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**United Way of Palm Beach County and Nonprofit Chamber Partner to Launch
'Help the Helpers' Initiative**

\$433,000 Raised to Support Nonprofit Employees' Wellbeing

The Nonprofit Chamber of Palm Beach County has launched the Help the Helpers Initiative to recognize the outstanding work of nonprofit staffs during the pandemic. The Chamber received this one-of-its-kind grant which was initiated by United Way of Palm Beach County, and was joined by other major funders in the community to allow nonprofit agencies to provide well-being support to their employees.

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. The 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.

This important initiative recognizes and supports the well-being of nonprofit employees for their dedication as essential employees in providing critical services to our community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. It is open to Chamber members, as well as grantees of the funders.

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.

"The focus of this grant is unprecedented. It speaks volumes about the Palm Beach County funder community. When nonprofit employees receive this recognition, it will let them know how much they are valued, not only by their employers, but the funding community, as well. These staff members at every level are certainly essential workers for our community," said Marlene Passell, manager of the Nonprofit Chamber of Palm Beach County.

The pandemic forced nonprofits to do more with less. Agencies struggled to keep their doors open as the need for their services skyrocketed. Nonprofit employees worked tirelessly and, through the pandemic, carried the emotion of seeing the impact firsthand at work while many faced their own challenges at home.

The hope is that this grant will be a first step for executive directors and boards of directors to institute an ongoing employee wellness plan within their organizational culture.

About United Way of Palm Beach County: For more than 90 years, United Way of Palm Beach County has been the local leader dedicated to identifying and addressing critical community issues to improve the lives of our residents. We champion community change by strategically uniting key stakeholders and community leaders and investing in successful, sustainable nonprofits. United Way funds 100 local programs and initiatives that provide lasting solutions and measurable results – from increasing graduation rates and supporting literacy to ensuring financial independence, promoting healthy lifestyles, and ending hunger. When you support United Way of Palm Beach County, you are strengthening your community. To learn more, call (561) 375-6600 or visit www.UnitedWayPBC.org.

The Nonprofit Chamber of Palm Beach County is comprised of the CEOs and executive directors of health and human services nonprofits in Palm Beach County, giving them a forum for sharing of ideas, advocacy, and collaboration. To apply for membership, visit www.nonprofitchamberpbc.org or call (561) 877-2213.