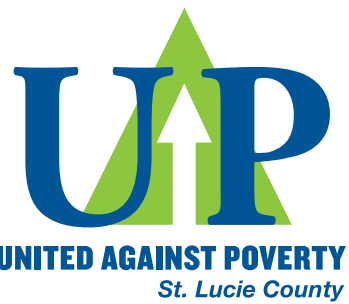


2023 ANNUAL REPORT





TO OUR CHERISHED SUPPORTERS



Sean Howald

Sean Howald
Executive Director,
St. Lucie Campus

Dear Supporters,

United Against Poverty (UP) St. Lucie holds a unique position within the community, delivering programs and services to help move individuals and families to economic self-sufficiency. We are so proud of the work we have done in 2023. The growth and support of our programs allowed a record number of people to gain employment, access low-cost groceries and receive crisis care services. I'm happy to share the many ways your support and investment helped those in the community we serve.

One of the most powerful tools for helping individuals rise up to economic self-sufficiency is through job training. We had a milestone year for our Success Training Employment Program (STEP). We helped 64 participants obtain job skills through the STEP program with 34 gaining employment to date thanks to our growing network of employer partners. The combined total income for our graduates equaled an impressive \$849K!

Many in our community faced struggles with food security due to the economy and rise in food costs. Our Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP) which serves families and individuals at/below the 200% poverty level was able to assist 11,835 unique members, providing them with access to healthy, nutritious food and household items. Members were able to retain \$4.6M in resources which allowed them to use those savings for other vital household expenses.

Our Life Enrichment Center (LEC) rose to meet the needs of our community. Our Crisis Stabilization team met with 309 unique households providing over 2,400 different services including housing or utility assistance, emergency food, health education, and one-time referrals to get the assistance needed. We continue to assist individuals in applying for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through our partnership with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) through their on-site office at UP St. Lucie.

On behalf of the entire UP St. Lucie team, we thank you for your support and the impact of your investment. None of what we do would be possible without our network of individual donors, foundations, community advocates and volunteers who stepped UP and provided their time, talent, and treasure. We thank you for your dedication and commitment to our community. Our mission would not be possible without YOU!

Sean Howald



MEMBER SHARE GROCERY PROGRAM

United Against Poverty's Member Share Grocery Program is an accessible, dignified, worry-free food assistance program where you can personally select food and household products suited toward you and your family's needs.

Membership is free and available to households that fall at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Members contribute a small handling fee per item to help offset fuel, freight, warehouse, and overhead costs, which allows the MSGP to be self-sustainable. This meaningful exchange is part of our Hand-Up model that is designed to restore dignity and teach empowerment rather than entitlement.



MEMBERSHIP IS FREE TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY!



Offers a wide range of fresh produce, proteins, freezer and cooler products, pantry and household items.

Members can save up to two-thirds on their average grocery and household product purchase.



In 2023, United Against Poverty served 11,835 unique families who utilized the Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP).

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

11,835

Unique Members Utilizing MSGP

\$4.68M

Member Resources Retained

I love coming to the UP Center, the staff are amazing, and I have saved so much money since I have been coming here. I have not been afraid of going hungry since I became a member of the grocery program a couple years ago.

~ Y Lee



2023 POVERTY GUIDELINES

48 Contiguous States (all except Alaska and Hawaii)

Qualified **families at or below the 200% poverty level** must fill out an application. Upon qualification, individuals become members and can begin to utilize the program.

Household Size	Annual Household Income At/Below
1	\$29,160
2	\$39,440
3	\$49,720
4	\$60,000

For households with more than 4 people, add \$10,280 for each additional person.

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.





SUCCESS TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

STEP is a three-phase adult workforce training program designed to help individuals overcome barriers to employment.

STEP is made up of 85 hours of in-class coursework in the areas of emotional intelligence, workplace skill development and job acquisition training. Participants are supported in a group setting where they learn the hard and soft skills that make them desirable to employers.

Participants meet with a Workforce Development Specialist who focuses on creating individualized career plans, interview preparation and connections to employment opportunities that align with their desired career path.

Once participants have obtained employment, they are paired with a personal Success Coach. Together, they develop a Success Plan to ensure they excel in their current position and become strong candidates for future career advancement opportunities.

