



UP

UNITED AGAINST POVERTY

UP
UNITED AGAINST POVERTY
St. Lucie County

2025
ANNUAL REPORT



OUR IMPACT

TO OUR CHERISHED SUPPORTERS

Dear Supporter,

We would not have achieved the impact we did in 2025 without the generosity and belief of people like you. Because of your support, we continued to strengthen our community and expand critical services for individuals and families across our region.

OUR MEMBER SHARE GROCERY PROGRAM (MSGP) remained a vital resource as families faced ongoing economic challenges and rising food costs. Through MSGP, members saved up to 70% on their monthly grocery expenses. In 2025, **13,323 UNIQUE HOUSEHOLDS**—representing more than **43,300 INDIVIDUALS**, including **14,760 YOUTH**—accessed food through the SLC MSGP. Collectively, members saved an estimated **\$4.37 MILLION**, helping them redirect resources toward other essential household needs.

OUR SUCCESS TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP) experienced another successful year. We added new staff to strengthen and elevate the program and **GRADUATED 74** individuals from Phase I of in-class training, where participants developed skills in emotional intelligence, job acquisition, and workplace readiness. In Phase II, participants gained employment through our strong network of employer partners, resulting in **46 INDIVIDUALS SECURING JOBS** in 2025.

THE LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER (LEC) focused on building strong relationships with community partners to ensure access to comprehensive resources. Our Crisis Stabilization Team supported 435 households, **PROVIDING MORE THAN 1,800 SERVICES**, including housing and utility assistance, emergency food, health education, and critical referrals. We also continued assisting individuals with SNAP applications through our on-site partnership with the DCF Access Office.

None of this impact would have been possible without our dedicated network of individual donors, foundations, community advocates, and volunteers who stepped UP and shared their time, talent, and treasure throughout the year. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our mission and to the community we serve. Our work would not be possible without YOU.

With sincere gratitude,
Sean Howald
Executive Director,
St. Lucie Campus



MEMBER SHARE GROCERY PROGRAM

UNITED AGAINST POVERTY'S MEMBER SHARE GROCERY PROGRAM (MSGP) 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 items, pantry staples and more.

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



In 2025, United Against Poverty served 13,323 families who utilized the Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP).

A LOOK BACK AT 2025

13,323

Unique Members Utilizing MSGP

\$4.4M

Member Resources Retained

2025 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	\$31,300
2	\$42,300
3	\$53,300
4	\$64,300

For households with more than 4 persons, add \$11,000 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

THE SUCCESS TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (STEP) is a **three-phase workforce training program** designed to help individuals overcome employment barriers and achieve long-term success.

The journey begins with **85 hours of classroom learning**, where participants build **emotional intelligence, workplace readiness, and job search strategies** in a supportive group environment. This collaborative approach helps them gain both the **skills and confidence** to stand out to employers.

Participants then work **one-on-one with a Workforce Development Specialist** to create a **personalized career plan**, practice **interview preparation**, and connect with **job opportunities** that align with their goals.

Once employed, individuals are matched with a **dedicated Success Coach** who provides **ongoing support**, helping them thrive in their roles and pursue **career advancement**.

STEP is **more than a workforce training program** — it's a **partnership for empowerment**, helping individuals build **bigger, brighter futures**.



A LOOK BACK AT 2025



74

STEP Graduates



46

Graduates became
successfully employed



\$1.4M

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

TOP TIER UNITED PARTNERS

Remnant
CONSTRUCTION

SOUTHERN EAGLE
DISTRIBUTING

A&G CONCRETE
POOLS INC.

St. Lucie
Mets

HOW YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Employment is a powerful turning point. For STEP Graduates, a job means more than just a paycheck — it's the beginning of independence, stability, and self-worth. With steady income and renewed confidence, they can start saving for the future, secure safe and stable housing, and step fully into their role as empowered, contributing members of the community.

YOUR help transforms lives!

