

**United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades
Board of Directors Meeting
December 5, 2025**

Minutes

Present: Patricia Bell, Bob Beville, John Clinger, David Fry, Chauncey Goss, Barbara Hartman, Cindy Hawkins, Beth Hendry, Michelle Hudson, Matt Humphreys, Sally Jackson, John Joyce, Kevin Karnes, David Klein, Tony Lapi, Tracy McMillion, Victoria Moreland, Bill Motzer, Barbara Mundy, Scott Nygaard, Pat O'Donnell, Steve Pontius, Victoria Rodriguez, Carolyn Rogers, Karen Ryan, Jay Santos, Glen Salyer, Bob Shearman, Bryan Simmering, Mary Snell, John Streger, Mike Stryker, Tom Uhler, Corey Vertich, Christy Williams, Matthew Zwack

Staff: Barbara Alderson, Daniel Benzing, Connie Boyd, Edelyn Castellon, Dan Campbell, Marissa Crawford, Stacey Devlin, Jarrett Eady, Angela Fischler, Greg Gunter, Brenda Hayes, Michelle Hidalgo, Heather Housand, Jeannine Joy, John Joy, Brenda Krieger, Jose Mederos, Jennylyn Mitchell, Madison Mitchell, Craig Norling, Hannah Pelle, Carlos Prado, D. Soledad Quiñones, Lisette Quintero, Toni Rozelle-Rosio, Lisa Sands, Jim Sanger, Keila Santiago, Karen Turcotte, Marcia Turner, Xavier Varela, Alencia Walker

Guest: Shay Fluharty, Esq.

1. United Way Board Chair Kevin Karnes called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. via a hybrid meeting with a quorum present.
2. The minutes of the October 17, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting were approved as presented.
3. Chief HR Officer Connie Boyd congratulated Greg Gunter for his promotion to Manager of Hendry/Glades, and Xavier Varela to Mission United Manager. A slide was shared of November and December Staff Anniversaries. Community Awards to David Fry [Bay Street Yard] for the 2025 Industry Appreciation Awards start-up business of the year, and Tony Lapi [Tween Waters Island Inn and Marina] as the 2025 Generosity Junonia Award winner of the inaugural Generosity Champion awards hosted by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI).
4. Chief Operating Officer Hannah Pelle presented the *UNITED IS THE WAY* Award to Shay Fluharty in recognition of the exceptional support provided to a United Way employee regarding immigration matters. Hannah expressed appreciation for Shay's efforts, and Jose shared his experience and conveyed his gratitude for the assistance received.
5. 211 Chair David Klein provided an update on 211 services, noting that the year has remained consistently busy. Since June, monthly call and message volumes have ranged between 2,600 and 3,300, with higher volumes driven by community-wide challenges such as the federal government shutdown and the temporary freeze of SNAP benefits. 211 Director Keila Santiago reported that, in addition to routine needs, these events increased demand for assistance. For example, resource referrals totaled approximately 3,600 in September, rising to over 4,100 in both October and November. Utilization in Charlotte County continues to grow as awareness of the program expands, and resources are strengthened. Chief Impact Officer Madison Mitchell shared two success stories, including \$67,523 in direct assistance provided in November for rent, mortgage, and utilities. Additionally, Mission United hosted an outreach event at the VA, distributing Publix gift cards to more than 200 veterans ahead of Thanksgiving, an effort made possible through support from MOAA.
6. Board Member Bob Beville, reporting for Community Impact Chair John Clinger, highlighted that the recent Federal Shutdown led federal employees, especially those in entry-level positions, struggling as they continued working without pay. United Way partnered with Lee County Port Authority, TSA,

Community Cooperative, and Harry Chapin Food Bank to organize two food distribution events at the airport, serving about 400 families. The 211 team was present to connect attendees with further resources and support.

7. Campaign Co-Chair Carolyn Rogers provided an update on recent activities. On October 29 United Way launched the 2025-2026 Annual Campaign. Thanks to the efforts of 184 Pacesetter Companies and event attendees, \$5,813,033 has been raised to date, representing 50.5% of the overall goal of \$11,512,716. On November 5, the Hendry/Glades Kickoff featured 15 Pacesetters raising \$67,502 of the \$370,200 goal. During the Alexis de Tocqueville Reception, hosted by Joe Catti at FineMark National Bank & Trust, the School Resource Center was highlighted. The Celebrity Bartender Event raised \$37,805 at Bay Street Yard, featuring local celebrities and live music. Additionally, 24 families will receive gifts through Operation Santa, with gift drop-off scheduled for December 1-12 at the United Way Matthew Drive location. Upcoming events include the LCEC 5K on January 3 at Jim Jeffers Park in Cape Coral and the 2nd Annual Sanibel Captiva Golf Outing on January 25 at The Dunes.