A LOOK BACK AT 2023



64

STEP Graduates



34

Graduates became
successfully employed



\$849K

Annualized income
of actively employed
graduates

PHASE 1: JOB TRAINING

- Interview Prep
- Resume Building
- Free Certifications
- Emotional Intelligence
- Opportunity to Meet Top Employers

PHASE 2: CAREER CONNECTION

- Connect with your career coach
- Create a career plan
- Connections to job opportunities
- Land in-demand high-paying jobs

PHASE 3: SUCCESS COACHING

- One-on-one financial improvement
- Assists with job retention and promotions
- Ongoing coaching for professional and personal growth

OUR TOP EMPLOYERS



Remnant
CONSTRUCTION



Before STEP I was unmotivated, unemployed, worried about the future and having a hard time making good choices. STEP helped me stay motivated, have a better outlook on my future and find a good job.

~ Kynge, STEP Graduate 2023



Before STEP I was alone, depressed, with no control of my mind. STEP helped me manage my actions and emotions and find the right career.

~ Ashley, STEP Graduate 2023



STEP helped me to realize my potential and that I did not deserve to be treated the way I was at my current job. The staff helped lift my spirit and give me leads and connections to a job that I now love and get treated with respect.

~ Guerline, STEP Graduate 2023



HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

When individuals are employed, their lives improve. The income they earn and the confidence they gain means employed STEP graduates can start saving money, move into stable housing and do their part to make our communities better for all.

YOUR help transforms lives!



CRISIS STABILIZATION PROGRAM

The Crisis Stabilization Program is intended to provide support for individuals facing instability in their lives whether that be physical, financial or emotional.

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

2,485

Crisis Services Delivered

309

Unique Households Served

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS



Our Crisis Navigator meets with individuals as part of the intake process to discuss and assess current situation and needs.

CUSTOMIZED CARE PLAN



Our case management team creates a customized action plan and determines the programs and services best suited for an individual's needs.

LONG TERM ROADMAP



Develop a detailed case plan, which provides an achievable step-by-step roadmap that outlines immediate and long-term goals to stabilize their life and set them up for success.



OUR DIFFERENCE

We go beyond mere referrals; we collaborate with other nonprofit and community resources to create a tangible impact.

Our approach involves delivering wraparound services tailored to each individual's unique needs. We accompany them throughout their journey, standing alongside individuals, empowering them, facilitating their path to success, and offering continuous guidance and support.

VOLUNTEER



It is only through generous investment of time and talent that we can lift the lives of struggling families in our community. Our volunteers ensure the smooth daily operation of our campus, so that our financial resources can be utilized in the most effective way possible.

In 2023, a remarkable 8,975 hours of service valued at \$283,700 were recorded by our volunteers. We simply could not operate without the help of our dedicated volunteers! Individual United Against Poverty volunteers assist with everything from stocking shelves in our Member Share Grocery Program to organizing the food pantry and staffing our welcome desk.

I love coming to the UP center to volunteer. The staff are fun to work with and giving back to the community feels really good.

~ J. Summerlin

A LOOK BACK AT 2023

8,975 **\$283,700**

Service Hours

Value of Service

**Source: Independent Sector Resources, Value of Volunteer Time 2023*



A LOOK BACK AT 2023

BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY



Our Member Share
Grocery Program
Helped Families Retain

\$4.68M

Our Member Share
Grocery Program helped

11,835

Unique Members



64

STEP Graduates



34

STEP Graduates
Employed



\$849K

Annualized Income
of Actively Employed
Graduates



2,485

Units of Stabilization
Services Provided in
Our Life Enrichment
Center

309

Unique Households
Served



154

Classes and
Workshops



35

Families Lifted
Out of Poverty

1,533
Participants

MONETARY GIFTS

For every \$1 you donated in 2023, 90.9¢ 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.

YOUR IMPACT

90.9¢

Program Activities

3.6¢

Management &
General Expenses

5.5¢

Fundraising
Expenses

GIFTS OF PRODUCT



144

Product Partners

\$1,357,445

Food & Household Items



GIFT OF TIME & TALENT



712

Individuals Volunteered

8,975

Volunteer Hours Served

\$283,700

Total Value of Service

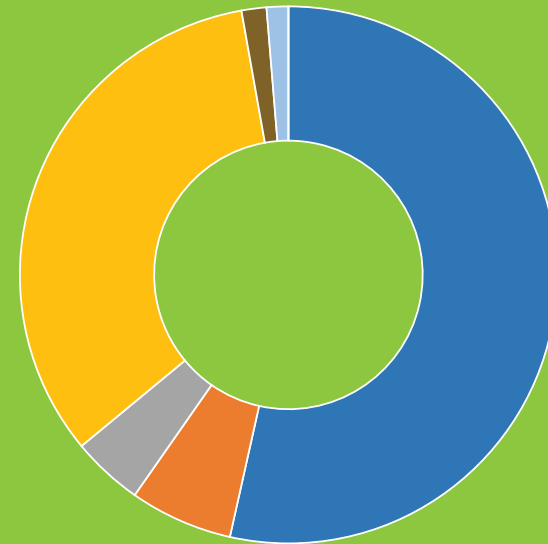
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2023

To maintain the highest level of fiscal responsibility, Kmetz, Elwell, Graham & Associates Certified Public Accountants conducts an Independent Audit of our entire organization each year. The below Revenue and Expense summary reflects financial information for the St. Lucie County UP Center only.

