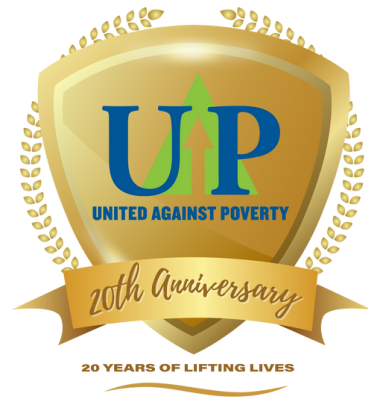


SPRING 2024

TEAM

NEWSLETTER



1400 27th Street, Vero Beach, FL 32960 | upirc.org | (772) 770-2665

A Word From The Executive Director

MATT TANNER



2023 was the single most impactful year in our twenty-year history, and we owe that to YOU, our community of champions. Over 25,000 households participated in our UPlifting programs, with record high achievements for our Success Training Employment Program (STEP), Crisis Stabilization, Education and Member Share Grocery programs. With 45% of our county's residents struggling to meet their household survival budget, our mission has never been more important to this community that we all cherish and call home. Your continued gifts of support allow our dedicated team to broaden our impact, launch new programs and partnerships and honor the responsibility of being the largest and most impactful nonprofit in Indian River County. On behalf of all of us here at UP, we thank you.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Grace Harris first learned about the UP Center when she visited the Member Share Grocery with her mother, a senior experiencing food insecurity. She saw advertisements for our Success Training Employment Program (STEP), but hesitated to enroll. Grace had received a Bachelor's degree in Health Sciences six months earlier, but struggled to secure job interviews in her desired field, while working at a restaurant to make ends meet. It wasn't until she spoke with Executive Director, Matt Tanner, about STEP that she realized its potential to help her break through her job search rut. Grace graduated from STEP in July 2022 and had the following to say about her experience:



"The morning motivation sessions and crafting vision boards resonated with me the most. They fueled my enthusiasm and sense of purpose each day. Initially skeptical, I gradually embraced the program's uplifting ethos, which significantly altered my perspective on life. This newfound mindset proved invaluable as I navigated the rigorous dental school application process. Today, I make it a point to incorporate positive affirmations into my daily routine, a practice I credit to STEP.

Upon completing STEP, I served as the Children's Program Coordinator at Catholic Charities. After a year of dedicated work, I relocated to Buffalo, New York, to embark on my dental education journey at the University at Buffalo School of Dental Medicine." My mantra has become "Aut inveniam viam aut faciam," (I shall either find a way or make one). Thanks to the generosity of UP's donors and their dedicated staff, I approach each day with determination and perseverance, knowing there is a path forward waiting to be discovered or created."

Grace Harris
Doctor of Dental Surgery Candidate | Class of 2027

BURGERS & BREWS



NEW TIME!

11AM- 4PM

Saturday, June 29

OAKS AREA AT RIVERSIDE PARK

Sponsorships are now available!

Contact Event Director, Allison Zukowski, to learn more.

AZukowski@UnitedAgainstPoverty.org or 772.770.0740 ext. 204

Stay up to date by following our "Burgers & Brews 2024" Facebook event page!

Thank You to John's Island Foundation

A special thank you to our friends at the John's Island Foundation, who have demonstrated an inspirational commitment to helping us lift lives out of poverty. Since 2003, John's Island Foundation has donated over \$480,000 to our transformative programs. This includes work vehicles, forklifts, a Point of Sale system for our grocery program and tech upgrades in our educational classrooms.



Thank You to Florida Blue Foundation



UP has been awarded \$400,000 and recognized for its impactful efforts in addressing food insecurity. The funding will significantly contribute to the Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP), which plays a vital role in providing access to nutritious food to our neighbors in need. The funds will be utilized to purchase refrigerated trucks for the grocery program. This will ensure delivery of and access to a larger variety of fresh food, particularly cooler and freezer products.

