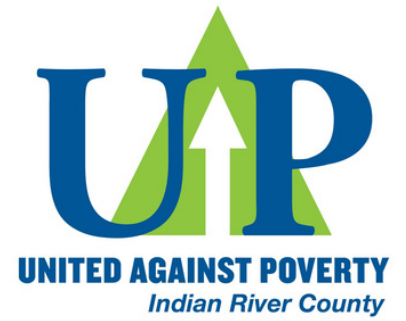


SPRING 2025

LIFTING LIVES

NEWSLETTER



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

A Word From The Director of Development JANE McNULTY SNEAD

What a year 2024 was! It stands as the most transformative year in our 21-year journey, and it's all because of YOU—our dedicated community of changemakers. With over 25,000 households engaged in our UPlifting programs, we reached new heights in the Success Training Employment Program (STEP), Crisis Stabilization, and Member Share Grocery initiatives. We launched a new workforce training program, Build UP, and opened up the county's first Multi-Agency Resource Center after Hurricane Milton tornadoes tore through.

In a county where 56% of residents struggle to afford basic needs, our mission is more critical than ever. Your unwavering support fuels our ability to expand services, launch new partnerships, and create life-changing opportunities for those who need them most. We are honored to serve this community we all cherish.

From all of us at UP, thank you for believing in our mission. Together, we're lifting lives.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?



There comes a moment in life when we realize that simply getting by is not enough. That moment came for Matt when he found himself stuck in a job that barely covered the essentials. Then he saw an opportunity. A few people he knew had taken STEP and changed their lives for the better. Their success inspired him, and he thought to himself, "What if I could do the same?"

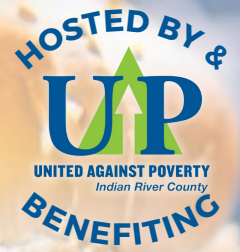
With that in mind, he took a leap of faith and enrolled in the next STEP cohort.

Today he can hardly believe how much his life has transformed. As of April, he will have been with Piper for two years. In that time, he had gone from living at Dynamic Life Sober Living Community to having his own apartment. He now has a driver's license, a reliable vehicle, and most importantly, financial freedom.

Matt says, "I owe a huge thank you to United Against Poverty and Dynamic Life for believing in me when I struggled to believe in myself. They opened doors I once thought were sealed shut, giving me the chance to step into a new life. On May 10th, I will celebrate three years of sobriety. That milestone is not just a number—it's a testament to faith, perseverance, and the power of transformation."



BURGERS & BREWS



11AM- 4PM
Saturday, June 28
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" Facebook event page!

Thank You to Gerstner Philanthropies

In 2024, United Against Poverty IRC was honored to receive a generous \$150,000 grant from Gerstner Philanthropies. This grant was specifically designated to assist families in crisis, helping them transition to stable living conditions. Thanks to this support, we were able to assist 66 households in overcoming their challenging circumstances. One recipient was a woman who had recently graduated nursing school. She was living in her car with her two teenage daughters. She finally secured employment in her field; however, she was unable to save enough for the upfront costs of stable housing. The crisis department was able to assist her with move-in money, and today she and her daughters have a home of their own, providing them with the stability to thrive.

The impact on these 66 families has been profound. We are thrilled to announce that this success has led to an additional \$390,000 grant from Gerstner Philanthropies to continue our mission over the next two years.

Gerstner Philanthropies is committed to supporting strong organizations focused on stabilizing households facing a one-time financial crisis. "We are proud to partner with United Against Poverty to expand our Helping Hands program, strengthening homelessness prevention and crisis intervention efforts in new communities," said Molly Gelinas, Program Officer at Gerstner Philanthropies.



