

United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades
Board of Directors Meeting
January 9, 2026

Minutes

Present: Kevin Anderson, Amy Barraco, Bob Beville, Gary Bryant, Denise Carlin, Nick Chlumsky, John Clinger, Maria Espinoza, David Fry, Barbara Hartman, Cindy Hawkins, Beth Hendry, Michelle Hudson, Matt Humphreys, John Joyce, David Klein, Tony Lapi, Tracy McMillion, Bill Motzer, Barbara Mundy, Stan Nelson, Scott Nygaard, Dan O'Berski, Pat O'Donnell, Harlan Parrish, Steve Pontius, Will Prather, Carolyn Rogers, Karen Ryan, Jay Santos, Glen Salyer, Bob Shearman, Brendan Shearman, Mary Snell, John Streger, Mike Stryker, Tom Uhler, Corey Vertich

Staff: Barbara Alderson, Daniel Benzing, Connie Boyd, Dan Campbell, Marissa Crawford, Angela Fischler, Greg Gunter, Brenda Hayes, Michelle Hidalgo, Heather Housand, Jeannine Joy, John Joy, Jennylyn Mitchell, Madison Mitchell, Hannah Pelle, D. Soledad Quiñones, Lisette Quintero, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Keila Santiago, Karen Turcotte, Marcia Turner

1. United Way Board Co-Chair Jay Santos called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. via a hybrid meeting with a quorum present.
2. The minutes of the December 6, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. Chief HR Officer Connie Boyd presented the January employee anniversary list, celebrating nine team members.
4. Chief Operating Officer Hannah Pelle presented the UNITED IS THE WAY Award to the Board of Directors and employees of United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades in recognition of their unwavering efforts to support the community in 2025.
5. Treasurer Cindy Hawkins stated that the Financial Statement Audit quote went up by \$400. The Single Audit quote remained the same. We are not anticipating needing a Single Audit for 2025; yet to be determined. Statement of Work was approved as presented. The auditors have confirmed United Way may begin recording WeCare revenue and expenses effective 2025. Because this represents a significant change from 2024, the auditors will not issue comparative financial statements for 2024 and 2025.
6. President and CEO Jeannine Joy noted that the United Way Employee Handbook had not been updated since 2016. A copy was provided to the board for review prior to the meeting. A clarification to the 401(k) match process will be updated on page 46. The Handbook was approved as revised.
7. Co-Campaign Chair Carolyn Rogers reported that the campaign is currently at 70% of goal. It was noted that staff are working closely with Community Impact to recruit new Fund Distribution volunteers. Community activity remains strong, with mailings and events underway and are on pace to reach one-third of the overall goal. Fiddlesticks is the first community to reach its goal, and Bonita Bay is approaching the \$1 million mark. Employee campaigns continue throughout the area. Carolyn also announced that the annual Mighty Mussels Fundraiser is scheduled for April 25, 2026.

8. Fund Distribution Chair Tom Uhler recapped on the following agencies: Redlands Christian Migrant Association (RCMA), with a portion of United Way funding supporting their Immigration Assistance and Education Program, has temporarily discontinued the program due to federal funding cuts. Motion to place a hold on this portion of funding and adjust RCMA's annual allocation from \$22,000 to \$11,000. New Horizons has discontinued its Moms Program, which United Way partially funds. Motion to adjust the 2026 allocation for New Horizons from \$42,500 to \$40,500. Florida Treatment for Change will no longer offer outpatient therapy services, which United Way currently funds. Motion to reduce the 2026 allocation for Florida Treatment for Change from \$17,600 to \$0. The Salvation Army–Hendry & Glades Counties had funds of \$10,000 frozen in April 2025, due to delays in distributing direct assistance. The agency significantly increased distribution in late December, and staff recommended releasing the funds held. United Way has already distributed the \$10,000 due to year-end timing. Motion to formally approve the reinstatement and release of the previously held \$10,000. All four action items were approved as presented.

9. Gifts in Kind Chair David Fry indicated that the Gifts in Kind and School Resource Center concluded another exceptional year of service to the community. The Gifts in Kind program celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2025 and closed the year with more than 1,800 orders from local agencies. A total of 205,000 items valued at \$11.8 million were distributed, and over 300 donations were received containing 165,000 items valued at \$10.7 million. The School Resource Center processed more than 2,400 orders from schools, distributing over 41,000 items valued at \$925,000. During the annual inventory in December, the United Way audit firm visited the program for the first time. The auditors expressed strong appreciation for the program's operations. Thanks to support from Corey Vertich and the Florida Symphony, the program added a 16-foot box truck to its fleet, which now includes multiple box trucks, electric commercial cargo vans, a mini passenger van, forklifts, John Deere Gators, and trailers. Additionally, through the efforts of VP of Grants & Contracts/VITA Dan Campbell, a \$250,000 grant was secured to allow for the purchase and shipment of additional products at significantly reduced rates. This funding arrives at a critical time, as new product donations have slowed due to recently implemented tariffs.

10. Co-Chair Jay Santos provided an update on the upcoming ribbon-cutting for the conference room, scheduled for February 18, 2026, from 4 to 6 PM. RSVPs are requested.

11. VITA Chair Steve Pontius announced that VITA processed over 9,000 returns in 2025. The income limit was raised to \$70,000. A Tax Counseling for the Elderly grant was received and has no household income limit. Added two new sites for a total of 30 including mobile events. Two Tax-A-Thons are scheduled for LaBelle on February 3rd and David Lucas Campus on February 5th. There are 200 returning volunteers and 192 new volunteers including 58 FGCU students. The impact of this program to the community is \$11 million.

12. The next meeting will be in person at the David Lucas Campus. The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeannine Joy
President & CEO