



We fight for the Health, Education and Financial Stability of every person in every community we serve.

#thrivability



How will you *truly give* to change community?



"It's when you give of yourself that you truly give." Kahlil Gibran

Something we learned from speaking with more than 400 community members is that people want to find ways to connect with one another. There is not enough communication and even less appreciation for the value of the diversity that exists among us, the challenges we face and the triumphs we experience. How can we change that? The quote above gives us our first clue. When we give of ourselves, truly give, we not only feel better, it also makes it impossible to disengage. In order to give in the way that changes lives, we need to learn

about the challenge, have a reason for the why, and invest in the outcome.

[Click Here to Read Full Article](#)

To make an End of Year Donation, click [HERE](#)

Bronwyn Beightol
Chief Operating Officer

MONTHLY REPORT

**HERALD-TRIBUNE FEATURES "WELCOME TO READINGPALS"
By SPIRE CoLab Correspondent, Vin Mannix
December 11, 2016**

MANATEE COUNTY -Eve's smile lit up the classroom at Florine Abel Elementary School as she skipped toward our work table, but the 5-year-old didn't sit down. Instead, she did a model's half-turn and waited for me to guess why she was beaming. It was a pair of new sneakers with heels that light up! But there was something else she wanted me to see: two animated characters on the backs of the sneakers. "Who are they?" I asked. Eve looked at me like, YOU DON'T KNOW?! Uh-oh. "It's Elsa and Anna!" she said, her arms akimbo. Of course, the sisters in Walt Disney's "Frozen." D'oh! Welcome to ReadingPals.

[**Click Here to Read Full Article**](#)



**TEAM UNITED WAY GIVES BACK!
December 6, 2016**

United Way of Manatee County team members took a "Working Lunch Break" to volunteer at [Foundation for Dreams and Dream Oaks Camp](#). Foundation for Dreams provides year-round weekend, spring break and summer residential camp sessions for children with varying ability levels and chronic/terminal medical conditions. The team helped turn the camp into a winter wonderland by decorating, gift-wrapping, and setting up an arts and crafts area for their Holiday Party. Looking for ways to volunteer in our community? Visit HandsOnManatee.org



SHARING JOY WITH UGLY SWEATERS

December 8, 2016

United Way Board Members and Key Volunteers gathered with loved ones to celebrate a year's worth of success with an Ugly Sweater Party! Although it is not all fun and games, United Way's work depends on the heartfelt dedication of our volunteers. The Community Investment Team, Engagement Team, and Board Committees help reflect the voice of our community and their efforts through governance, allocations, fundraising, and engagement, lead our community to a stronger future. Interested in joining the fun and becoming a Key Volunteer?

[Email Carolyn Griffin for more information](#)



Carols in the Courtyard and Craft Fair December 9, 2016

Manatee County volunteers and community vendors sold their wares for United Way! Holiday cheer was in the air as hand-made crafts, cookies, wreaths, poinsettias and more were purchased to support our community. Attendees enjoyed a fresh BBQ lunch and sang carols to ring in the season.



UPCOMING EVENTS

NEIGHBORHOOD MEET & GREET

Wednesday, January 25 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Manatee Chamber of Commerce / United Way of Manatee County

**McClure Center
4215 Concept Court
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34211**

RSVP Required: Please contact Sharon Barhorst 941-224-0171



Neighborhood Meet & Greet Come meet your new neighbors
& connect with your community!

- Learn how to Volunteer • Fun Things to do
- Meet New Residents • Healthy Activities for Family
- How to Protect your Assets in Florida

Free Wine, Appetizers & Door Prizes

January 25 | March 15 | May 17
from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM at
Manatee Chamber of Commerce/
United Way of Manatee County
In the McClure Center
4215 Concept Court
Lakewood Ranch, Florida 34211



WELCOME MAT SERVICES™
Independently Owned & Operated Franchise

CANVAS FOR A CAUSE

January 30th from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm.

Pinot Picasso and Manatee County Government Volunteers cordially invite you to eat, drink, paint, and be merry! Come out and support United Way in a one-of-a-kind outing at Pinot Picasso. This is an interactive art studio where you can let your hair down and your creative juices flow. You will be guided through your painting step-by-step with a talented artist while enjoying music and your food and drinks. At the end of the night your heart will be warm, and you will take home your very own masterpiece! (Painting Shown Below)

Bring your snacks, appetizers and your favorite drink, water will be provided.

Admission is \$35 with \$10 going back to benefit United Way.

Register on-line at www.pinotpicasso.net

Select the Jan 30th Class and Type in the Comments that you are supporting the United Way of

Manatee County.

**** Minimum of 10 painters for this benefit. ***
*



 Forward to a Friend

STAY CONNECTED:



DONATE

OR

Text 'future' to 40403



GIVE



ADVOCATE



VOLUNTEER

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to amoores@uwmc.net by bbeightol@uwmc.net | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).



United Way of Manatee County | 1701 Tamiami Trail | Bradenton | FL | 34205

THIS IS A TEST EMAIL ONLY.

This email was sent by the author for the sole purpose of testing a draft message. If you believe you have received the message in error, please contact the author by replying to this message. Constant Contact takes reports of abuse very seriously. If you wish to report abuse, please forward this message to abuse@constantcontact.com.