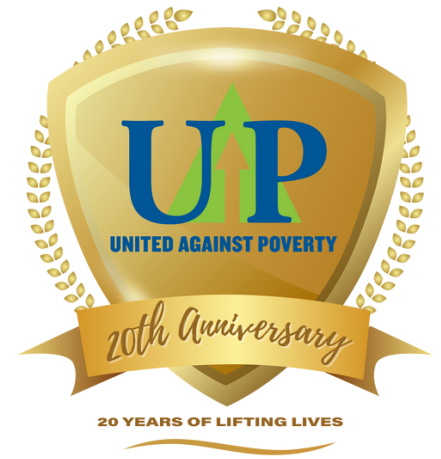


FALL 2023

TEAM

NEWSLETTER



150 W. Michigan St. Orlando, FL 32806 | uporlando.org | (407) 650-0774



Keyshaundra graduating from STEP

Our Purpose

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

KEYSHAUNDRAS STORY

Today Keyshaundra Reynolds may be a professional leasing agent at a prestigious apartment now, but if we turn the clock back a year, we'd see a struggling addict living at a homeless shelter, unable to provide for herself with essential basic needs. With her daughter living in another state, she was alone with no support. Drowning in what seemed like a never ending avalanche of debt, depression, and hopelessness.

She knew she had to make a change in her life in order to thrive and prosper, the way everyone deserves. It was at that moment when Keyshaundra soon discovered help and support through United Against Poverty. Keyshaundra worked with one of our Crisis Navigators and developed a plan. Improving her income was the first step to take and STEP it was! We're referring to our very own Success Training Employment Program. While attending STEP, Keyshaundra's stay at the Salvation Army's Homeless Shelter ran out. Our Crisis team worked diligently to get her into transitional housing and succeeded!

While living there, she focused on getting her life in order. She did all she could to turn things around. She was finally on the right track. Unfortunately, only a few months into her residency at her new home, she was short \$350 on rent and was evicted.

She found herself back on the streets with nowhere to turn... but UP. Upon eviction, our Success Coach, Lawandale, met her after hours and helped to pick up Keyshaundra's belongings that were put outside by her landlord. Literally, leaving her to pick up the pieces. Again, our Crisis Navigator was able to arrange housing for Keyshaundra, in a hotel, while she got back on her feet.

Keyshaundra continued to be persistent and felt motivated enough to continue her journey by attending STEP class and graduating. Prior to graduating STEP, all students participate in mock interviews with UP Employer Partners. This process is unique as it gave Keyshaundra the opportunity to hone in on her interviewing skills and speak with Employer Partners who might match up to her job skills. Keyshaundra ended up having an incredible interview with an apartment complex in the area and not only landed the job, but was able to use her employment in order to secure an apartment in the same complex.

She gathered her things from her small hotel room, returned the key and never looked back. She was on her way to break the devastating, hopeless cycle of poverty.

UP Orlando is pleased to announce the addition of **Downtown Primary Clinic** to our campus.



United Against Poverty Orlando (UP Orlando) is proud to announce the opening of a new state-of-the-art low-income urgent care clinic. This new clinic, in partnership with Downtown Primary Clinic, is located onsite. Downtown Primary Clinic is a full service, doctor-led, urgent care clinic available to all low-income individuals and families, Monday through Friday, including same-day appointments. For low-income individuals who may not have access to a primary care provider or have limited resources, urgent care clinics become essential for addressing urgent health needs in a timely manner.



“Low-income urgent care clinics provide a crucial point of entry into the healthcare system for families who don’t have access to regular medical care. Our clinic is carefully designed to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all patients. By partnering with UP, we’re situated in a great location for making healthcare services more accessible to those who are already facing financial barriers” said Dr. Jay Khan, Founder of Downtown Primary Clinic.

“We are delighted to expand our services to offer the Orlando community an onsite urgent care clinic, aiming to ensure individuals and families have access to affordable primary healthcare. We know access to affordable healthcare is a need in the community and want to express our gratitude to Downtown Primary Clinic for making healthcare services available.” said Gwendolyn Butson, Chief Executive Officer, United Against Poverty.

From Learners to Earners

Our STEP Program welcomes employer partners to prepare our students for their next STEP.

In order for each STEP participant to graduate, they must complete two sets of mock interviews. Needless to say, cohort 51 NAILED it! We welcomed the Disney Casting team and Elizabeth Vermilya from Floridian Real Estate Group to facilitate interviews. Each participant got a one-on-one resume review, and multiple extensive interviews with



immediate feedback. After talking with the participants, they all felt ready to tackle the second round, and were excited about the possible job placements to follow.