The UP Center: Heart of the Community

Here are some of the events hosted at the UP Center



The Exchange Club of Vero Beach
Sangarita Challenge
August 21, 2025



Treasure Coast Womens Club
Fashion Show
April 12, 2025



Impact 100
Impact Day
January 2025



Vero Beach Film Festival
White Party
January 2025



National Philanthropy Day
AFP of IRC
November 2024



Job Fair
Co-hosted w/ CareerSource
Every July

2024 IMPACT

Surpassing **STEP** Milestones

Year After Year



25%
increase
over 2023

108
ADULTS EMPLOYED

A RECORD NUMBER
OF GRADUATES
EMPLOYED IN ONE
YEAR!

157
STEP
GRADUATES
THE MOST
GRADUATES IN
STEP'S
HISTORY!

*Reducing
the reliance on
government
assistance
programs

**Over \$5
Million**
SOCIAL COST
AVOIDANCE

2024 STEP GRADUATE
COMBINED EARNINGS

\$3.5 Million

An unprecedented
amount for our
program.



Volunteers

MOST
VOLUNTEER
HOURS
COMPLETED
IN IRC
HISTORY

26,000
Volunteer
Hours
COMPLETED
IN 2024

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

Crisis Stabilization

10,990
SERVICES
PROVIDED
52% INCREASE
OVER 2023

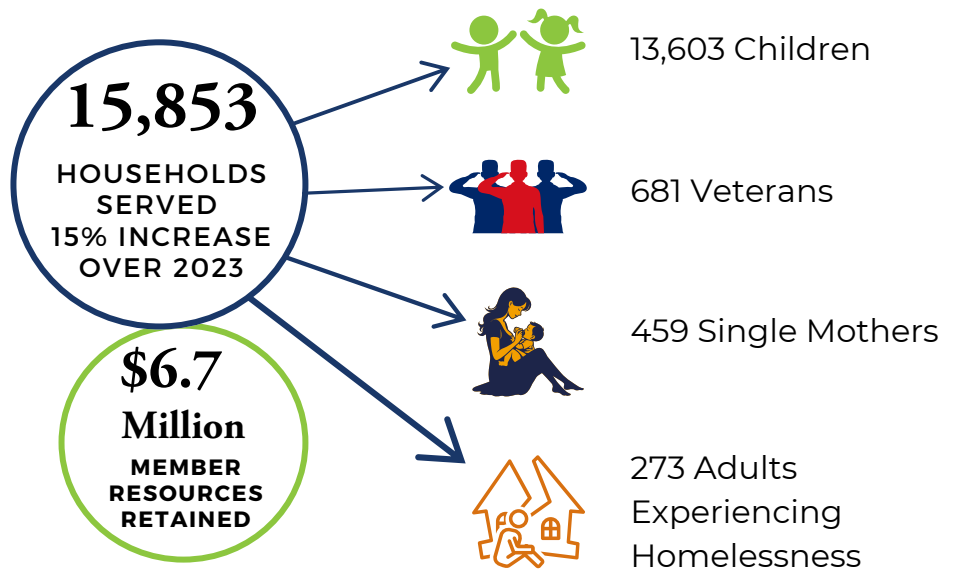
1,754
UNIQUE
HOUSEHOLDS
SERVED

To learn more about how you can support the crisis department, reach out to the team at CrisisIRC@UnitedAgainstPoverty.org

Member Share Grocery Program



The 15,360 households served in 2024 included:



THE IMPACT OF YOUR GIVING

Stabilize Families in Crisis	Sponsor a STEP Graduate	Prevent Food Insecurity
\$500 - 1 family	\$2,500 - 1 participant	\$200 - 1 family
\$1,000 - 2 families	\$5,000 - 2 participants	\$400 - 2 families
\$1,500 - 3 families	\$10,000 - 4 participants	\$600 - 3 families
\$2,000 - 4 families	\$15,000 - 6 participants	\$800 - 4 families

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE - DONATE!



To donate online or set up a monthly gift:
Go to UPIRC.org/donate



Mail a check to
United Against Poverty,
1400 27th St, Vero Beach,
FL 32960



Call 772-770-0740
Ext 204



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