8. Fund Distribution Chair Tom Uhler reported on recent funding adjustments. As previously approved, agencies have transitioned to a three-year funding cycle. During their “off years,” agencies are required to submit detailed program reports. The following changes reflect findings from those reports and demonstrate the value of maintaining formal check-ins during non-site visit years. Children’s Network provides Relative and Non-Relative Caregiver Financial Assistance in Hendry and Glades Counties, but is not projected to fully utilize allocated funds. United Way recommends reducing funding from \$58,000 to \$53,166. STEMCAT (formerly *I Will Mentorship*) was awarded funding for after-school programming within Community Partnership Schools in 2025. In November, STEMCAT reported that these services were not provided as planned. United Way recommends adjusting the allocation from \$30,600 to \$28,050. Both motions passed as presented. The proposed fund distribution spreadsheet, emailed before the meeting, reflects 2026 funding as approved in June. Hendry/Glades figures were projected at that time; the attached spreadsheet now includes final 2025 numbers for those agencies, and the final report was approved as presented.


9. Gifts in Kind Chair David Fry thanked the Lee County community and Board for supporting the Gifts in Kind program and School Resource Program. In response to a November cold spell, donors provided 475 jackets for Lee County School District students. Since the school year began, the School Resource Center has processed 1,175 orders valued at \$460,000.

10. Community Partnership Schools Chair Tracy McMillion thanked Board Member Matt Humphreys and the CPS team for their efforts coordinating with Publix, who again donated full holiday meals. The CPS team improved Operation Turkey with a drive-up voucher system and real-time tracking, distributing 314 meals to families, churches, school and health care staff, and veterans. The initiative was valued at \$21,000.

11. Dr. Scott Nygaard reported that WeCare provided over \$1 million in donated medical care in October, raising the 2025 total to \$7,518,350.

12. The next meeting will be in person January 9, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jeannine Joy
President & CEO

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT)			
Human Trafficking Awareness Prevention		\$2,750	
Afterhours United Way 211 Program		\$46,000	
Counseling and outreach services for abused women and children		\$155,954	\$4,000
Shelter and residential services for abused women and children		\$132,746	\$13,000
	\$354,450	\$337,450	\$17,000
AHF / ICAN			
HIV/AIDS Case Management Program		\$25,000	
HIV/AIDS Client Assistance		\$33,000	
HIV/AIDS Pantry		\$32,000	
	\$90,000	\$90,000	
Alliance for the Arts			
Arts Access Programs		\$20,000	
	\$20,000	\$20,000	
American Red Cross Florida's Southern Gulf			
Disaster Response		\$55,000	
Disaster Preparedness		\$7,500	
	\$62,500	\$62,500	
Amigos Center			
Family Immigration Services		\$13,000	
	\$13,000	\$13,000	
A.N.A.'s Friends (previously Guardian ad Litem)			
Teen Program Services		\$15,600	
Fulfillment of Children's Needs		\$21,935	
	\$37,535	\$37,535	
Beacon of HOPE			
Beacon Bites		\$7,000	
GED Preparation		\$6,000	
Pine Island United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$30,000	
Transportation		\$7,000	
	\$50,000	\$50,000	
Better Together			
Better Families		\$10,000	
	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast			
One to One Mentoring – Community Based		\$36,000	\$3,500
One to One Mentoring – School Based		\$36,000	\$3,000
	\$78,500	\$72,000	\$6,500
Blessings in a Backpack, Lee County			
Backpack Program		\$44,000	\$4,000
	\$48,000	\$44,000	\$4,000
Boy Scouts of America, Southwest Florida Council			
Learning for Life Program		\$65,000	\$4,000
ScoutReach		\$90,250	\$0
	\$159,250	\$155,250	\$4,000
Bonita Senior Center			
Seniors Programs		\$13,000	
	\$13,000	\$13,000	
Bonita Springs Assistance Office			
Food Pantry		\$10,000	
Direct Assistance		\$15,000	
Case Management		\$10,000	
	\$35,000	\$35,000	