”

Before I started STEP, I was unmotivated and didn't have much hope that I would find a job. I first heard about the Success Training Employment Program (STEP) from my brother, who graduated from the program, and he encouraged me to give it a try. STEP turned out to be more than I expected; it taught me how to better manage my emotions and helped me find my motivation again.

When I shared my interest in becoming a plumbing apprentice, they introduced me to the owner of SouthPaw Plumbing. Because of the interview skills I learned in STEP, the interview felt more like a conversation, and we really connected. I have now been working with SouthPaw for almost three months, and I love it. They are even going to pay for me to attend the plumbing program at Indian River State College.

Because of STEP and the work, I put in, my brothers and sisters look up to me, and my mom is so proud. STEP has helped change my future, and I'm proud of how far I've come!

~ Jordon, STEP Graduate 2025

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 2025

1,868

Crisis Services
Delivered

435

Unique Households
Served

ONE-ON-ONE MEETINGS



Our Crisis Navigator conducts an intake meeting to assess each individual's current situation and needs.

CUSTOMIZED CARE PLAN



The Case Management team develops a personalized action plan, connecting individuals to the most suitable programs and services.

LONG TERM ROADMAP



A detailed case plan is created, outlining clear, achievable steps, to address immediate challenges and establish long-term stability and success.

OUR DIFFERENCE

At United Against Poverty, we go beyond simple referrals — we foster **deep collaborations** with other nonprofits and community resources to drive meaningful change. Our commitment is reflected in our **wrap around services**, personalized to meet each individual's unique needs. This **tailored approach** ensures that we stand beside those we serve every step of the way, **empowering** them, **facilitating** their journey to success, and providing continuous guidance and support.

Together, we're not just addressing immediate challenges — we're creating **lasting impact** and building stronger, more resilient communities.

VOLUNTEER

VOLUNTEERS are the heart of the UP Center, playing a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to support and empower individuals in our community. Their time, energy, and passion make a profound impact on the lives of those we serve. Whether they're assisting with programs and events, stocking shelves in our grocery program, or sharing their valuable knowledge, our volunteers help create a welcoming, inclusive space for all.

At the UP Center, we believe that together, we can build a stronger, more compassionate community, and volunteers are essential to making that vision a reality. Their dedication allows us to continue providing critical services, and we are deeply grateful for each and every volunteer who joins us in this mission.

In 2025, we welcomed a record-breaking **2,546 volunteers** on-site, with **12,863 hours** contributed throughout the year. We are truly blessed and beyond grateful for the incredible support from our community!

A LOOK BACK AT 2025

12,863

Service Hours

\$424K

Value of Service*

*Source: Independent Sector Resources, Value of Volunteer Time 2025



BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

A LOOK BACK AT 2025



Our Member Share
Grocery Program
Helped Families Retain

\$4.4M

Our Member Share
Grocery Program
helped

13,323

Unique Members



74

STEP Graduates



46

STEP Graduates
Employed



\$1.4M

Annualized Income
of Actively Employed
Graduates



1,868

Units of Stabilization
Services Provided in
Our Life Enrichment
Center

435

Unique Households
Served



46

Families Lifted
Out of Poverty



YOUR IMPACT

GIFTS OF PRODUCT



164

Product Partners

\$2.0M

Food &
Household Items

MONETARY GIFTS

For every \$1 you donated in 2025, 91.2¢ 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.

