

For Immediate Release

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United Way of West Florida Announces Transformational Investments through Grant Funding for FY 2023-24

Pensacola, FL – United Way of West Florida announces the allocation of almost \$470,000 in grant funding for Fiscal Year 2023-24 to partner programs. These transformational investments will enable our community-based organizations to continue their critical work in addressing the most pressing needs and creating lasting change throughout our region.

Through a rigorous evaluation process, United Way of West Florida has selected a diverse range of nonprofit organizations in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties as funded partners for the 2023-24 period. These partners have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and effectiveness in their respective fields, aligning closely with our vision for a stronger community.

The grant funding awarded to these partners will support a variety of essential services and initiatives, such as education and early childhood development, health and wellness programs, financial stability and empowerment, and basic needs assistance. By investing in these areas, United Way of West Florida aims to tackle the root causes of our community's biggest challenges, promoting holistic solutions that uplift individuals and families.

"We are incredibly proud to announce these transformational investments," said Laura Gilliam, CEO of United Way of West Florida. "This funding will provide crucial support to our exceptional nonprofit partners who are working tirelessly to address the complex challenges faced by individuals and families in our community. Together, we can drive lasting change and build a brighter future for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties."

Community volunteers from a diverse group of organizations and areas of expertise dedicated many hours to researching and scoring applications and interviewing local nonprofits. They recommend funding decisions to United Way of West Florida's Board of Directors, who then make a final assessment and approval.

"Serving as a Community Investment Panel volunteer was a rewarding experience that helped me learn more about the various needs in our community and the organizations that work to meet those needs." Said Jonathan Johnson, Community and Media Relations Specialist with Escambia County Tax Collector, "The mission of United Way is one that I support wholeheartedly!"

United Way of West Florida remains deeply committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring that donor contributions are maximized, and impact is measured effectively. By working collaboratively with our funded partners, community stakeholders, and donors, we are confident in our collective ability to make a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need.

For more information about United Way of West Florida and our funded partners, please visit our website at uwwf.org/funded-programs.

FY 2023-24 Funded Partners

Education

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida- Beyond School Walls

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast Inc- Academic Success

Central Gulf Coast CDF Freedom Schools- Harambee: Let's all pull together

Children's Home Society- Teenspace

Council on Aging of West Florida- Foster Grandparent Program

Every Child a Reader in Escambia- Reading Pals

James B Washington Education and Sports, Inc.- Tutoring Towards Tomorrow's Dreams - Academic Tutorial Program

PACE Center for Girls INC- Girls Earning Diplomas (GED) Program

Young Mens Christian Association- Yreads

Financial Stability

Catholic Charities of Northwest FL- Emergency Assistance Program

Favorhouse of Northwest Florida Inc- Financial Stability Program for Domestic Violence Victims

Feeding the Gulf Coast- Mobile Pantry Program

Legal Services of North Florida Inc- Creating Independence and Connection for Disconnected Youth

Re-Entry Alliance Pensacola Inc- Re-Entry Portal

Health

Bright Bridge Ministries- Hot Meals Program

Center for Independent Living of Northwest FL Inc- Equipment for Independence Program

Embrace Florida Kids, a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home- Family Preservation

Epilepsy Alliance Florida Inc.- Epilepsy Services and Resource Center

Health and Hope Clinic- Access to Care

Manna Food Bank Incorporated- Healthy Seniors Food Program

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity Inc- Housing Plus Aging in Place

Santa Rosa Kids House- Trauma Focused Therapy

The Arc Gateway, Inc- Pearl Nelson Center Pediatric Therapy

Valerie's House- No Child Grieves Alone

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About UWWF: *United Way of West Florida is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that unifies nonprofit agencies, organizations, businesses - and people - to fight for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. With a vision of a community united to create better opportunities for all, United Way of West Florida's mission is to Unite our community and leverage resources to improve lives. For more information, visit uwwf.org.*