

SPRING 2024

TEAM

NEWSLETTER



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

MSGP just got a
\$987,000 upgrade...



Big News for MSGP ...

UP Orlando has served the community for more than 20 years as a resource for offering low-cost nutritious foods through the UP Orlando onsite Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP). The community benefit of utilizing the MSGP program affords families the ability to obtain nutritious groceries, at a reduced cost, and stretch their dollars in order to cover other life essentials such as housing, utilities, transportation, childcare and medical care. During Hurricane Ian, we lost our outdated, not efficient coolers and freezers which were deemed unrepairable and inoperable. This resulted in families having a limited selection of nutritious foods, forcing them to either do without or obtain food from a traditional grocer at a higher cost. As the MSGP program is a low-cost grocery center offering nutritious groceries at a 60-70% reduced cost of a traditional grocer, having to obtain groceries from a traditional grocer limits the value of their dollar. And once this occurs, it becomes a question of ... do we put food on the table or pay for utilities? Or worse, a choice of food or housing. Thanks to our valuable partners like yourself we were able to complete the installation of the brand-new freezers and coolers. We are so excited the project is complete and our community now has a large variety of nutritious frozen products available.

"The UP store is so important because of the inflation in food now a days. People have been struggling a lot lately and I think it is absolutely amazing that we allow people who are less fortunate to be able to come here and fill up their carts for only \$30 dollars and feed their entire family. I graduated from the STEP program and knew that the work that United Against Poverty was doing was something that I wanted to be a part of." – Egypt (Longtime MSGP Member)

A daily average of 450 families like Egypt, are utilizing the onsite UP Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP) low-cost grocery center. Compared to a year ago, that's an increase of 43%. Such statistics demonstrate that food insecurity is getting worse. Many families are seeking help for the first time. For some, they're working several jobs in order to make ends meet. And others, such as our seniors on a fixed budget are not able to supplement their income.

Whether it's helping families get back on their feet or assisting seniors with the ability to retire, your support is critical to their everyday needs. We thank you for helping people like Egypt and other neighbors, friends or family members struggling to thrive in Orlando. Your support is a HAND UP of hope.



TO SCHEDULE A CAMPUS TOUR, EMAIL AVAYA@UNITEDAGAINSTPOVERTY.ORG

Volunteer Spotlight: Orange County

What an amazing morning we had at United Against Poverty (UP Orlando)! Over 100 people from Orange County, including Mayor Demmings, volunteered at our Orlando campus. Volunteers got a firsthand look at the programs and services we offer at UP Orlando. We are so grateful for your support!



Success Training Employment Program



Monica White found herself homeless after the passing of her mother, and had nowhere to turn. Everything seemed to spiral out of control in the blink of an eye. She had nowhere to live, and was struggling to keep her car, since she was unable to pay her bills. No home, no family to turn to, and now on the brink of losing everything remaining. She was referred to the Success Training Employment Program (STEP) by a transitional housing program for the homeless and wasted no time. She was at our door step soon after.

Upon completing our 4 week STEP program, Monica landed a full time job, with benefits and a salary that allowed her to obtain an apartment of her own, and keep her car. We are thrilled to report that she is now working towards a managerial position at her current job, and is living completely self-sufficiently.



Upcoming STEP Class Dates

April 1 - April 26 | May 13 - June 7 | June 24 - July 19

VITA

Since 2016, UP Orlando has been one of the few sites offering the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program coordinated through Heart of Florida United Way. Over the past years, families have received more than **\$500,000 in tax refunds**. In preparation for the 2024 tax year, the VITA program appointments were completely booked within the first few weeks of February! Clients received funds that helped pay for rent, food, transportation child care, medical bills, tuition, and other essentials.



Our Onsite Clinic is Officially Open

We are so excited to officially announce the opening of our on-site medical clinic! Open 5 days a week. We offer primary care visits for \$30 self-pay and accept Medicaid and Medicare. A big thank you to Dr. Kahn and his team for making this possible. They will be providing top notch care for our members and the community.