91.2¢

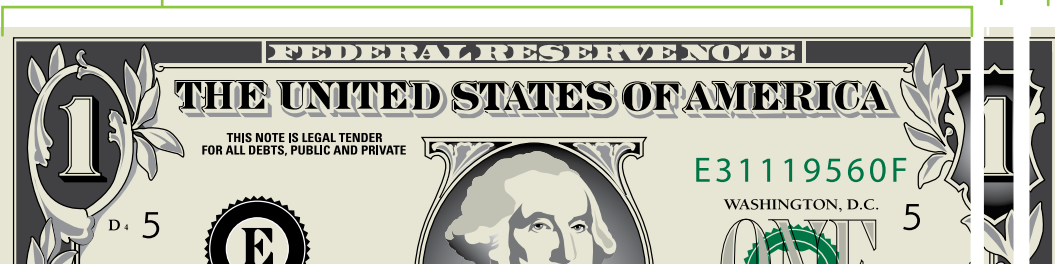
Program Activities

3.6¢

Management &
General Expenses

5.2¢

Fundraising
Expenses



GIFT OF TIME & TALENT



2,546

Individuals Volunteered

12,863

Volunteer Hours Served

\$424K

Total Value of Service

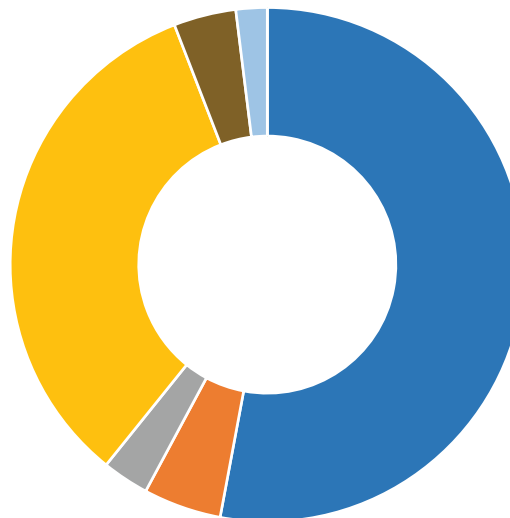
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FISCAL YEAR JAN 1 – DEC 31, 2025

To maintain the highest level of fiscal responsibility, Rehmann 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	\$2,566,411
Public Support	\$214,694
Grant Revenue	\$119,620
In-kind contributions from Product Partners	\$1,609,366
Event Income	\$182,909
Other Income	\$71,638
Gain on disposal of fixed assets	\$4,631
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$4,769,267

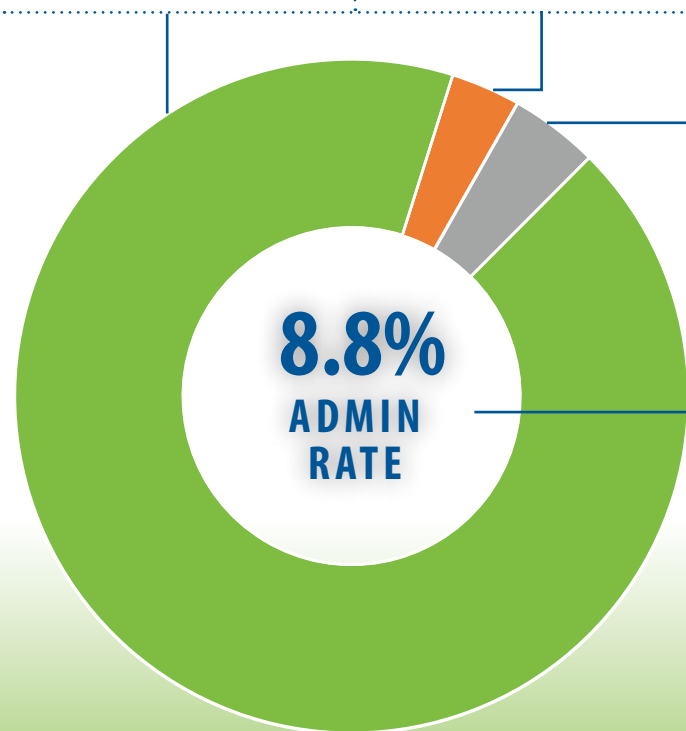
OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Activities	\$4,647,237
Management & General	\$183,776
Fundraising	\$266,607
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$5,097,620

91.2%
Program Activities

3.6%
Management
& General Expenses

5.2%
Fundraising
Expenses



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.