The UP Orlando team thanks you for your support as none of this would be possible without your kind contributions and volunteer hours!



Congratulations STEP Cohort 51!

Cohort 51 was such a special group, they were easy to celebrate! This class went through a 4 week training program and graduated with priceless workforce skills. These 8 (one missed graduation since he had to go to his new job!) were among 52 STEP graduates this year. We are so excited to watch them soar into their new careers and opportunities. We will make sure to keep you informed of their success!

Upcoming Cohort Start Dates: September 18, 2023 and October 30, 2023



First Baptist Orlando
October 6, 2023
12:00pm-1:00pm

Want to be part of sustainable change? Join us at the UP Orlando Annual Hand UP Luncheon event and learn why this is the most important and inspirational fundraising event of the year. We invite you to network with elected officials, influencers and changemakers, such as yourself, who share a passion for our cause!



Register Here
www.handuporlando.org



Look UP, We Have a Roof!

Our roof is getting fixed! Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Donald and Cindy Diebel, the Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation, 4Rivers and other donors for affording us the ability to repair our roof. However, the passage of time (40 years) along with the harsh Florida weather has taken a toll on our building's infrastructure, increasing the estimated cost. Every single donation, no matter how small, will make a significant impact. We're truly grateful for your continued support!



Thank you to the Chesley Magruder Foundation!

We're thrilled to announce our long-time supporter Chesley G. Magruder Foundation has generously donated \$20,000 to UP Orlando! This incredible contribution will make a significant impact in our efforts to offer supportive life-essential services to help families break the cycle of poverty. With this donation, families will have increased access to healthy foods, crisis care assistance, and job training/placement. On hand for the check presentation were the foundation's Trustees and Brock and Kathy Magruder. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of those in need. Thank you, Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, for your dedication to our cause!



What an honor...

Thank you to the Women's Missionary Society-African Methodist Episcopal Church members for choosing United Against Poverty as the recipient of monetary and in-kind donations of needed items like diapers, baby food, blankets, batteries and many other items. We are thankful for the blessings and your well wishes as we continue our mission of lifting lives out of poverty.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 Grantors

- Maitland Rotary Club
- Dr. Phillips Charities
- Orlando Magic Youth Foundation
- The Martin Anderson + Garcia Anderson Foundation
- Chesley Magruder Foundation
- Regions Bank
- City of Orlando
- Synovus Bank
- Cigna
- Florida Blue
- Spectrum
- The Joe & Sarah Galloway Foundation
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Orange County Government
- Karma Roofing
- TD Bank





September 14th 2023

Join us for a night of celebration with champagne and live music by Aaron Iannitelli

Register Here



fall next gen happy hour

Our first Next Gen Happy hour was a huge success. We are so excited to host our next one at Lazy Moon on October 18th at 5:00! Come network with young professionals who are eager to make a difference in their community and learn more about United Against Poverty and what we are doing for the community.



Each year with your help, UP Orlando distributes a complete Thanksgiving meal to our neighbors in need. Let's recognize that every family deserves to celebrate this wonderful tradition.

We need help with:

- Picking up food donations
- Packing HH food bags
- Distributing on event day (Nov 20)

Contact Jaye Silvagnoli for more information.



Thank you!

Scan QR Code with your smartphone & make a gift today!



Product Partner Highlight



Cal-Maine Foods, which was founded in 1957, is currently headquartered in Ridgeland, Mississippi and is a sustainable producer and distributor of high-quality shell eggs and egg products in the country. Cal-Maine has been a dedicated product partner of United Against Poverty for over 11 years.

In April 2019, Cal-Maine launched their Sunshine State Cage Free Brown Eggs that are sold throughout Florida. UAP has had the privilege of being co-branded on the Sunshine State Eggs and the recipient of Cal-Maine's generous donation of \$0.02 per carton sold since launching the brand. This has resulted in over \$102,000 in support!

Over the past 5 years Cal-Maine has donated 1,327 pallets of eggs, which is over 55 tractor trailer loads to the Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP). Their generosity and support have left us truly humbled. The fresh nutritious eggs donated not only provide essential sustenance but also bring smiles to the faces of our MSGP members. Cal-Maine's commitment to making a positive difference in the communities we serve is deeply appreciated.

2023 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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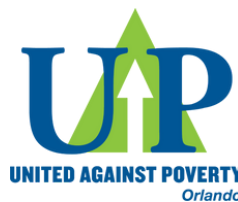
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