

United Way Impact Initiatives

United Way of St. Lucie County is working hard to advance the common good by focusing on education, income and health. These are the building blocks for a good life: a quality education that leads to a stable job, enough income to support a family through retirement, and good health.

Here are some of the newest initiatives at United Way of St. Lucie County, developed to respond to the growing needs of the community.

School Supplies for Students

This program provides children in need with the basic tools necessary to be successful in school. Educators overwhelmingly agree that students with the appropriate supplies at the start of school are more prepared for class, eager to work, and, in general have a better attitude toward school. For older students, it can be a reason to stay in school. The program has provided supplies for over 30,000 children in the past 12 years.

Volunteer St. Lucie

Our newest project in progress is Volunteer St. Lucie, a full service volunteer organization to address the need of a single entity to recruit and place volunteers, as well as promote volunteerism in St. Lucie County. We hope to have this new program operational by the end of 2009.

Access to Health Care

Increases in the number of uninsured individuals in our area and their reliance on emergency rooms for primary care has resulted in increased costs of providing health care and poor health maintenance. Recognizing this growing need, United Way's Board of Directors approved \$75,000 for start up and operational support of the Access to Health Care Clinic. Once opened, it will provide access to health care for indigent, uninsured and working poor individuals in St. Lucie County.

Hunger Initiative

United Way of St. Lucie County partners with local programs to bridge the gap in hunger services through our Hunger Initiative. We provided \$55,000 to establish a food credit system for member agencies of our local food bank, which allows them to increase and expand access to food. An additional \$20,000 was dedicated to create a food voucher system for families who have applied for food stamps. The vouchers allow families to get food during the 30 days between food stamp application and receipt of food stamps.

For more information about United Way of St. Lucie County initiatives, please contact Karen Knapp at 772-464-5300.