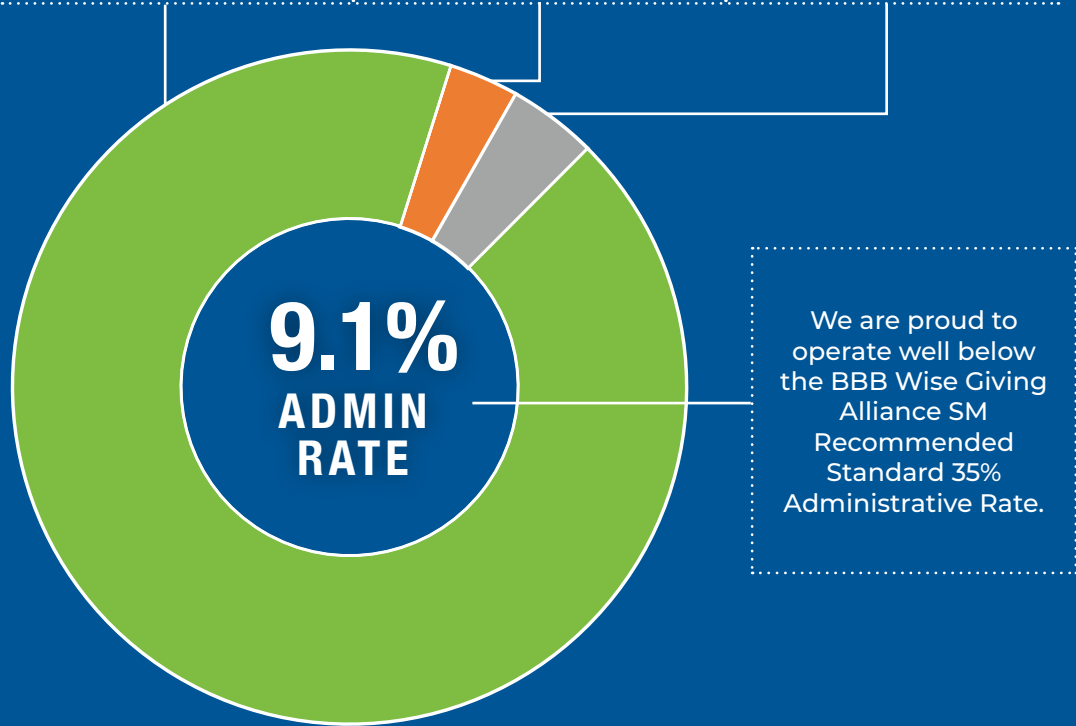


OPERATING REVENUE



Member Share Grocery Program & Redistribution	\$2,186,882
Public Support	\$255,502
Grant Revenue	\$175,454
In-kind contributions from Product Partners	\$1,357,445
Event Income	\$62,856
Other Income	\$49,651
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	\$450
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,088,240

OPERATING EXPENSES	
Program Activities	\$3,872,926
Management & General	\$151,195
Fundraising	\$233,187
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,257,308



We are proud to operate well below the BBB Wise Giving Alliance SM Recommended Standard 35% Administrative Rate.



NET ASSETS

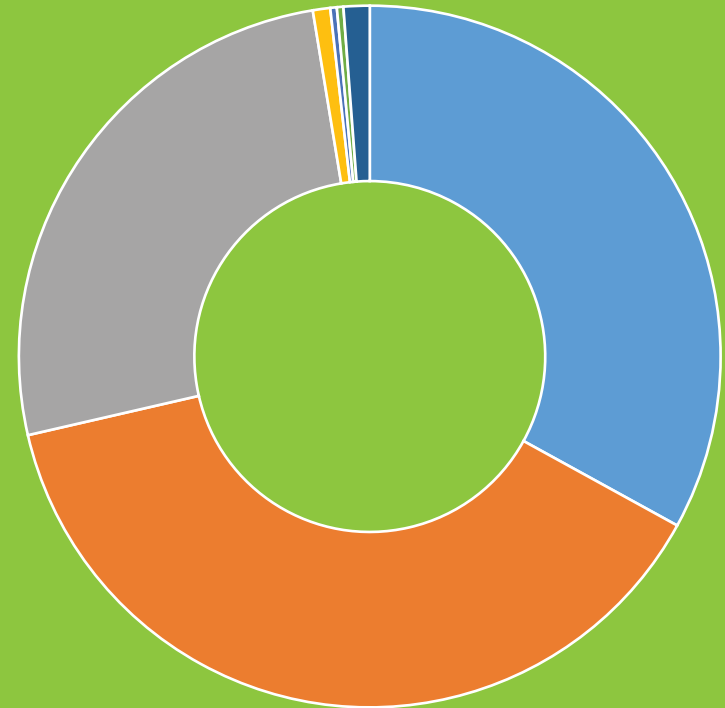
The below Net Assets summary is reflective of our entire organization, including the Indian River, St. Lucie, and Orlando locations.

