: childcare, housing, food, healthcare, technology, and transportation. Among respondents, findings showed financial hardship and the impacts of the pandemic differed significantly by income and race/ethnicity.

Key Insights:

- 73% of all respondents stated contracting COVID-19 as their primary concern.
- Those below the ALICE Threshold were significantly more likely to be concerned about:
  - Having enough food for their household (60% ALICE to 29% non-ALICE).
  - Paying for housing expenses (76% ALICE to 41% non-ALICE).
- Black respondents were significantly more likely to answer they 'would not be able to pay for an emergency expense that costs \$400' than White respondents (50% to 24%).



Many United Way's across the state of Florida engaged their communities in COVID-19 Impact surveys. United Way of Palm Beach County's survey received the most completed responses and represented a widely diverse and representative sampling of families across demographics such as race, age, and income levels.

In addition to the survey results, United Way also engaged in in-depth interviews with local partners to add context and insights to the survey data.

## MacKenzie Scott GRANT STRATEGY RESEARCH

United Way of Palm Beach County engaged a local nonprofit consultant to conduct internal and external research and help the organization outline specific strategies and tactics designed to support UWPBC's efforts for growing, leveraging, and allocating the funding in ways that will ensure that the funds from MacKenzie Scott are impactful long into the future.

Thirty-one information sources were reviewed and 18 key informant interviews were conducted. Based upon this research, it was recommended that UWPBC focus the investment of MacKenzie Scott funding on efforts designed to amplify the successful work UWPBC is currently leading through the Hunger Relief Initiative as well as the implementation of MISSION UNITED in support of veterans.

Other areas of funding could also include: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion initiatives; United Way of Palm Beach County Internal Capacity Building; and Reserves for providing foundational support for the organization for years to come.

Dollars are currently being responsibly invested, based on recommendations from the UWPBC Finance and Investment Committee and approved by the UWPBC Board of Directors, until the spending plan for cash outflow is formalized.

With the quality data from the COVID-19 Impact Survey and the rich insights from the in-depth interviews, the United Way team will continue to establish strategies, tactics, benchmark data, and outcomes for this funding that will be implemented over a three-year period.



# TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY *MEMBERS*

## **MILLION DOLLAR ROUNDTABLE** **\$1,000,000 and above (Cumulative Giving)**

Countess Henrietta de Hoernle\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur & Sara Jo Kobacker\*  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. & Mary Ann Perper\*  
Mr. John F. Scarpa  
Ms. MacKenzie Scott  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zimmerman

## **NATIONAL SOCIETY** **\$100,000 - \$999,999 (Annually)**

Mr. James L. Robo & Mrs. Meredith B. Trim  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. & Leigh Tischler

## **ORDER OF EQUALITY | \$50,000 - \$74,999**

Anonymous (1)  
Mr. Robert M. Beren

## **ORDER OF LIBERTY | \$25,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous (1)  
Bernard & Pamela Barbash Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen & Gabriella Demeritt  
Mr. and Mrs. George & Mary Giguere  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gilbane, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee S. & Jenny Owen  
Mrs. Ramona Ann Spears  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Walsh, Jr.

## **ORDER OF INDEPENDENCE | \$15,000 - \$24,999**

Anonymous (2)  
Mrs. Deborah H. Caplan  
Mr. and Mrs. William E. & Mary Donnell  
Mr. George T. Elmore  
Mr. Cary W. Ginter  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom A. & Judith Giuffrida  
Mrs. Martha B. Hartfiel  
Mr. Brinck Lowery  
Kathleen and T. Christopher Mara Fund Trust  
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen C. Moore  
Mr. Henry Ristuccia

*\*Deceased*

*List as of July 2021*

*If we have inadvertently made an error or omission, please accept our sincerest apologies. So we may correct the oversight, please contact:  
Nicole Shaia, Director of Major Gifts | [NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org](mailto:NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org)  
561-375-6635*

## **SOCIETY MEMBERS | \$10,000 - \$14,999**

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Barnett  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur P. Bellis  
Mr. Jonathan Berger  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene & Joyce Bolton  
The David Brodsky Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry E. Brown  
Mrs. Fabiola N. Brumley  
Mr. Dan Cane  
Mr. and Mrs. Larry & Christine Carsman  
Mr. and Mrs. Al R. & Karen Castaldi  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank & Marguerite Compiani  
Mr. Sean O. Cooper  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. & Julie F. Cummings  
Ms. Edith Di Francesco  
Mrs. Helga Doyle  
Ms. Laura Anne Elder  
Mr. and Mrs. Ray & Nancy Faloon  
Mr. Alfonso "Alfy" B. Fanjul  
Mr. Mark Foley  
Mr. and Mrs. Sidney E. & Madeline Forbes  
Mr. and Mrs. Brett & Brijin Frazee  
Mr. and Mrs. David G. & Judy Frey  
Mr. Barry Garber  
Mr. Alan N. Garcia  
Mr. Jim Sahnger & Dr. Laurie J. George  
Ms. Melanie Sunshine Giorno  
Ms. Donna Glenn  
Mr. and Mrs. Haynes & Ginger Griffin  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. & Summer J. Groves  
Gursahaney Family Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Lew & Sherry Hay III  
Mrs. Sallie Korman  
Ms. Margaret Krupa  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard & Kerrie Lance  
Mr. and Mrs. Jon R. & Lori Levinson  
Mr. Robert E. Levinson  
Mr. and Mrs. H. Irwin & Ellen Levy  
Mr. John P. Marasco  
Mr. and Mrs. Sergio A. Mariaca  
Mr. W James Mc Nerney, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. & Suzanne Menor  
Mr. and Mrs. Brand & Pamela Meyer  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Nicklaus  
Ms. Heather Nisbeth  
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Perrella  
Ms. Christine M. Petranchuk  
Principal Financial Group Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve B. & Nancy Schwartz  
Mr. Eric E. Silagy  
Mr. John Slyh  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey A. Sopshin  
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Striebe, Jr.  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger B. Walcott, Jr.  
Mr. Timothy Wilhelmy  
Mr. and Mrs. Del & Barbara Williamson  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Zimmerman

