



**UNITED AGAINST POVERTY**



ORGANIZATION-WIDE

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

Dear Cherished Supporter,

Like every year, we begin with the promise of renewal, growth, and looking forward. Because of the generosity of our supporters, we have been able to continue to provide programs and services that inspire and empower individuals living in poverty to lift themselves and their families to economic self-sufficiency. I'm happy to share the many ways your support and investment have helped those in the communities we serve.

We continue to offer food and household assistance across the counties we serve with our four Member Share Grocery Programs. With food prices continuing to rise in 2022 and food insecurity being an economic issue, we saw an increase in the number of households applying to receive free membership. In 2022 we had over 20K members utilizing the MSGP program. Our Member Share Grocery Program helped families retain a total of \$16.1M as members can save as much as 70% of their monthly grocery budget, allowing them to use those savings for other critical household expenses.

We continue to see phenomenal growth and demand for our Success Training Employment Program (STEP). Education continues to be an important part of what we do. Phase I of the program, which consists of classroom instruction covering workplace skill development, emotional intelligence (EQ), and job acquisition training. We were thrilled to be able to graduate 194 participants in 2022. As part of Phase II, 113 participants worked closely with our Workforce Specialist and gained employment through our valuable network of employer partners who are committed to hiring our graduates. Many of our participants continue to Phase III, where we provide success coaching to ensure they flourish in their careers. Additionally, due to increasing demand, we doubled the number of workshops compared to YAG to 500+ in 2022, helping over 1K individuals gain new skills. Workshops covered topics including financial planning, nutrition, mental health, computer literacy, CPR certification, and much more. Most importantly, we successfully lifted a total of 107 families UP and out of poverty to self-sufficiency; that's a 151% increase vs 2021.

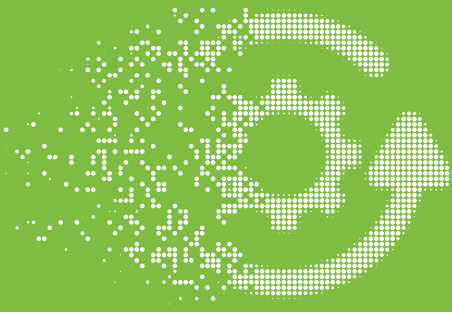
We have seen continued growth in our Life Enrichment Center, with a steady increase in the number of individuals seeking assistance. Our team works closely with individuals to address their immediate needs and provide them with support through our valuable case management model. Our Crisis Stabilization Teams helped 13,854 households, which included assistance with housing, education, counseling, emergency food, and much more.

We realize we could not do this important work without the dedication and support of our network of individuals, organizations, foundations, community advocates, and generous volunteers, whom we acknowledge for stepping UP to give their time, talent, and treasure. On behalf of the United Against Poverty team, we want to thank you for your unwavering commitment, support, and generosity. Our goal is to support our mission to help our neighbors in need who are motivated to transform their lives.



Gwendolyn D. Butson  
Chief Executive Officer





# BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

## A LOOK BACK AT 2022



**25,528**

Households Served by  
all UP Programs

**13,854**

Units of Stabilization Services  
Provided in Our  
Life Enrichment Centers



**194**  
STEP Graduates

**113**   
STEP Graduates  
Employed



An Average of

**449**

Families Helped  
a Month

**521**

Workshops Helping  
**1,715**  
Individuals



Our Member Share  
Grocery Program  
Helped Families  
Retain

**\$16.1M**

**107**

Families Lifted Out  
of Poverty



# YOUR IMPACT

Through the generous resources you entrusted to us, we were able to reach out and lift the lives of 25,528 families who would otherwise go unnoticed. Whether it's an investment of wealth, talent, or product - we pride ourselves in putting your gift to work in the most efficient way possible - right here in the Sunshine State.

## YOUR MONETARY GIFTS

For every \$1 you donated in 2022, 92.4¢ went directly to programs and activities designed to help lift our neighbors from poverty to economic self-sufficiency. This is among the best ratios nationwide for a social service organization.

