

# INVESTMENT & PROGRAM OUTCOMES in SARASOTA 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 Sarasota County

According to the 2023 United for ALICE report, 38% of households in Manatee County are ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. Within our zip codes of focus, that figure is 43%.

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 Sarasota County, United Way Suncoast programs and our Strategic Community Partners served 6,008 people, 93% of which identify as ALICE individuals.

### Dollars Invested

\$679,284 was invested into Strategic Community Partner programs serving Sarasota County, and an additional \$1,879,398 was invested into other partnerships, programs, and initiatives serving Sarasota, Manatee, and DeSoto Counties. \$630,423 supported United Way Suncoast programs and administration serving Sarasota and DeSoto Counties.

### Number of Strategic Community Partners

33 Strategic Community Partners funded partner programs. \$50,815 was provided to community members through the Publix Last Resort Fund.

### Focus Areas

Early Learning, Financial Stability, VITA, Eviction Mitigation

## EVICTION AND HOUSING

**\$766,848**  
DOLLARS

The RISE Eviction Cohort programs based in Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto & provided over \$750K in direct assistance to families. The Rise Eviction Cohort more than doubled the number of community members supported this year to +2,000 community members.

**2,277**  
PEOPLE

In the Sarasota region, 2,277 people were kept in their home or achieved new or stable housing as a result of UWS supported Community Navigation.

**350**  
HOUSEHOLDS

The Women's Resource Center served an additional 350 households through the Florida Blue Community Navigator program and provided 554 successful referrals to employment or workforce development programs.

## VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (VITA)

**4**  
SITES

**\$440,818**  
SAVED IN TAX PREPARATION FEES

The VITA program saw an increase of 96% in the amount of fees saved in tax preparation for community members in Sarasota, +\$440K.

**1,369**  
RETURNS

**\$1,369,118**  
IN REFUNDS  
RETURNED TO THE  
COMMUNITY

### State of Early Learning

**Florida Kindergarten Readiness (FLKRS):** 54%, just over half of students in Sarasota county are reading on grade level. Students who complete Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten are more likely to be prepared for kindergarten than those who do not.

**Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST):** Only 40% of students in UWS Schools of Focus in Sarasota County are reading on or above grade level.

### Volunteers

Over 2,300 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 more likely to drop out of high school than their peers. Students who receive a free or reduced price lunch are considered “economically disadvantaged” by the Florida Department of Education.

### State of Housing

As of June 2023, households with an annual household income of \$69,000 or less 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 Human Services Center
- Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice
- Gulfcoast Legal
- Suncoast Community Mediation

## EARLY LEARNING

**1,600**  
HOUSEHOLDS

Served by 10 Early Learning focused Strategic Community Programs in Sarasota County, with 89% of those households identified as ALICE.

### QCI AND SCHOOLS OF FOCUS

The UWS Quality Child Care Initiative in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition in Sarasota County provided 1,683 hours of teacher training.

Both UWS and our partners supported 691 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