## TOCQUEVILLE SOCIETY MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**We are thrilled to recognize and honor one of our long-time Tocqueville Society members, MR. H. IRWIN LEVY.**

Mr. Levy is one of Palm Beach County's most outstanding and recognized philanthropists. He is known throughout our community for his relentless work ethic, creativity, and outside-the-box thinking. One of many incredible examples, is the establishment of Century Village by acting on his vision to grow Palm Beach County's reputation as a top destination place in South Florida.

Throughout his lifetime, he has invested into over 400 charities, both locally and internationally. Mr. Levy learned about United Way of Palm Beach County's efforts in the community and began donating to our mission in 2000. He has been a loyal supporter ever since, giving generously to make his community stronger and helping to meet emerging needs. His incredible beneficence paired with United Way's results-oriented focus led him to become a Tocqueville Society member in 2002. His lifetime giving to United Way of Palm Beach County has topped \$211,850 and has impacted thousands of residents over the years by providing hard working families access to basic needs and helped our community recover from small and large crises.

"Mr. Levy is a world-class philanthropist, humanitarian, and visionary. I am deeply grateful for his enduring commitment to United Way of Palm Beach County's mission," said Laurie George, President & CEO of United Way of Palm Beach County.

In his 95 years, Mr. Levy has held many hats, including being a successful lawyer, a real estate guru, a community developer, a philanthropist, and most importantly, a father and grandfather. He has sown this devotion and enthusiasm of altruism deep into his legacy through his son, Mark Levy. Mark is also a contributor to many local nonprofits and carries on his father's compassion and commitment to giving back with his time, talents, and treasures. United Way of Palm Beach County extends its utmost gratitude to Mr. Levy for his lifetime work, which will impact the Palm Beach County community for generations to come.

### **Bank of America: Impacting Thousands of Lives in Palm Beach County**

Our team is humbled to accept a generous \$40,000 donation from our corporate partner, Bank of America! This gift helps us continue our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and help feed more families, children, and seniors through our Hunger Relief Initiative.

"Investing in the United Way of Palm Beach County has been very important focus area for both my company, Bank of America, and also me personally through the Tocqueville Society. We've had a long time partnership spanning decades, and it's been rewarding to see the critical work, collaboration and immediate impact that programs like the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program and hunger relief initiative bring to those in need in Palm Beach County".

*Fabiola Brumley, PBC President and Vice Chairman Business Banking at Bank of America, Tocqueville Society Member, Board Member*



# HELP THE HELPERS

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United Way of Palm Beach County partnered with the Nonprofit Chamber of Palm Beach County to launch the Help the Helpers Initiative to recognize the outstanding work of nonprofit staffs during the pandemic.

Earlier this year, executive directors throughout Palm Beach County's nonprofit sector brought to the attention of United Way of Palm Beach County leadership concerns about the emotional wellness of their staff members who have faced growing caseloads and additional personal and professional stress as the result of the pandemic. Their wish was to be able to acknowledge and reward their continued commitment to helping the community during the current pandemic and beyond. United Way of Palm Beach County listened and, in an unprecedented move, convened the network of local funders to raise \$433,000 and created the Help the Helpers Initiative.

"Nonprofits have always been the lifeline of our community, but they have been relied on even more so over the past 15 months as they worked to meet emerging needs created by the pandemic. We wanted to create a simple and meaningful way to honor and thank our nonprofit partners and their employees for going above and beyond in serving Palm Beach County," shared Laurie George, Ph.D., President & CEO of United Way of Palm Beach County. United Way of Palm Beach County, along with additional funding partners including The Jim Moran Foundation, The Frederick A. DeLuca Foundation, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties, Bank of America, and Allegany Franciscan Ministries, collaborated to provide this grant opportunity

Funds from the grant may be used for training opportunities focused on self-care and stress reduction, adoption of supports provided by an Employee Assistance Program (EAP), direct monetary contributions, or a gift card to each staff member as a thank you for their selfless work.



## United Way's Role in Disaster Response

June was the official start of hurricane season, which means our team is standing by to help our community prepare, recover, and rebuild from any disaster. United Way of Palm Beach County plays a critical role in Palm Beach County's disaster response efforts. Our Volunteer Center is the lead volunteer agency for Palm Beach County Emergency Management ESF-15 before, during, and after hurricanes and other disasters.

In this role, we recruit and coordinate volunteers year-round to support the relief effort in the county. That responsibility includes deploying United Way's trained volunteers and opening a Volunteer Reception Center (VRC) to mobilize volunteers within 72 hours after a disaster strikes.

United Way also promotes disaster preparedness before a crisis. Our Disaster Response staff are collaborating with local partners to help ensure local families are prepared to recover from whatever this hurricane season brings.



**Nicole Shaia, Director of Major Gifts**  
[NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org](mailto:NicoleShaia@UnitedWayPBC.org)  
561-375-6635

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