92.4¢ Program Activities

3.4¢ Management & General Expenses



4.3¢ Fundraising Expenses

In 2022, Volunteers Served  
**84,406 Hours**

## YOUR GIFTS OF TIME & TALENT

Total Value of  
Volunteer Service in 2022  
**\$2,482,381**

\*According to Independent Sector's  
Florida Value of Volunteer Time Report

3,622 incredible individuals  
gave a *HAND UP* in 2022

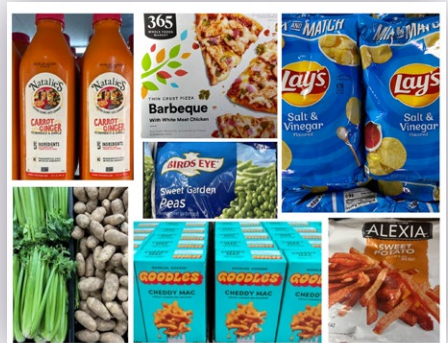


## YOUR GIFTS OF PRODUCT

More than 120 generous  
Product Partners from across  
166 locations donated a total value of

**\$5,961,933**

in food and household items to  
our UP Centers in 2022.



# Financial Statement

## FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2022

To maintain the highest level of fiscal responsibility, Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates Certified Public Accountants conducts an Independent Audit of our organization each year.

The below summary is reflective of our entire organization, including the Indian River, St. Lucie, and Orlando locations.

### Operating Revenue

Member Share Grocery Program & Redistribution	\$7,322,106
Public Support	\$2,753,617
Grant Revenue	\$1,186,784
In-kind Contributions from Product Partners	\$5,961,933
Other Income	\$219,940
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$17,444,380</b>

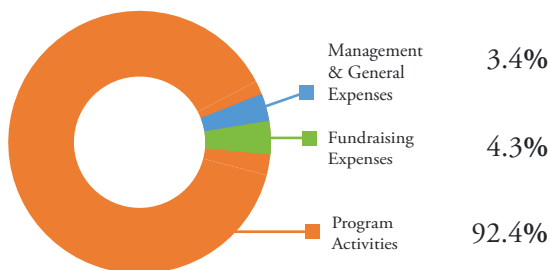
### Operating Expenses

Program Activities	\$15,692,982
Management & General	\$570,413
Fundraising	\$723,378
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,986,773</b>

### Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$15,704,489
Change in Net Assets	\$457,607
<b>END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$16,162,096</b>

**7.7%**  
**ANNUAL FUND**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE**  
**RATE**



*We are proud to operate well below the BBB Wise Giving Alliance<sup>SM</sup> Recommended Standard 35% Administrative Rate*

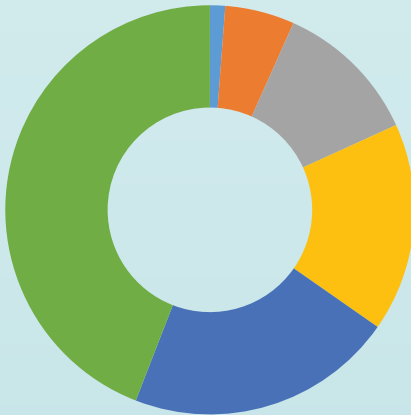
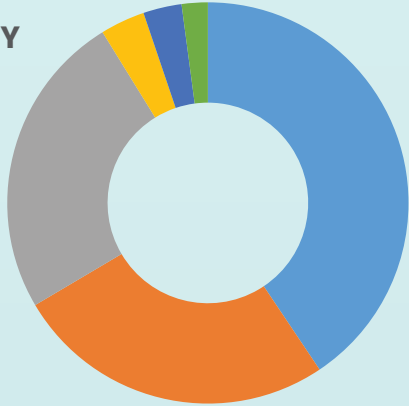
Total Audited Revenue	\$17,444,380
Total Audited Expenses	\$16,986,773

# DEMOGRAPHICS

100% of the households served fall at or below  
200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

## PARTICIPANT ETHNICITY

- 40.6% Caucasian
- 25.9% African American
- 24.7% Hispanic
- 2.1% Asian
- 3.6% Not Reported
- 3.1% Other