Beginning of Year	\$16,162,096
Change in Net Assets	\$1,085,929
END OF YEAR	\$17,248,025

DEMOGRAPHICS

100% OF THE HOUSEHOLDS SERVED FALL AT OR BELOW
200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL.

PARTICIPANT ETHNICITY

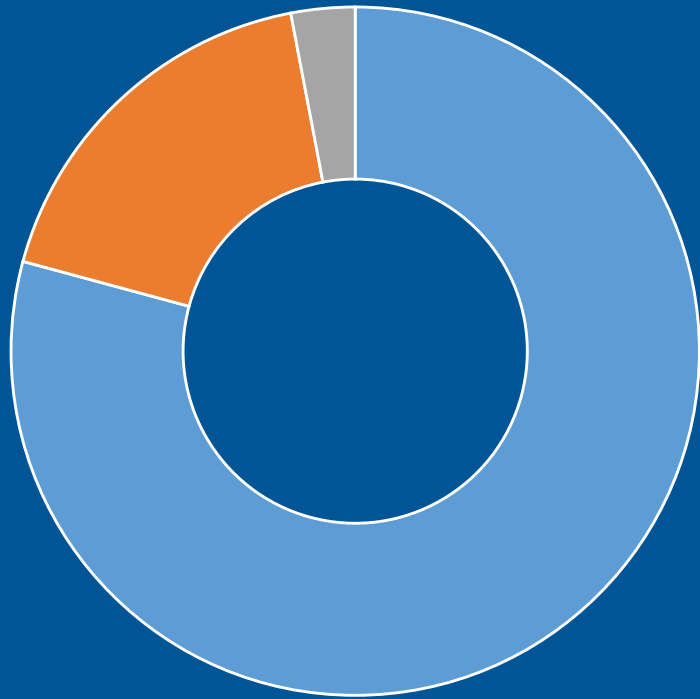


33.0%	African American
38.4%	Caucasian
26.0%	Hispanic
0.8%	Asian
0.3%	Native American
0.3%	Other
1.2%	Not Reported



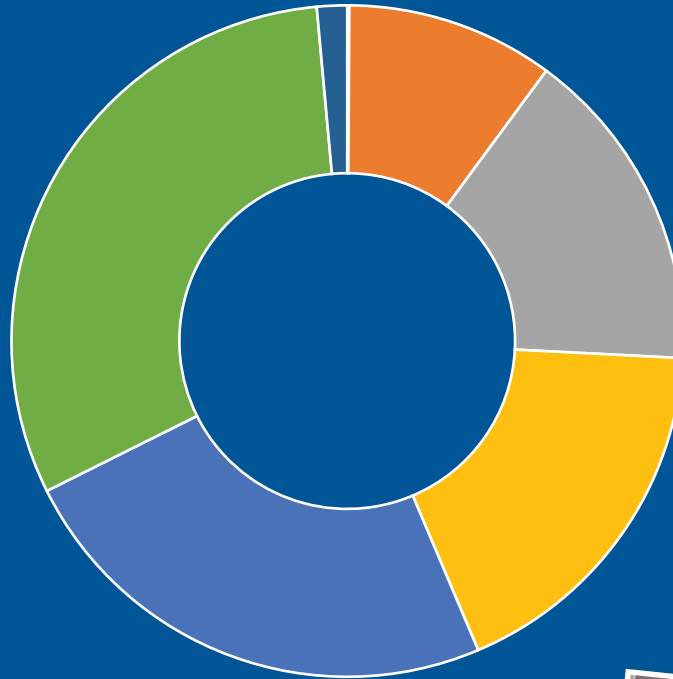
LOCAL COUNTY PARTICIPANTS

79.2%	St. Lucie
17.8%	Indian River
3.0%	Okeechobee



PARTICIPANT AGE

0.1%	0-18
10.0%	19-34
15.7%	35-44
17.8%	45-54
24.0%	55-64
30.9%	65+
1.5%	Not Reported



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

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 2023 events such a success!