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County			
Lehigh Acres Boys and Girls Club Unit		\$30,503	
Pueblo Bonita Boys and Girls Club Unit		\$21,788	
Renaissance Boys and Girls Club Unit		\$32,682	
Varsity Lakes Middle School Club Unit		\$8,715	
James Stephens Elementary School Club Unit		\$34,860	
North Fort Myers Boys and Girls Club Unit		\$30,503	
Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club Unit		\$42,220	
Challenger Middle Club Unit		\$8,715	
Staff Development (Accreditation, Trainings, and Certification)		\$7,894	
	\$217,880	\$217,880	
Café of Life			
Daily Meal Program		\$21,000	
Outreach and Transportation Program		\$3,500	
Summer Feeding Program		\$2,500	
	\$27,000	\$27,000	
Cancer Alliance Network			
Lee County Outreach Program		\$13,000	
	\$13,000	\$13,000	
Catholic Charities of Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties			
Bonita Springs Positive Youth Development Program		\$37,214	
Family Support Program - Bonita Springs		\$14,076	\$4,000
Food Pantry			\$1,000
Human Trafficking Rescue Project		\$10,000	
Senior Support Services		\$57,710	
	\$124,000	\$119,000	\$5,000
Child Care of Southwest Florida			
Child Care Scholarships		\$102,000	\$12,500
	\$114,500	\$102,000	\$12,500
Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida			
Child Abuse Prevention Program		\$123,100	
Child Protection Team		\$5,000	\$5,000
Beesley's Pet Therapy Program		\$115,000	
East Fort Myers United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$69,500	
Family Alliance		\$90,000	\$4,500
	\$412,100	\$402,600	\$9,500
Children's Home Society of Florida - Southwest Division			
Healthy Families		\$151,386	
	\$151,386	\$151,386	
Children's Network of SWFL			
Relative and Non Relative Caregiver Assistance		\$53,000	\$5,000
	\$58,000	\$53,000	\$5,000
Community Cooperative			
Building Stronger Families		\$87,000	
Building Stronger Families- Direct Assistance		\$24,000	
Community & Mobile Food Pantries		\$43,000	
Community Cafe		\$25,000	
Meals on Wheels		\$57,000	
Elder Care Program		\$35,000	
Social Services - Cape Coral/ Fort Myers Beach		\$35,000	
Social Services - MLK United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$53,000	
Social Services- Case Management		\$10,000	
	\$369,000	\$369,000	

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Community Initiatives			
Agape Home		\$0	\$10,000
ALICE Initiative		\$4,500	
United Way Community Impact		\$112,000	
LCEC Power to Share		\$65,000	
Mission United		\$92,000	
Publix Emergency Assistance Fund/Good Samaritan Fund/Direct Assistance		\$211,000	\$2,400
Beesley's Paw Prints		\$5,000	
The Norm Project/TALK15 - Substance Abuse and Tobacco Prevention		\$15,000	
United Way Gifts-In-Kind		\$157,057	\$0
United Way 211 (includes Lee Heath Clinics)		\$717,000	\$46,200
United Way Community Partnership School		\$575,000	
United Way Resiliency Hubs		\$85,000	\$17,800
United Way Volunteer Center		\$127,000	
United Way School Resource Center		\$125,000	\$10,000
United Way WeCare		\$152,000	
United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program		\$173,000	\$3,000
United Way Focused Fund		\$100,000	
United Way ReUnite		\$60,000	
	\$2,864,957	\$2,775,557	\$89,400
Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center			
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Support Program		\$16,000	
Transportation Services Program		\$2,000	
	\$18,000	\$18,000	
Dr. Piper Center for Social Services			
Faith in Action Program		\$12,500	
Foster Grandparent Program		\$20,000	
Senior Companion Program		\$32,500	
Senior Employment Program		\$5,000	
	\$70,000	\$70,000	
Epilepsy Services of Southwest Florida			
Case Management Program		\$30,000	
	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Family Initiative			
Autism Teen Hangout Program		\$9,000	
Autism Social Skills Program		\$9,000	
	\$18,000	\$18,000	
F.I.S.H. of Sanibel-Captiva			
Neighbors Helping Neighbors Program		\$42,500	
Sanibel United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$10,000	
Social Work Intern (Part-Time)		\$2,000	
	\$52,500	\$52,500	
Florida Lions Eye Clinic			
Eye Clinic		\$30,000	
Medical Equipment		\$3,500	
	\$33,500	\$33,500	
Florida Treatment for Change			
Outpatient Therapy		\$17,600	
	\$17,600	\$17,600	
Gigi's Playhouse			
Gigifit Program		\$3,000	
Gigi's Kitchen Program		\$10,000	
	\$13,000	\$13,000	
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida			
Promise Fund		\$24,000	\$6,000
Mad Lab STEM Program		\$3,000	
	\$33,000	\$27,000	\$6,000