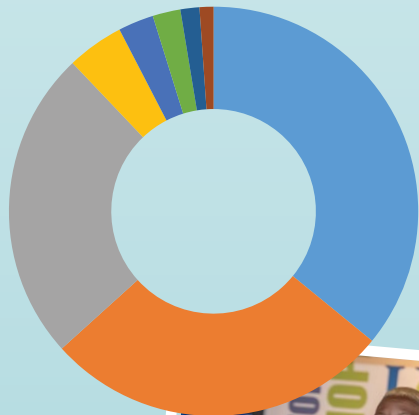


## PARTICIPANT AGE

- 1.2% 0-18
- 5.5% 19-34
- 11.5% 35-44
- 16.5% 45-54
- 21.2% 55-64
- 44.1% 65+

## PARTICIPANT COUNTY

- 35.9% Indian River
- 27.4% St. Lucie
- 24.6% Orange
- 2.8% Brevard
- 1.5% Osceola
- 1.1% Okeechobee
- 4.5% Not Reported
- 2.2% Other



“Through our partnership with UP Orlando, we’ve been able to reach thousands of individuals and families in the Orlando community, helping them overcome barriers and move from crisis to self-sufficiency. We believe that by working together, we can create a city where everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive, and where every person is valued and respected.”

-Orlando Mayor,  
Buddy Dyer



“The Hope for Families Center is excited about the relationship we have created with the UP Center. HFC residents utilize the STEP program to gain self-confidence and employment opportunities that allow them to grow within that company. Our hand in hand relationship helps us understand the needs of the working homeless and areas as a community that we can bridge gaps with as a team. We all need to lean on each other. We can build a great team of support if we are on the same page.”

- Sabrina Cruz

Eric Gedeon was referred to STEP through our community partner Sober Development. He graduated STEP in July 2022 and immediately found employment with one of UP’s employer partners, the Jackie Robinson Training Complex. Eric gained employment in August. Eric said “the STEP program gave me the confidence I have been missing. When things aren’t easy I know I can call my success coach and talk it out. I appreciate the program because I know there are people who will support me”. Eric has retained his employment for over 6 months, received multiple raises and continues to live a sober life.

- Eric Gedeon



“Disney and United Against Poverty share a similar vision where everyone has the opportunity to achieve a future filled with hope and possibilities. In the immediate aftermath of Hurricane Ian, Disney provided funding support to help UP Orlando continue to provide critical services and support to our community, especially during such a difficult time.”

- Tajiana Ancora-Brown  
Director, External Affairs

# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

## March 9th – Career Expo

In partnership with the Treasure Coast Builders Association (TCBA), UP hosted a Career Expo with multiple employers within the construction and trades industry. The event helped raise awareness on career pathways in these growing fields and connect our community to job and apprenticeship opportunities.



## Speed Interviewing

Speed Interviewing was a new concept we launched in 2021. This event brought employers to the UP Center for a dynamic event where they were able to interview each of our STEP participants for 15 minutes. Think of speed dating, but for careers. We hosted eight speed interviewing events, one for each STEP cohort, and 29 hires were made as a result!

## 4th Annual Fools Day 5K

On Saturday March 28th at Causeway Cove Marina in Fort Pierce, UP St. Lucie held their Annual Fools Day 5k. Over 100 people joined the walk/run which was filled with fun zone features. Participants enjoyed crossing the finish line to silly string for a great cause!



## June 25th – Burgers and Brews

Our 7th Annual Burgers & Brews was another amazing event that we shared with our community. Ten restaurants competed in the Best Burger competition and local vendors lined downtown Vero. Thank you to the community that joined us, as we had another tremendous fundraiser to help us lift more lives out of poverty.



Throughout the year, countless compassionate community members engaged with our mission in unique and meaningful ways as part of our special events. Thank you to our enthusiastic attendees, hardworking volunteers, and generous sponsors for making our 2022 events such a success!

### October 7 – Hand UP

On Friday, October 7th, we had the privilege to host our Annual Hand UP Luncheon back in person. More than 400 major donors, community partners and volunteers came together for this yearly event. The luncheon is an UP Orlando awareness event that highlights United Against Poverty programs and services that lift lives throughout the community.