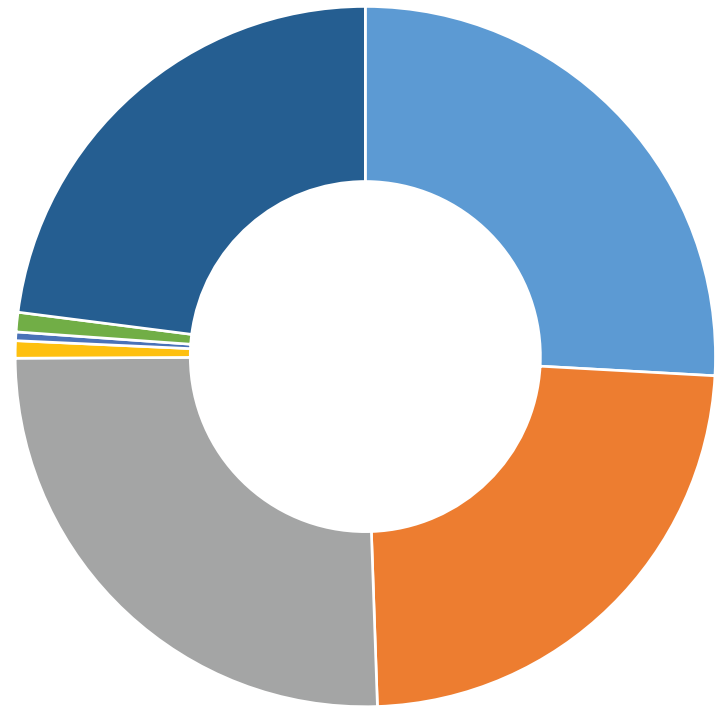
Beginning of Year	\$18,739,468
Change in Net Assets	\$844,620
END OF YEAR	\$19,584,088