2023 COMMUNITY IMPACT EVENTS:

Hopeful Harvest



On November 20, 2023, thanks to community support, we were fortunate to provide **450** families with a turkey and all the fixings so they can celebrate Thanksgiving with their loved ones.

Hope for the Holidays



On December 15, 2023. We were able to give families toys to help parents ensure their children have a special holiday and create precious memories during a challenging time.

POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH JANUARY:



Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and the Board of County Commissioners proclaimed January as **"United Against Poverty"** month. We're grateful for this honor and Orange County's support of our mission of helping us lift families out of poverty.



We Kicked Off 2024 as United Against Poverty Awareness Month. We want to send a special thanks to City National for generously matching all donations up to **\$5,000**. With your help we exceeded our matched goal of **\$10,000!**

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS



We would like to welcome our new partner, **Ricky Favors of Farah and Farah Law** towards our Member Share Grocery Program. With this partnership we will be able to expand access of nutritious food utilizing a mobile market truck in 2024.



We are thrilled to announce our partnership with **Florida Blue Foundation**. Thank you for the generous grant. Together, we stand united in our efforts to provide access to affordable, healthy food to the communities we serve.



Dr. and Mr. Robin and Wayne Roberts have been long time supporters of United Against Poverty and continue to make incredibly generous gifts to our organization.

Introducing: Double Your Donation

United Against Poverty has partnered with DoubleTheDonation.com to make it even more worthwhile to volunteer at United Against Poverty. Now, when you or your team volunteers at UAP, you will be able to search your employer to see if they have a match program (many of them do). Once you have selected your employer, you will see that they will have different incentives for donating or volunteering to different non-profits. Some companies will match a monetary donation dollar-for-dollar, sometimes more. Some companies will write United Against Poverty a grant based on how many hours their employees volunteer. Some companies do both! No matter what your company offers, it benefits United Against Poverty greatly.



Double the Donation
matching gifts made easy



UP Orlando Team

THANK YOU!

As we face this economic impact, it is clear that hundreds of our neighbors will not only struggle to feed their families but will also be affected by the rising prices.

Thanks to donors like you, UP Orlando is able to help.



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

A Message from the UP Orlando team:
 "Your UP Orlando team is grateful for your support!"

THIRD- PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

We appreciate the small businesses that desire to impact their community.



Vines Grille



The Bar Method
Winter Park



RockPit Brewing

If you would like to partner with UP Orlando please contact :
Avaya@unitedagainstopoverty.org

UP ORLANDO CONTACTS

Here's who to reach out to when you want to know what's up with UP Orlando :

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Rachel Strohm - Development Director
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Shemela Marrison - Volunteer Coordinator
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2024 Community Advisory Board



Dan Pugh Residential Building Supply	Joyce Boudoin Orange County Clerk of Courts	Rajan Joshi Joshi Law	Alicia Bechtel Orlando Health	Hollie Croft Nelson Mullins	Jack and Sharon Myers Community Volunteers	Eric Smith Orlando Police Department	Jennifer Englert Orlando Law Group
John Dowless Millennium Consulting	Edward DeAguilera Orlando Regional Realtor Assoc.	Keith Landry Realtor	Katy Eld Florida Blue	Lucas Boyce Orange County	Erik Weiner City National Bank	Robert Deininger Advent Health	Lamonte Gwynn Lamonte G Photography
							Tracey Nguyen USMLEAGLE PREP

UPCOMING EVENTS



First Wednesday of every Month
 Orange County Library System
 Pop-Up



March 28th
 Poverty Forum at UCF Downtown



April 16th
 Next Gen Committee Intro Meeting



August
 Bubbly & Blue Jeans
 Our fundraiser for Hopeful Harvests and Hope for the Holidays



October 4th
 Hand UP Luncheon

CONNECT WITH US

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