

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

#thrivability

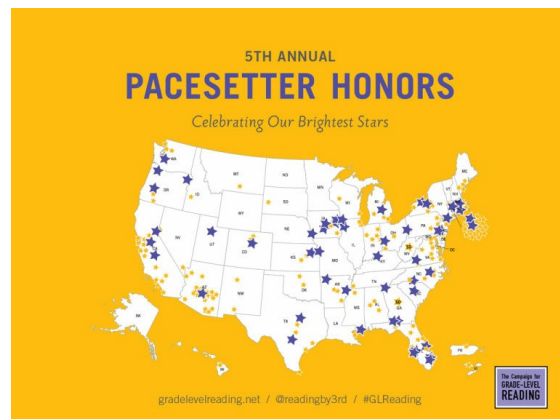


Monthly Report

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Receives National Pacesetters Award

We're excited to share that the national Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has recognized the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading as a Pacesetter for leading by example to solve the challenges that can undermine early literacy.

"This Pacesetter award underscores the need for, and the success of, thoughtful community partnerships," said Bronwyn Beightol, Chief Operating Officer of United Way of Manatee County. "A dedicated, collaborative focus on our children's education is essential to the Campaign's success."



United Way Builds Future Leaders with MCon2017

United Way joined Manatee County Government's MCon2017 Millennial Conference to share the joy of giving back with our community's millennials. United Way played two parts in the week-long conference held for young professionals. First as a volunteer recruiter and organizer for Cyclovia, which converted a stretch 57th Ave West (between 26th Street West and 34th Street West) into a car-free, safe environment for families to bike, skate, scooter, walk, or dance.



Then, United Way wrapped up the last day of the conference with MCon Day of Service. Volunteers helped Lincoln Middle School's urban farm by assisting with gardening, hydroponics, earth boxes, livestock, and more. The urban farm provides a hands-on learning experience for the students as well as access to healthy foods. During the conference, United Way team members Cassandra Decker and Katie Becker spoke with the group about the power of community service and shared United Way's mission. Thank you to all those who volunteered and to Manatee County Government for helping to build our community's next civic leaders.



[Click Here to Read Herald-Tribune Article](#)

Wizard of Oz Tin CANstruction

Thank you to all who participated in Lincoln Middle Schools FFA "Wizard of Oz Tin CanStruction! Following Publix Serves Day, United Way of Manatee County, Manatee County Government, and Lincoln Middle School's FFA HORT (Hunger Outreach Response Team) held a Wizard of Oz Tin CANstruction event to help fight hunger in our community. Together, we collected 1,287 pounds of food for our partners at The Food Bank of Manatee County.



AAA South Sarasota Team, Dorothy's Basket; Manatee County Government Library Team, Yellow Brick Road and Emerald City; ReadingPals & United Way Team, Demolishing Hunger Wall; Eaton & Lakewood Ranch National Honor Society Students, Tin Man

[Click Here to View Video](#)

2017 A.L.I.C.E. REPORT UPDATE: Community Conversation

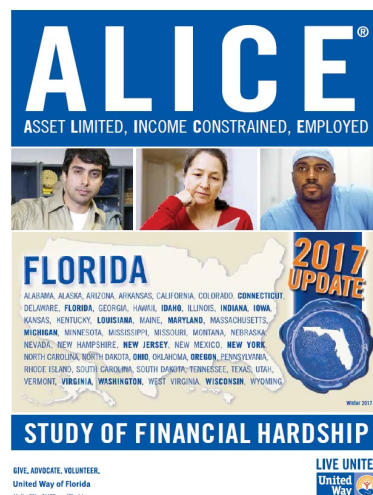
On Friday, April 14th, over 100 community members gathered at State College of Florida's Lakewood Ranch Campus to learn about the current status of ALICE in our community. Lars Gilberts, Statewide Director for the United Way of Florida's ALICE program, along with a panel of community leaders addressed the findings of the newly released 2017 ALICE report and spoke candidly about the every-day struggles ALICE families face in our community, such as access to affordable housing, child care and transportation.

This community conversation continues to build awareness and language around ALICE and supports cross-sector solutions that help more families to avoid falling into poverty.

■ Of Manatee County's 134,690 households, 12 percent were below the poverty level and another 31 percent were still unable to make a "survival budget."

■ Of Sarasota County's 177,807 households, 8 percent lived in poverty and another 25 percent met the ALICE definition.

WHO IS ALICE?





