

UNITED IS THE WAY



UNITED WAY
Palm Beach County

From the Desk of Dr. Laurie George, President and CEO



Dear Friends,

Real change happens when a community unites with compassion and purpose.

In October, as we recognized Hunger Action Month, our United Way of Palm Beach County team, partners, and supporters came together to shine a light on an issue that continues to impact far too many of our neighbors—food insecurity. One of the most meaningful moments was our Hunger Relief Luncheon, where we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan. This milestone reflects a decade of strategic collaboration, innovation, and unwavering commitment to ensuring that every person in our community has access to nutritious food.

It was more than an anniversary—it was a testament to what we

accomplished together and the progress we will continue to drive, because the need remains significant.

Just days later, as we heard growing concern from families and community partners about increasing food insecurity, I joined County leaders for a Hunger Relief News Conference to reinforce that help is available. We highlighted one of the most impactful tools United Way of Palm Beach County created five years ago—the Palm Beach County Food Finder Map. This resource continues to help thousands of families locate food distribution sites quickly and with dignity. It reminds us that no one in our community should ever have to struggle alone when support is available.

Food insecurity remains a daily reality for many families, requiring year-round dedication. We are again partnering with WPEC CBS 12 News for the 35th annual Project Thanksgiving. This campaign will help provide meals to families in need throughout the holiday season, a time when the weight of hunger can feel especially heavy.

To anyone who may be facing challenges, please know this: you are not alone. Your community is here for you. And to those who continue to support the work of United Way of Palm Beach County, thank you. Your compassion fuels hope, and your generosity creates lasting impact.

Together, we are not only responding to hunger but also building a healthier, stronger, and more resilient Palm Beach County for all.



With gratitude,

Laurie George



Our President & CEO, Dr. Laurie George, joined Palm Beach County leaders sharing information regarding food assistance options and how families can find support right now. If you or someone you know needs help finding food, we're here for you — and our community stands with you. Our [Food Finder Map](#) makes it easy to locate food pantries and meal sites near you. For additional support, you can call, text, or chat with [211 Helpline Palm Beach & Treasure Coast 24/7](#).

Watch below to hear Dr. George's remarks and [click here](#) to watch the full news conference.



Hunger Relief Appreciation Luncheon



Our Hunger Relief Appreciation Luncheon was a powerful celebration of collaboration and community. More than 100 leaders, advocates, and partners joined us at the United Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches to honor a decade of progress in fighting food insecurity across Palm Beach County. The event marked 10 years of the Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan, a united effort that has strengthened our hunger relief network, expanded access to nutritious food, and changed thousands of lives.

[Hunger Relief Initiative Report](#)

Special Thanks...

- Emcee Jamie Beale Howe, UWPBC Board Member and former Chair of Women United, for guiding the program with warmth and energy.
- Reverend Pam Cahoon, Chair of the Hunger Relief Advisory Council, for reflecting on the plan's origins and lasting impact.
- Keynote speaker Ellen Teller from the [Food Research & Action Center](#), for her inspiring address and advocacy, and for praising Palm Beach County's coordinated hunger relief model as a national best practice.
- Community Voices Panel: CEO of the [Palm Beach County Food Bank](#) Jamie Kendall, Belle Glade Vice Mayor Joaquin Almazan, [The School District of Palm Beach County](#) School Board Member Erica Whitfield, and CEO of [Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County](#) Dr. Lisa Williams-Taylor who who engaged in a dynamic discussion about strategies to address hunger among children, seniors, and families across the county.



United Way of Palm Beach County premiered a new "Ten Years of Impact" video, spotlighting the measurable outcomes of the Hunger Relief Plan and the lives changed through this work, as well as a moving story about the Family Weekend Backpack program. You can watch both videos below.

[10 Years of Hunger Relief](#)

[Family Weekend Backpack Program](#)



This luncheon reminded us just how much we can accomplish when we come together. From expanding after-school meal programs to innovative tools like the United Way of Palm Beach County [Food Finder Map](#), our united efforts are creating a community where no one goes hungry. Thank you to everyone who joined us and continues to champion this mission.

[Photo Gallery](#)

[Our Impact](#)





35 Years of Bringing Hope Home

United Way of Palm Beach County has joined forces with CBS 12 News, the Palm Beach County Food Bank, and iTHINK Financial for the 35th Annual Project Thanksgiving. This community initiative is a cherished local tradition that helps families, seniors, and children in need gather around the table to share a warm, festive holiday meal.

Your generosity makes all the difference! Whether you give food, funds, or time, every act of kindness helps provide comfort, nourishment, and hope for thousands of neighbors across our community.



As part of their sponsorship, iTHINK Financial has donation drop-off boxes at several of its locations. You can also drop off food donations directly to the Palm Beach County Food Bank. Click the button below to visit our website for a list of the drop-off locations and recommended nonperishable food items needed most.

Together, we can make this season one of gratitude, connection, and compassion.

[Learn More](#)

[Donate Now](#)

See the Impact of Your Giving

The monetary donations that come in through Project Thanksgiving will be distributed among a dozen United Way of Palm Beach County partner agencies, which work directly with families in need year-round.

Watch the inspiring CBS 12 News features below to meet the local agencies and the people they serve, who will feel the warmth of your generosity this Thanksgiving.

