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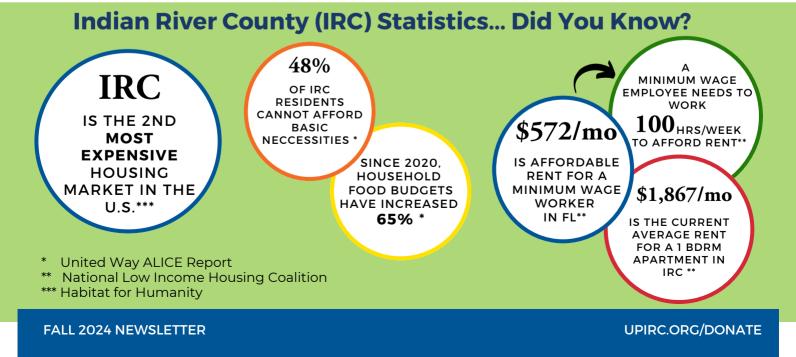
A Word From Indian River Community Foundation President & CEO JEFF PICKERING

As Indian River Community Foundation's (IRCF) President and CEO, I have the privilege of leading an organization that serves as a trusted philanthropic advisor to some of our community's most generous donors. When the topic of economic opportunity comes up, the conversation usually turns to examples where

philanthropy might help to alleviate the greatest amount of human suffering by supporting charities that lift people out of poverty. Using data from community research and information from our online community needs database, Indian River Indicators, IRCF informs our generous clients about the facts related to poverty in our community. **Many are unaware that half of our residents live either in poverty or one paycheck away from it**, and that three-fourths of these households are made up of single mothers with children. And while some perceive poor choices or risky behaviors as the tipping point that pushes some of these families into despair, we help our clients to understand that **most can attribute poverty to a combination of factors including limited access to medical and behavioral health care, inadequate education, low wages, and housing costs that are simply too high.**

When asked to recommend causes that serve vulnerable individuals and families living in Indian River County, we suggest United Against Poverty (UP). Together with our clients, the IRCF has awarded more than \$2 million to UP to operate proven programs like STEP. This employment training program assists participants to overcome barriers to employment and to secure and remain in living wage jobs. UP was founded with the idea of providing people in need of an economic opportunity a hand-up, not a handout. By all accounts, **UP has delivered superior returns on the philanthropic investments our community has made in its mission and programs,** and I believe its prospects for continued success are looking UP!

F PICKERING



EXCITING EVENTS ON THE HORIZON

Join the largest 5K on the Treasure Coast for its 17th Year! VERO BEACH | 7:30AM | THANKSGIVING MORNING





Oak Harbor Club Saturday, February 8, 2025 6:00pm-10:00pm

Cocktail Reception Dinner & Dancing Silent & Live Auctions

RSVP by January 26, 2024 \$250 per person Black Tie Optional

UNDER ONE ROOF

In response to the devastating impact of Hurricane Milton, United Against Poverty raised our hand to be the location for the county's Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC). The MARC is a temporary location where families impacted by the storm can find all the resources needed, under one roof. The UP Center's MARC welcomed 15 organizations, and **supported over 1,800 households** over the course of five days.



Meredith Egan, President & CEO, United Way of IRC

"United Way is proud of our work in partnership with United Against Poverty to stand up the MARC in record time, ensuring families had access to emergency housing and basic needs and then connecting them with vital resources to help rebuild homes and lives."

Matt Tanner, Executive Director, United Against Poverty

"When our supporters, board and staff successfully launched the new UP Center four years ago, it was with the vision and intent of it being the home for non-profits, here for whatever our community needed. From guiding thousands of families through a pandemic to helping thousands get back on their feet following a natural disaster, there is simply no other organization positioned to respond like we do in a crisis."









MARC PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

FEMA

American Red Cross

United Way of IRC

Salvation Army or IRC

Mental Health Collaborative of IRC

IRC Human Services Veterans Council of IRC Catholic Charities

IRC Habitat for Humanity

Senior Resource Association

Treasure Coast Homeless Services

Economic Opportunities Council

Substance Awareness Center

United Cajun Navy FL

Amazon

CRISIS STABILIZATION 2024 IMPACT



,450 Families served

9,917 Services provided



263 Individuals helped to obtain ID/birth certificates



Hygiene packages distributed in partnership with Indian River Hospital District



Families moved into permanent housing, to combat homelessness

BUILDING FUTURES CELEBRATING STEP & BUILD UP ACHIEVEMENTS





ING THE CYC



Beverly Watts STEP Graduate Security Guard at Weiser STEP GRADUATES **Security Services** ELEVATED OUT OF POVERTY "Stay focused, be encouraged and ao make a difference in the lives ROI of others." \$3 RETURNED TO



DONATED **Larry Drouillard Build UP Graduate Mobile Hydraulic Technician at Pirtek**

"Build UP taught me to glwavs trust yourself and take chances in life. You never know where it will take you."

2024 STEP GRADUATE COMBINED EARNINGS

86

ADULTS **EMPLOYED IN 2024**

> ON PACE FOR 100 ADULTS

EMPLOYED!

\$2.7 MILLION

50

OUR LOCAL

ECONOMY FOR EVERY \$1

> THE LARGEST IN OUR **PROGRAMS HISTORY**

WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER

While we are incredibly proud of the work we did to support our community following Hurricane Milton, the reality is our organization sustained over \$300,000 in damages and lost revenue as a result of the storm. Our roof sustained severe damage, we lost a 14-foot truck and were forced to close to the public for five days while we were without power. This resulted in the loss of thousands of dollars of frozen and refrigerated product. We ask that you please consider a gift to our Hurricane Milton Recovery efforts so that we can continue to keep our focus where it's needed most, lifting the lives of our neighbors in need.











MICHAEL HOFMANN



TO DONATE, MAIL A CHECK TO UNITED AGAINST POVERTY, 1400 27TH ST, VERO BEACH, FL 32960 **OR ONLINE AT UPIRC.ORG/DONATE**

BARBARA BUTTS

CATHERINE DAVIS

DON DRINKARD

CINDY GALANT

PAM HARMON

COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Ph.

ISABELLE RICHARD



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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

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