DEMOGRAPHICS

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



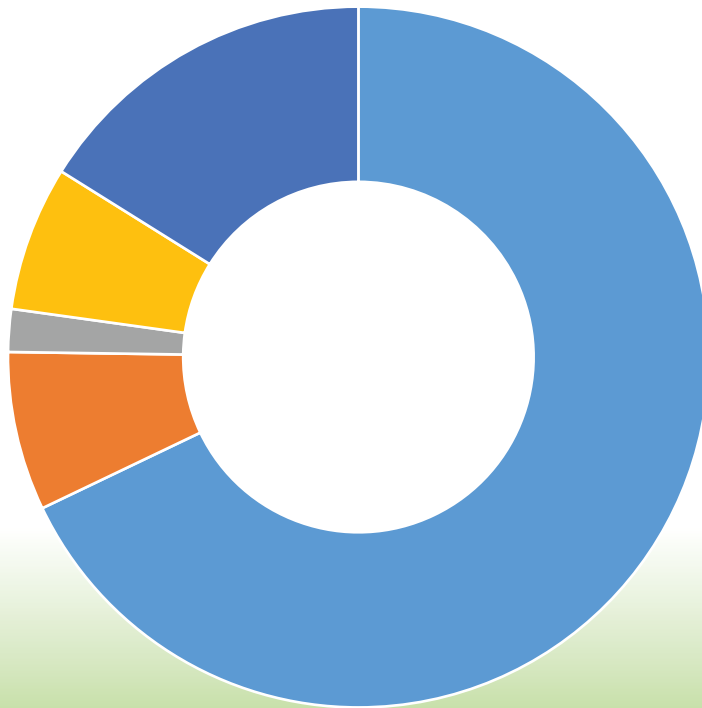
PARTICIPANT ETHNICITY



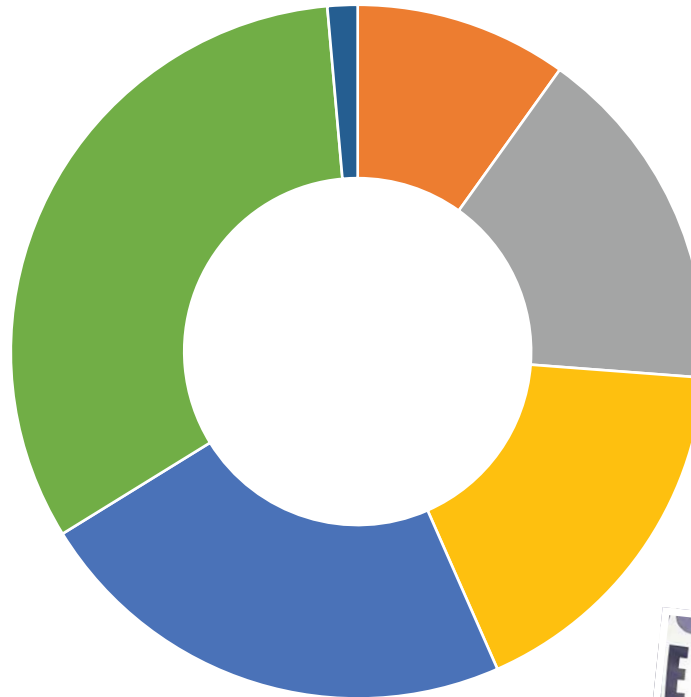
25.9%	African American
23.6%	Caucasian
25.5%	Hispanic
0.8%	Asian
0.4%	Native American
0.9%	Other
23.0%	Not Reported

LOCAL COUNTY PARTICIPANTS

67.9%	St. Lucie
7.3%	Indian River
2.0%	Okeechobee
6.7%	Other
16.1%	Not Reported



PARTICIPANT AGE



0.0%	0–18
9.9%	19–34
16.3%	35–44
17.2%	45–54
22.8%	55–64
32.4%	65+
1.4%	Not Reported



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY
& COMMITMENT

FOOL'S DAY 5K

Saturday March 29th, UP St. Lucie brought families and the community together for the 6th Annual Fool's Day 5K sponsored by Southern Eagle Distributing at the scenic Causeway Cove Marina in Fort Pierce. More

Throughout the year, compassionate community members came together in inspiring ways to support our mission through a variety of special events. From educational lunch-and-learns and 5K walk/runs to evening celebrations, each event played a vital role in fueling our programs and services and expanding our impact.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to our enthusiastic attendees, dedicated volunteers, and generous sponsors. Your support made our 2025 events a resounding success. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected community.

than 180 runners and walkers of all ages hit the course along Florida's beautiful waterfront. As participants made their way along the coastline, friends, family, and supporters lined the course, cheering them on every step of the way. The morning was filled with high energy, and just enough "foolishness" to remind everyone that making a difference can also be exciting. Together, the community came out strong in support of those most in need, reinforcing a shared commitment to lifting UP lives!



SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR

The 2025 Annual Senior Resource Fair was a tremendous success, bringing together community partners, service providers, and seniors for a day of connection and support. Attendees had access to valuable resources, health screenings, and information that empowered them to live healthier, more independent lives. The strong turnout and positive feedback highlighted the impact of collaboration and the importance of continuing to invest in our senior community.



HAND UP LUNCHEON

On Friday, August 8, the 2025 Hand-UP Luncheon was proudly presented by Remnant Construction. More than 120 community members gathered at Clover Park, home of the St. Lucie Mets, to demonstrate their support for the programs offered by UP St. Lucie County. The event was made possible through the support of 22 sponsors, marking the highest level of sponsorship the Hand-UP Luncheon has received to date. Guests enjoyed a meet-and-mingle featuring photo opportunities and raffles, followed by lunch. Throughout the afternoon, attendees gained a deeper understanding of how poverty impacts individuals and families in our community, as well as how the programs provided by United Against Poverty work to address the root causes of these challenges. The luncheon served as an inspiring opportunity for community members to come together in support of a mission that truly transforms lives.





TRUNK OR TREAT

The 2025 Trunk or Treat was a huge success, creating a fun and safe environment for families to come together and celebrate. Community partners went above and beyond with creative trunk displays, treats, and activities that brought smiles to children and parents alike. The strong turnout and festive atmosphere highlighted the power of community collaboration and made this year's event truly memorable.



