

# INVESTMENT & PROGRAM OUTCOMES

## in SARASOTA COUNTY



United Way Suncoast provides leadership that improves lives and creates lasting community change by mobilizing the caring people of our communities to give, advocate, and volunteer. United Way Suncoast provides pathways to education and financial stability that give everyone in our community the freedom to rise.

### COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

#### ALICE % from United Way

From the most recent United For ALICE report, 38% of Sarasota County residents are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) or Below – These hard-working families reside above the poverty line, but stand one unexpected expense away from dire circumstances. In Sarasota County, United Way Suncoast programs and our Strategic Community Partners served 10,459 people, 95% of which identify as ALICE individuals.

#### \$ Invested

\$1.25 million invested in Strategic Community Partners and other community support programs, with an additional \$318,000 into United Way Suncoast programs and administration

#### # of Strategic Community Partners

16 funded partner programs

#### Focus Areas

Early Learning, Financial Stability, VITA, Eviction Mitigation

#### State of Early Learning

**Florida Kindergarten Readiness (FLKRS):** Only 50% of kindergarteners are coming to school ready to learn in Sarasota County.

**Florida Standards Assessment (FSA):** Only 41% of students in UWS Schools of Focus in Sarasota County are reading on or above grade level.

#### Volunteers

Over 2,400 volunteer hours served in Sarasota last year

#### Youth Success

**Youth homelessness** – only 60% of homeless young people graduate on time, with 30% dropping out altogether

**Economic status** – Economically disadvantaged students are 4x as many students who are economically disadvantaged drop out of high school compared to their peers. Students who receive a free or reduced price lunch are considered “economically disadvantaged” according to the Florida Department of Education.

#### State of Housing

As of June 2022, households with an annual household income of ~\$7,000 are “Rent-Cost Burdened” meaning more than 30% of their income is dedicated to rent.

#### Eviction and Housing Partners in the Sarasota, Manatee, and Desoto region:

- All Faiths Food Bank
- Women’s Resource Center
- Glasser-Schoenbaum
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice
- Gulfcoast Legal
- Suncoast Community Mediation

### EVICITION AND HOUSING

**410,000**  
DOLLARS

were raised and leveraged to provide direct support to keep families in their homes.

**889**  
PEOPLE

In the Sarasota region, 889 people were kept in their home or achieved new, stable housing as a result of UWS supported Community Navigator work.

**337**  
HOUSEHOLDS

The Women’s Resource Center served an additional 337 households through the Florida Blue Community Navigator program and provided 224 successful referrals to employment or workforce development programs.

### EARLY LEARNING

**1,734**  
HOUSEHOLDS

8 Early Learning focused Strategic Community Partner Programs in Sarasota County served 1,734 households, with 84% of those households.

#### QCI AND SCHOOLS OF FOCUS

The UWS Quality Child Care Initiative in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition in Sarasota County provided 447 hours of teacher training.

Both UWS and our partners supported 627 children to demonstrate age-appropriate communication, vocabulary, and other early literacy skills or progress.

#### UWS schools of focus:

- Alta Vista Elementary School
- Emma E. Booker Elementary School
- Gocio Elementary School
- Tuttle Elementary School
- Wilkinson Elementary School

### VITA

**5**  
SITES

**1,000**  
RETURNS

**\$244,800**  
SAVED IN TAX  
PREPARATION  
FEES

**\$1,480,966**  
IN REFUNDS  
RETURNED TO THE  
COMMUNITY

Early Learning map: <https://bit.ly/3DIsCy0>