Left to Right: Lars Gilberts, ALICE Program Statewide Director, United Way of Broward County; Debbie L. LaPinska, Vice President of Human Resources, PGT Industries Inc.; Sandra Frank JD, CEO, All Faiths Food Bank; Mireya Eavey, Sarasota Area President, United Way Suncoast and Executive Director, CareerEdge; Kevin Cooper, President and CEO, The Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce

[Click Here to Read Herald-Tribune Article:
United Way seeks community help for those at risk of poverty](#)

[Click Here To Read Herald-Tribune Article:
ALICE living in Florida, on the brink of poverty](#)

Companies LIVE UNITED

Publix Associates Give Time, Energy and Sweat During Publix Serves Day

There was a sea of green swarming around the front of Lincoln Middle School on April 4, 2017. Associates from Publix stores in Manatee County showed up ready to work, and work they did. 110 volunteers completely transformed the front landscaping of Lincoln Middle School, turning old grass into colorful beds of flowers and foliage. Another team of 65 volunteers joined the Boys and Girls Club in Palmetto and completed several additional beautification projects.

Publix Serves Day is an annual company tradition that began in 2015, inspired by the late Publix founder George Jenkins, whose legacy ingrained a deep and passionate commitment for giving back and improving our communities.



Top Schools Recognized for Student United Way Days

This school year, forty-one Manatee County Schools rose to the challenge set by Dr. Greene to host a United Way Student Day. Participating schools engaged students in fundraising efforts such as spare change programs, special dress days, and movie days while teaching the importance of giving back and supporting community.

Over all, the students raised more than \$18,000 for United Way of Manatee County. The "High Achiever" school, McNeal Elementary, was recognized at the April 11, 2017 School Board Meeting, and the following top schools, Haile Middle School, Moody Elementary School, Witt Elementary, Ballard Elementary School, and Williams Elementary School were recognized at the Principals' Meeting on April 19, 2017. A special thanks were given to the Food and Nutrition Department who provided healthy snacks for many of the fundraisers.



Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) Holds Power to Save Event at United Way

On Wednesday, April 26, FPL hosted Power to Save at United Way. Launched in 2016, the Power to Save program aims to help customers find new ways to keep their energy bills low and save money.

Community members were invited to take advantage of a Free Energy Efficiency Makeover with products, tools and services valued at \$500. 40 homes in Bradenton took part in the service, which included a free home energy survey, A/C unit maintenance and duct system repair, among other services. An additional 200 customers and community members visited the United Way to learn helpful tips, sign up for free programs to save energy, learn about additional programs in the community, and enjoy a free BBQ meal.

Thank you to FPL and the following partners who participated; the City of Bradenton, Meals on Wheels PLUS, Goodwill Manasota, The Salvation Army Manatee County, Manatee County Government and Manatee Community Action Agency.



FPL customer Teondra Mathews, who participated in FPL's Power to Save program, received a free energy efficiency makeover which included a new low-flow shower-head, weather stripping, A/C filter cleaning, and a personalized energy savings report.

COMING UP

Tampa Area ReadingPals Summer Reading Kits Project

Sunday, May 7th

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Ferg's Live, 490 Channelside Dr.

Tampa, FL 33602

Join us to put together literacy kits for students to take home from school for the summer. The kits will help them practice their reading skills and avoid the "summer slide" while they are out of school.

[Click Here to Register](#)

Brew Bus Brewing

Wednesday, May 10th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

4101 N Florida Ave.

What better way to celebrate the midpoint of the work week than Happy Hour? How about a Happy Hour that gives back to charity? So ditch the kitchen and join us at the Brew Bus for Give Back Wednesday (May 10th), where 20% of all house draft and food sales will go to United Way Suncoast.

Kindergarten Readiness Days

Organized by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading

Join us for Kindergarten Readiness Days! There will be fun activities to participate with your child to get them ready for Kindergarten!

Saturday, May 13th

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Central Library
1301 Barcarota Boulevard West
Bradenton, FL 34205

Saturday, May 20th

10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Palmetto Library
923 6th St. W
Palmetto, FL 34221



United Way Community Appreciation Celebration

Save-the-Date

Tuesday, June 20th

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Manatee Performing Arts Center
502 3rd Ave. W
Bradenton, FL 34205

Join us as we celebrate and recognize the many company partners, non-profit partners, donors, volunteers, and neighbors who have made an impact in our community this year.



Please Contact Katie Becker at Katie@uwmanatee.org for Sponsorship Opportunities

 [Forward to a Friend](#)

STAY CONNECTED:



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OR

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GIVE



ADVOCATE



VOLUNTEER