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida			
Bonita Springs Community Resource Center		\$10,000	
Charleston Park United Way Resiliency Hub and Community Resource Center Program		\$30,000	
Lehigh Acres Community Resource Center		\$15,000	
Mobile Community Resource Center		\$10,000	
Tice United Way Resiliency Hub and Community Resource Center Program		\$23,000	
West Cape Coral Resiliency Hub		\$10,000	
Veteran Support Services		\$5,000	
	\$103,000	\$103,000	\$0
Gulf Coast Humane Society			
Senior to Senior Program		\$48,000	
	\$48,000	\$48,000	
Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida			
Food Acquisition and Distribution		\$160,345	\$9,500
	\$169,845	\$160,345	\$9,500
Health Planning Council			
Early Steps Program		\$23,000	
	\$23,000	\$23,000	
Healthy Families			
Healthy Families Program			\$13,000
	\$13,000	\$0	\$13,000
Healthy Start of Southwest Florida			
Pre-Natal Outreach and Education		\$48,250	\$5,500
Diaper Bank			\$2,000
	\$55,750	\$48,250	\$7,500
HOPE Clubhouse			
Transitional/ Supported Employment Program		\$33,500	
	\$33,500	\$33,500	
Hope HealthCare Services			
Hope Healing Hearts		\$24,000	
	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0
I WILL Mentorship Foundation			
After School Programs		\$22,000	
Summer Camp Program		\$5,600	
Community Partnership School Program		\$0	
	\$27,600	\$27,600	
IMPACT For Developmental Education			
Early Intervention Therapies		\$50,000	
Home Based Early Intervention		\$34,000	
Pre-K Exceptional Student Education		\$45,000	
Summer Camp		\$5,000	
	\$134,000	\$134,000	
Interfaith Charities of South Lee			
Client Assistance Program		\$42,600	
Estero/San Carlos United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$31,400	
VITA Tax Program		\$4,000	
	\$78,000	\$78,000	
Jewish Family Services			
South Fort Myers United Way Resiliency Hub		\$16,000	
	\$16,000	\$16,000	
LARC			
Day Activity Training for Developmentally Disabled Adults		\$55,376	
Group Homes for Developmentally Disabled Adults		\$75,227	
LAB Programs		\$2,500	
Supported Job Training		\$124,897	
System Navigation Assistance		\$3,000	
	\$261,000	\$261,000	

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Lee County Legal Aid Society			
Family Law - Child Support Assistance Program		\$95,000	
Immigration Program		\$55,000	
Self Help Program		\$9,000	
	\$159,000	\$159,000	
Lehigh Community Services			
Client Assistance Programs		\$11,500	
Case Management Staffing		\$67,100	
Food Pantry		\$5,500	
Lehigh United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$23,500	
Educational Programming		\$1,000	
VITA Tax Program		\$3,000	
	\$111,600	\$111,600	
Lighthouse of SWFL			
Blind Babies and Children Program		\$11,650	\$3,500
Independent Living for the Visually Impaired and Blind		\$69,000	\$2,000
	\$86,150	\$80,650	\$5,500
Literacy Council of the Gulf Coast			
Bonita Springs United Way Resiliency Hub and Programs		\$21,000	
English Language Instruction		\$94,500	
GED Classes		\$2,500	
Moms and Tots Program		\$69,500	
	\$187,500	\$187,500	\$0
Lutheran Services			
CINS/FINS Counseling/Oasis Run A Way Shelter		\$25,000	
	\$25,000	\$25,000	
Meals of Hope			
Meal Packing Events		\$18,000	
Baby Food Pantry		\$3,000	
	\$21,000	\$21,000	
Miami Lighthouse for the Blind & Visually Impaired			
Florida Heiken Children's Vision Program			\$2,500
	\$2,500		\$2,500
Midwest Food Bank			
Food Rescue & Distribution Program		\$18,000	
	\$18,000	\$18,000	
Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida			
Client Care Coordinator		\$17,500	
	\$17,500	\$17,500	
NAMI Lee County			
Crisis Intervention Training		\$13,500	
Information and Referral		\$15,000	
Outreach Program		\$7,000	
Support Groups		\$16,500	
Teen Mental Health First Aid		\$3,000	
	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$0
New Horizons of SWFL			
Super Boys		\$2,000	
Super Girls		\$5,500	
Super Kids		\$12,500	
Super Kids/Teens Summer Camps		\$6,000	
Super Moms		\$2,000	
Super Teens		\$12,500	
Super Teens College Bound		\$2,000	
	\$42,500	\$42,500	