LIFTING UP LIVES CELEBRATION

On Friday, November 7, UP St. Lucie hosted an unforgettable evening filled with energy, color, and nostalgia at the Lifting UP Lives Celebration – Don't Stop Believin, presented by A&G Concrete Pools. Supported by 28 sponsors, the event exceeded expectations and set a new standard for fundraising events at UP St. Lucie. Guests arrived in 1980s-inspired prom attire, and were welcomed by classic cars, and creative elements that paid tribute to an era whose impact mirrors the life-changing opportunities created through our UP St. Lucie campus. The evening featured silent and live auctions, dinner, themed cocktails, celebrity impersonators, and interactive experiences. The celebration culminated with the crowning of the prom king and queen, followed by a prom-style dance afterparty filled with 80s music. Through participation, guests helped pave the way for individuals who refuse to stop believing in themselves and are committed to building a brighter future.



2025 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair – Michael Walker

Lillie Shepherd

John Cesar

Andie Brann

Marci Sanders

Erin O'Brien

Cassandre Agahro

Kasey Blair

Nikita Lloyd

Rodney Allmond Sr.

Ashley Frechette

Deputy N. Johnson

Rufus Bryd



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS INVESTORS FOR GIVING A HAND UP IN 2025

\$100,000–\$199,000

Bernard A. Egan Foundation, Inc.

\$25,000–\$49,999

John and Charlotte Klein
The O'Reilly Automotive Foundation
United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
William & Helen Thomas Charitable Trust

\$10,000–\$24,999

A & G Concrete Pools, Inc.
Amazin' Mets Foundation
Bernard and Linda Kastory
Busch Family Foundation
Cleveland Clinic
Remnant Construction
Southern Eagle Distributing, Inc
The Porch Factory
Travis & Genia Leonard
Wells Fargo Foundation

\$5,000–\$9,999

The American Legion Post 318
Artistry in Mosaics
Bob Boeschen
The Community Foundation - Martin, St. Lucie
Linda & Michael Rusciano
Publix Supermarkets Charities, Inc
St. Lucie Mets
Synovus
Wawa Foundation



\$1,000–\$4,999

Ashley George
Benjamin Dominguez
Children's Services Council
Community Care Plan
Dana Trubulsky
David Patterson
Dyer Chevrolet Fort Pierce
G. Murphy Painting, Inc.
GL Homes
Glenn and Kim Burket
Greg Oldakowski
H&M Impact Window and Door
Insurance Office of America Inc.
Jason & Grace Baran
Jim and Pat Wiencke
Kulas & Crawford Elder Law
& Estate Planning
Lori Howald
LYNQ Real Estate
Mary Barrett
Max Tripodi
Michele Backus
Mitzi Macias
Neese Roofing
One OC
Residential Building Supply
Richard Kay
Robert and Shannon Russo
Robert Weissman
Rotary Club of Fort Pierce
Scott Frost
St. Lucie County
Stephen G Leighton
Treasure Coast Hope for the
Homeless Foundation, Inc.
William & Rachel Armstead

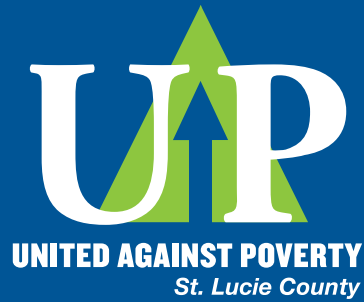
\$500–\$999

Andy & Kathryn Treadwell
Anita Fischer
Association of Women of Leisure
Boys & Girls Clubs of SLC
Brian Welsh
Christine Sell
Conviva Care Center
Devoted Health
Dewitt and Jewel Player
Douglas Albers
Florida Blue Center
Fort Pierce Lion's Club
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
Island eBikes
Jacquin & Sons Construction
Jamie Fowler
Jay Garcia
Jeffrey Steinberg
Jess Machado
Jim Brann
Jordan Wagner
Kasey Blair
Marci Sanders
Maxine Kunkel
Michael Walker
Nate & Karen Spera
Rawleigh Martin
Seacoast Bank
Thomas Connelly
Toby Overdorf
Unified Technology
Solutions









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.