### Trunk or Treat

On October 21st UP St. Lucie held the 1st Community Resource Trunk or Treat. The event was a success with 25 organizations from the community present and over 150 families who joined us for an afternoon of sweet treats!



### November 24th – 15th Annual Turkey Trot

Many members of our community celebrated a Thanksgiving morning tradition, our Turkey Trot. More than 3,000 members of the community attended the 5K event. Post race, attendees were treated to a sweet potato pancake and sausage breakfast.



### December 10 – Hope for the Holidays

The 2022 Hope for the Holidays event was held on Saturday, December 10, 2022. Thanks to our generous donors and volunteers, over 300 children received a bag filled with toys for the holiday.

# 2022

## CORPORATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Dan Pugh**  
*Board Chairmain*

**Peter Bijur**  
*Vice Chairman*

**Robert Boesch**  
*Treasurer*

**Barbara Lowry**  
*Secretary*

**Victoria Thomson**

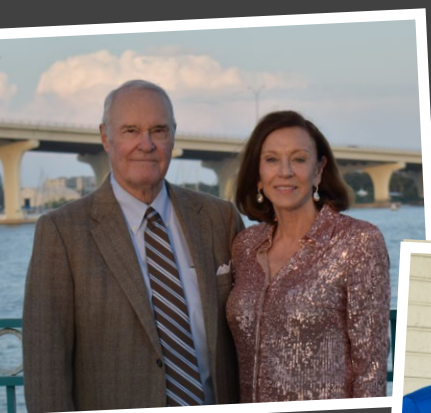
**Don Drinkard**

**John Klein**

**Baerbel O'Haire**

**Monica Smith**

**Frank Wan**



# THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS FOR GIVING A HAND UP IN 2022!

## **\$200,000+\***

*The Bernard A. Egan Foundation, Inc  
City of Orlando Housing  
and Community Development*

## **\$100,000 - \$199,999**

*The Clifford Family Foundation  
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*Dr. Robin and Wayne Roberts  
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## **\$50,000 - \$99,999**

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& Community Development Division*

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*Olivia Delacruz Foundation*

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## **\$10,000 - \$24,999 continued**

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*Patrick and Carol Welsh*  
*Camp-Younts Foundation*

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

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*Ronnie Smith*  
*Le Classique*  
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*Kastory Family Foundation*  
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*Naomi Kennedy*  
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*Dennis and Barclay Kass*

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

*The Community Foundation for*

*Northeast Florida*

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*Dyer Auto Group*

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*Wild Thyme*

*Cynthia DeGenaro*

*Ann Saurman*

*Bernard and Linda Kastory*

*Amy Patterson and Don Reeser*

*Theodore and Lynn Miller*

*United Way of Northeast Florida*

*Renee DeRouin-Jessen*

*Mary Ann Stead*

*Herbert and Becky Torbin*

*Robert Boeschen*

*Lorin Sullivan*

*Bernie and Linda Kastory*

*Bill and Beth Neidlinger*

*Jack and Sharon Myers*

*Jim and Debby Manuel*

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Rotary Club of Maitland  
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George and Sheila Marshall  
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First United Methodist Church of Winter Park  
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Champions of Faith International Church

*Florida Bancorp Supply, Inc.*  
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*Richard Lowry*  
*Martha Lemasters*  
*Allen and Judith Zern*  
*Juanita Baker*  
*Walt and Ginny Glazer*  
*Richard and Linda Bradley*

# LIFTING LIVES

## Our Purpose

To inspire and empower people living in poverty to lift themselves and their families to economic self-sufficiency.

## Our Mission

To serve those in poverty by providing crisis care, transformative education, food and household subsidy, employment training and placement, personal empowerment training, and active referrals to other collaborative social service providers.

## Our Vision

Communities where every family has access to basic needs, nutritional food, crisis care, education and employment training, and where everyone has the opportunity to achieve a future filled with hope and possibilities.



772-770-9113 ■ [www.unitedagainstpoverty.org](http://www.unitedagainstpoverty.org)  
1400 27th Street ■ Vero Beach, FL 32960

United Against Poverty is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit. Our Federal Tax ID is 11-3697936.