Upcoming Events



March 8, 2024
Community Resource Fair
UP Center Lobby
11am - 2pm



July 2024
Job Fair
UP Center Lobby



Every Tuesday & Thursday
Access to Justice Center
Tues and Thurs 9am - 5pm



June 29, 2024
Burgers & Brews
Oaks Area at Riverside Park
11am - 4pm



November 28, 2024
Trot Against Poverty 5K
Riverside Park
7:30am



Tuesdays & Wednesdays by Appt.
VITA Free Tax Prep
UP Center
Tues 2:30pm - 6:30pm & Wed 10am - 2pm

2023 IMPACT

A Milestone Year for STEP!

Over \$4 Million

SOCIAL COST AVOIDANCE

*Reducing the reliance on government assistance programs

127

STEP GRADUATES IN 2023

THE MOST GRADUATES IN STEP'S HISTORY!

86

ADULTS EMPLOYED IN 2023

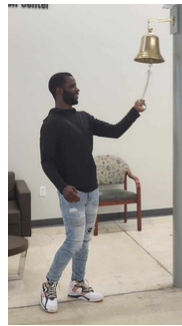
THE MOST EMPLOYED GRADUATES IN A SINGLE YEAR

2023 STEP GRADUATE COMBINED EARNINGS



\$2.15 Million

the largest in our program's history



Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP)

23,208

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES SERVED
215% INCREASE
OVER 2022

Crisis Stabilization

7,232

SERVICES PROVIDED
23% INCREASE
OVER 2022

1,000

UNIQUE HOUSEHOLDS SERVED

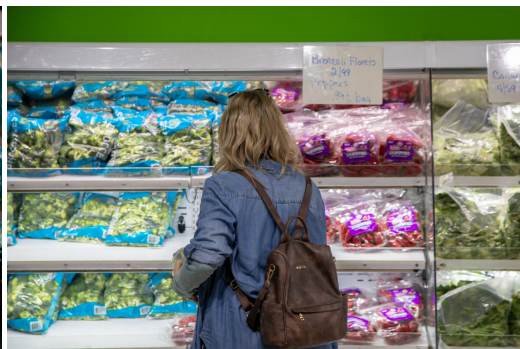
Education Program

785

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES
63% INCREASE
OVER 2022

2,246

EDUCATION PARTICIPANTS
64% INCREASE
OVER 2022



Volunteer Groups!

20,000
Volunteer
Hours

COMPLETED
IN 2023

MOST
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
COMPLETED
IN IRC
HISTORY

\$600,000

TOTAL VALUE
OF VOLUNTEER
SERVICE IN
2023

Our Volunteer Opportunities include:

- Assisting in our MSGP
- Supporting our annual events such as Burgers & Brews and Trot Against Poverty 5K
- Stocking and inventorying our Emergency Food Pantry
- Assisting in STEP with resume writing, interview skills, and financial literacy
- Assisting at our Welcome Desk, alongside our staff, to greet members, answer questions, answer phone calls



We are thankful to have amazing volunteers who contributed to our mission last year!



To learn more about how you, your family, or a service group you belong to can volunteer at UP, reach out to our Volunteer Coordinator, Caryl, at CZook@UnitedAgainstPoverty.org

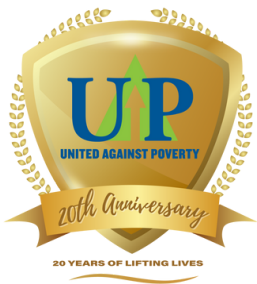


The Significance of Your Impact

Help stabilize families	Help students lift themselves to economic self-sufficiency (STEP)	Help families gain access to nutritious foods
\$500 - 1 family	\$2,500 - 1 student	\$200 - 1 family
\$1,000 - 2 families	\$5,000 - 2 students	\$400 - 2 families
\$1,500 - 3 families	\$10,000 - 4 students	\$600 - 3 families
\$2,000 - 4 families	\$15,000 - 6 students	\$800 - 4 families

To donate, mail a check to United Against Poverty, 1400 27th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960

Or go to UPIrc.org/Donate to make a gift online



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