

# INVESTMENT & PROGRAM OUTCOMES

## in MANATEE COUNTY



United Way Suncoast provides pathways to education and financial stability that give everyone in our community the freedom to rise. Our community impact strategy leads us to invest funds and resources into specific communities where our ALICE families live. By identifying zones of focus for our investments, we ensure that our partnerships are best positioned to maximize and multiply impact.

### COMMUNITY CONDITIONS

#### ALICE in Manatee County

**41% of households in Manatee County fall within or below the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold.**

These hard-working families reside above the poverty line but are forced to make tough financial choices, such as deciding between quality child care or paying the rent. These choices can have long term consequences not only for their families, but for all. In Manatee County, our partners served 3,699 individuals, 94% of those community members identify as ALICE.

#### Dollars Invested

\$961,906 invested into Strategic Community Partner programs serving Manatee County, with an additional \$1,381,731 into other partnerships, programs, and initiatives serving Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties.

#### Number of Strategic Community Partners

46 Strategic Community Partners including 11 investment partners

#### Focus Areas

Early Learning, Financial Stability, United We Learn

#### Volunteers

Over 2,100 volunteer hours served in Manatee County last year.

#### State of Early Learning

- **Florida Kindergarten Readiness (FLKRS):** In 2021-22, approximately 46% of kindergartners were “Ready for Kindergarten” in Manatee. Students who complete Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten are more likely to be prepared for kindergarten than those who do not.

### UNITED WAY SUNCOAST PROGRAMS

**200 HOURS**

Quality Childcare Initiative engaged with 60 teachers nearly doubling participants from the previous year with more than 200 hours of teacher training.

**5,318 BOOKS**

Distributed through United Way led programming, over 2,000 more books and literacy kits than last year.

**660 HOURS**

The Reading Room nearly doubled the number of program hours offered to more than 660 hours, which provides necessary reading and learning materials for children and their families.

**32 EVENTS**

United We Learn – Saw a 52% increase in the number of community and family events held to promote literacy in the county.

- **Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST):** In 2022-23, 47% of Manatee 3rd grade students were reading at or above grade level. Within UWS schools of focus, only 27% of students read on grade level.

#### Reading Rates by demographics

- **Homeless Status** – In 2021-22, 25% of 3rd grade students who are homeless are reading at or above grade level.
- **Economic status** – In 2021-22, only 37% of students who are identified as economically disadvantaged are reading at or above grade level.

#### Eviction and Housing

- Average 2 Bedroom Rent in Manatee: \$1,908. As of June 2023, households with an annual household income of \$69,000 are “Rent-Cost Burdened” meaning more than 30% of their income is dedicated to rent.
- As part of our RISE Eviction Investment, we have formed partnerships with the following agencies in the region: All Faiths Food Bank, Women’s Resource Center, Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center, Catholic Charities of Venice, Gulf Coast Legal, and Suncoast Community Mediation.

### EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE

**3.8K**

**COMMUNITY MEMBERS**

Served in Manatee County during FY 2023.

**238**

**CHILDREN**

received an increased amount of food access from our partners.

**1,189**

**STUDENTS**

Who worked with our partner programs in FY 2023 are now reading on grade level or demonstrating progress.

### EVICTION AND HOUSING

**\$766,848 DOLLARS**

In direct assistance provided to families through RISE Eviction Cohort programs based in Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto. The Rise Eviction Cohort more than doubled the number of community members supported this year to +2,320 community members. 2,277 of them were kept in their home or achieved new or stable housing, which is a 98% success rate.

**\$234,340 DOLLARS**

In additional ERA, government or other public or private funding to support rental assistance efforts for families through the Women’s Resource Center. \$21,648 of these were explicitly Emergency Rental Assistance dollars.