

United Way reaches goal for 29th year in row

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The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has concluded the 2021-22 Campaign, and met the campaign goal of \$11.1 million. This is the 29th consecutive year that the goal has been met or exceeded.

Campaign Chairs Noelle Branning (Lee County Tax Collector) and Corey Vertich (Uhler & Vertich Financial Planning) announced that local residents and companies contributed a record amount of \$11.1 million to the campaign. The theme of the 2021-2022 United Way Campaign was "Back to the Future".

"The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades met its fundraising goal of \$11.1 million despite an economy devastated by COVID-19 and rising inflation. It is stunning and speaks volumes about the generosity of our community," states Branning.

Alexis de Tocqueville donors are those that donate over \$10,000 to United Way. This year, Alexis de Tocqueville donors, led by the esteemed David Lucas, comprised 46.8% of the campaign. Mr. Lucas has a 32-year history of fostering philanthropy among his United Way peers resulting in almost \$53.3 million going back to the community.

This year, with David's encouragement, there was an additional \$670,382 donated to the campaign; a 10.5% increase over last year's totals. Mr. Lucas brought in an additional 32 members to the group, which brings this year's total to 217 members, and a record-shattering \$5,193,688.

The top local contributing companies and communities are as follows:

TOP UNITED WAY CONTRIBUTORS

Million Dollar Circle of Excellence: Bonita Bay Community; Publix

\$500,000 Circle of Excellence: Islands of Sanibel & Captiva; Bonita Bay Group

\$300,000 Circle of Excellence: Beesley's Paw Prints

\$200,000 Circle of Excellence: FineMark National Bank & Trust; Pelican Landing Community; Grandezza Community; Fiddlesticks Community; LCEC

\$100,000 Circle of Excellence: Lee Health; Lee Board of County Commissioners; Shell Point Community; Gulf Harbour Community; The Brooks Com-



Local residents and companies contributed a record amount of \$11.1 million to the campaign. PROVIDED

community; Lee County School District

All money raised in the United Way Campaign stays in the local community to help support the local human service network. United Way partner agencies and initiatives like Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, Child Care of Southwest Florida, The Salvation Army, Bonita Springs Assistance, Lighthouse of Southwest Florida, Mission United and United Way 211 serve a diverse range of needs in our community such as nurturing children and youth, strengthening families and meeting critical needs such as helping the elderly and disabled live independently and empowering communities by bringing health and human services to neighborhoods.

In addition to supporting 90 Partner Agencies and over 260 programs, in 2021 United Way provided:

- 85,213 articles of clothing, hygiene products, and school supplies to students in need through the United Way School Resource Center, over \$2.4 million impact.
- 1,608 veterans with resources for housing, counseling, and care coordination.
- Tax returns for 6,800 individuals and families resulting in \$10.8 million from refunds and fees going back into the Southwest Florida economy.
- Response to 76,370 United Way 211 calls directing families and residents to much needed services.

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has raised and distributed over **\$210 million** since it was established in

1957. For more information, please call United Way at 239.433.2000 or visit www.UnitedWayLee.org.



Community Thrift Store

Flag Day SALE

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2022

25% OFF

ALL RED,
WHITE,
OR BLUE
ITEMS

FLY YOUR FLAG and then shop at Community Thrift Store for National Flag Day! Includes items such as a RED polo shirt, a WHITE coffee maker, or a BLUE sofa.

HOURS:
Tuesday - Saturday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Closed Sunday and Monday

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