4/1 - FOOL'S DAY 5K

On Saturday, April 1st at Causeway Cove Marina in Fort Pierce, The UP Center of St. Lucie held their Annual Fool's Day 5K. Over 150 people joined the walk/run along the beautiful view of the water fronts.



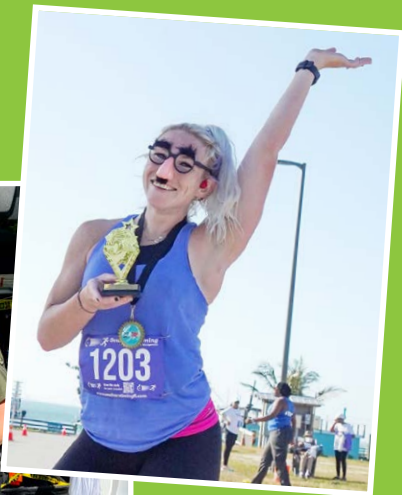
9/27 - HAND UP LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, September 27th, the UP Center of St. Lucie hosted our Hand UP Luncheon at Clover Park, graciously sponsored by the Port St. Lucie Mets. More than 90 supporters gathered to hear about our Success Training Employment Program and additional services we offer members of the community at UP St. Lucie.



10/20 - TRUNK OR TREAT

On Friday, October 20th UP St. Lucie held its 2nd Annual Community Resource Trunk or Treat. The event had 25 community partners present to share resources and treats to the over 170 families that attended.



2023 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Cassandre Champagne Agahro

Jim Brann

Rufus C. Byrd

John Cesar

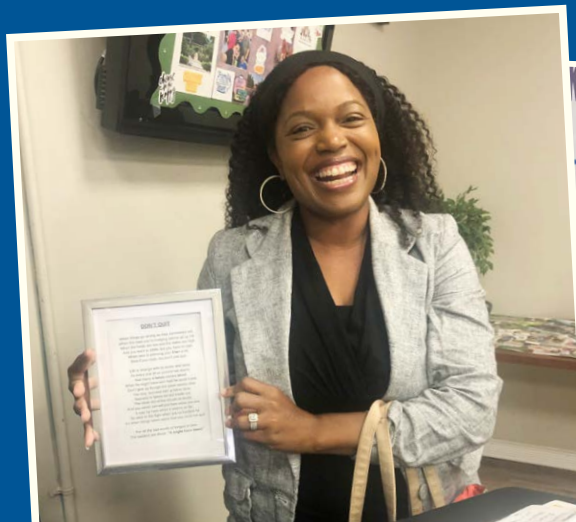
Erin O'Brien

Brian Rubin

Marci Sanders

Lillie Shepherd

Michael Walker



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS FOR GIVING A HAND UP IN 2023



\$100,000–\$199,000

Bernard A. Egan Foundation, Inc.

\$25,000–\$49,999

Seacoast National Bank
United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee

\$10,000–\$24,999

Amazin Mets Foundation
Bernard and Linda Kastory
Maximus Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

Southern Eagle Distributing Inc.
TD Charitable Foundation
Publix Super Markets Charities
A & G Concrete Pools
Synovus Bank
Remnant Construction

\$1,000–\$4,999

Busch Family Foundation
City of Fort Pierce PD
Craig & Jane Karraker
Dyer Difference
Insurance Office of America
Mary Barrett
State Farm Foundation
Boeschen Family Charitable Fund
Robert & Carol Weissman
American Heart Association
Children's Services Council
Chuck's Seafood Restaurant, LLC
Coca Cola Florida
The Porch Factory
Patricia Wagaman
Florida Blue
Treasure Coast Hope For the
Homeless Foundation, Inc.

\$500–\$999

Donna Giasullo
East Coast Lumber
Allen & Terry Osteen
Artistry in Mosaic
Erin O'Brien
Chrysalis Health
Island eBikes
Kibbey Wagner PLLC
St. Lucie Mets
The American Legion Post 318
Unified Technology Solutions Inc.



OUR PURPOSE

To empower families and individuals to lift themselves to sustainable economic self-sufficiency.

OUR MISSION

To serve families and individuals by providing crisis care, case management, 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 and individual 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.

772-468-8543 • www.upslc.org
2520 Orange Avenue • Fort Pierce, FL 34947

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