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
Our Mother's Home of Southwest Florida			
Mentored Living Program		\$25,000	
	\$25,000	\$25,000	
PACE Center for Girls of Lee County			
Transition Services		\$47,100	
	\$47,100	\$47,100	
Partners for Breast Cancer Care			
Breast Health Screening and Diagnostic Testing		\$32,000	
Direct Services		\$6,000	
	\$38,000	\$38,000	
Pine Manor Improvement Association			
Pine Manor United Way Resiliency Hub		\$18,000	
	\$18,000	\$18,000	
Police Athletic League - Fort Myers			
T.R.U.S.T. Program		\$11,000	
	\$11,000	\$11,000	
Premier Mobile Health Services			
Mobile Healthcare Homeless Outreach Program		\$11,500	
	\$11,500	\$11,500	
Project Dentists Care			
Dental Care		\$94,000	
	\$94,000	\$94,000	\$0
PSEP/Scholars Program, FGCU			
ACT/SAT Boot Camps		\$4,000	
College for a Day		\$3,000	
Scholars Club		\$5,000	\$3,600
Virtual Tutoring Platform		\$3,000	
Scholars Club Summer Program		\$7,000	
	\$25,600	\$22,000	\$3,600
Quality Life Center			
Arts, Character, and Education (ACE) Youth Programs (Parent Volunteer Coordinator)		\$46,000	
Arts, Character, and Education (ACE) Youth Programs (Afterschool Staff)		\$14,000	
	\$60,000	\$60,000	
RCMA			
Parenting Program			\$11,000
Immigration Assistance Program			\$11,000
	\$22,000	\$0	\$22,000
SalusCare			
Recovery Residence Peer Specialist		\$13,000	
Agency Interpreter		\$50,000	
Detox Program		\$110,135	
Crisis Stabilization Unit		\$173,465	
Outpatient Therapy		\$19,792	
	\$366,392	\$366,392	
Senior Friendship Centers			
Friendship at Home		\$25,000	
Relief Respite Volunteer Program		\$5,000	
	\$30,000	\$30,000	
Special Equestrians			
Therapeutic Riding Program		\$43,000	
	\$43,000	\$43,000	

Agency and Program(s)	2026 Recommended Allocation	Lee County Allocation	Hendry / Glades County Allocation
St. Matthew's House			
Addiction Recovery			\$4,500
Fort Myers Women and Children Shelter (staffing and program supplies)		\$17,000	
	\$21,500	\$17,000	\$4,500
The Bonita Springs YMCA			
Aquatics Program		\$17,000	
Child Care Program		\$34,000	
Education Enhancement Program		\$7,500	
Teen Program		\$5,000	
Youth Programs		\$13,500	
	\$77,000	\$77,000	
The Dubin Center			
Alzheimer Counseling		\$32,675	
Alzheimer Crisis Intervention		\$13,000	
Alzheimer Health Education		\$39,500	
Alzheimer Information and Referral, Outreach		\$19,575	
Support Group		\$2,000	
	\$106,750	\$106,750	\$0
The Fort Myers YMCA			
Child Care Program		\$28,000	\$20,000
Teen Program		\$10,000	
Youth Programs		\$33,500	
Youth in Government		\$2,000	
First Tee Youth Golf Program		\$1,750	
Fort Myers Middle Before- and After-School Program		\$50,000	
	\$145,250	\$125,250	\$20,000
The Heights Center			
Charter School After School Program		\$3,000	
Harlem Heights United Way Resiliency Hub		\$20,000	
Pre-School Program Scholarships		\$29,000	
Youth Programs		\$8,000	
	\$60,000	\$60,000	
The Lee County Coalition for a Drug-Free Southwest Florida			
Operation Medicine Cabinet		\$10,944	
	\$10,944	\$10,944	
The Salvation Army			
Bonita Springs LIFNAV/Senior Plus		\$15,200	
Fort Myers & Cape Coral LIFNAV/Senior Plus		\$67,500	\$27,500
2 Gen Families First (Family Shelter)		\$132,600	
LIFNAV/Senior Plus Outreach and Diversion		\$48,500	
LaBelle & Clewiston Direct Assistance			\$47,500
Lehigh Acres LIFNAV/Senior Plus		\$5,000	
Supplies			\$1,000
	\$344,800	\$268,800	\$76,000
Trailways Camps			
Operations and Outreach (Full-Time Staff Position)		\$13,000	\$4,000
	\$17,000	\$13,000	\$4,000
Valerie's House			
Grief Counseling & Support Groups		\$41,500	
	\$41,500	\$41,500	\$0
Visuality			
Uplift Program		\$10,000	
	\$10,000	\$10,000	
Contingent Funding	\$58,400	\$24,400	\$34,000
Designations to other United Ways, United Way and Non-United Way Agencies	\$685,000		
TOTALS	\$9,690,839	\$8,644,839	\$361,000