**Achievement Centers for
Children & Families**

**The Soup Kitchen of
Boynton Beach**



Hunger isn't just a challenge during the holidays; it's a year-round reality for many families in our community. Right now, more than 193,000 people in Palm Beach County, including 51,000 children, are facing food insecurity and struggling to put meals on the table.

If you or someone you know needs help, we're here for you. To find daily food assistance, use our [Food Finder Map](#) to locate food pantries and meal programs near you. If you're looking for a Thanksgiving meal, [call 211](#) for details on local Project Thanksgiving meal distribution sites. For our veterans, visit our [Veteran Resource Map](#).



[Food Finder Map](#)

[Veteran Resource Map](#)

[211 Resources](#)





Related Ross + United Way Trick-or-Treat

Businesses in 360 Rosemary, CityPlace Tower, Esperante, and Phillips Point joined forces for the Related Ross + United Way Office Trick-or-Treat event, where they handed out treats to children from Achievement Centers for Children & Families, Fuller Center, and The Salvation Army of Palm Beach County! Nearly 130 kids filled the buildings with their spook-tacular costumes and bright smiles.



Hope in Times of Crisis

We were proud to partner with Palm Beach County and the American Red Cross of Palm Beach and Treasure Coast to host *Hope in Times of Crisis: Building Resilience Together*, a training presented by the Center for Child Counseling. This interactive session helped professionals, caregivers, and community members deepen their understanding of crisis response, trauma, and the healing power of hope.



Support Our Veterans

Tuesday, November 11th, is Veterans Day, a special time to honor and thank those who have bravely served our country. This month, you can show your support in a simple (and delicious) way!



Fueling Imaginations

Faculty from Lynn University and a group of Florida Atlantic University students recently rolled up their sleeves to assemble a brand-new batch of literacy kits for children across Palm Beach County. Each kit

When you order the American Pie Chai at Johan's Joe in West Palm Beach, a portion of the proceeds will benefit MISSION UNITED. MISSION UNITED is a United Way signature initiative that connects local veterans and their families with the resources they need to live healthy, fulfilling lives after military service. Together, we can ensure our veterans receive the care and support they deserve.

includes a book paired with interactive props and activities that help stories leap off the page and spark young imaginations.

We're so grateful to these amazing volunteers for dedicating their time and creativity to inspiring our next generation of readers. A heartfelt thank-you also goes to our Literacy Kit sponsor, PNC Bank, for making this meaningful project possible.



Palm Beach County's GROW Civics Day

Our Volunteer Services and Mentor departments represented United Way of Palm Beach County at Leadership Palm Beach County's GROW Civics Day! The GROW Program offers high school juniors a unique opportunity to connect with local leaders and explore our community's critical issues. This inspiring event allowed students to learn about volunteer and engagement opportunities, and we were honored to contribute to their journey.





Our annual Make a Difference Day took place on October 24th and 25th and was a huge success thanks to the incredible volunteers and sponsors. National Make A Difference Day is an annual event dedicated to promoting community service, and this year's projects were an inspiring example of that.

The first project was at HomeSafe's Sylvester Family Foundation Campus, where volunteers worked to transform the property by painting the perimeter wall, creating a brighter and more welcoming space for the young women who call it home. This campus provides a safe refuge for teenage girls recovering from trauma, and their efforts have truly made a difference in their healing journey. A special thank you to LexisNexis Risk Solutions, whose generous sponsorship made this project possible.

The second project brought together volunteers to assemble new literacy kits, an initiative made possible by the support and sponsorship of PNC Bank. These kits are designed to spark creativity and foster a love of reading in young children in Palm Beach County.

To all the volunteers who gave their time and energy and to our sponsors for their unwavering commitment, we are deeply grateful. Their kindness is what makes our community stronger and more compassionate.

Upcoming Volunteer Projects



TAXES FILED FREE
TaxesFiledFree.org

BECOME A
VITA VOLUNTEER

HELP
STRENGTHEN
WORKING
FAMILIES

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program is an invaluable service United Way of Palm Beach County has been providing to the community for more than 21 years. It offers services to individuals and families with low-to-moderate incomes who are eligible for tax credits.

Next tax season, we will be entering the program's twenty-second year of service. United Way needs your help recruiting 200 volunteers! A commitment of four hours per week is required during tax season. We offer 15 convenient site locations throughout Palm Beach County and a flexible schedule, including weekdays, evenings, and weekends.

Volunteering for the VITA program is an extremely rewarding opportunity! No experience is required, and some opportunities don't involve preparing taxes.

[Become a VITA Volunteer](#)



Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



PBC Food Bank Project
Monday, December 1 | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Palm Beach County Food Bank
701 Boutwell Road, Suite A-1, Lake Worth, FL 33461

Join us at the Palm Beach County Food Bank to sort and pack food for our neighbors in need. Every box you fill helps feed thousands in our community who are struggling to put food on the table. Volunteers ages 16 and older are welcome to sign up.

[Register Here](#)



Literacy Kits Project

Wednesday, December 17 | 9:00 pm - 12:00 pm

United Way of Palm Beach County Office

477 S. Rosemary Ave, Suite 230, West Palm Beach, FL, 33401

Visit our United Way of Palm Beach County office to help create literacy kits that make reading a fun and interactive adventure for children and their families. Each kit has engaging props and hands-on activities designed to spark a love of reading. Once assembled, these kits will be shared with local children through United Way-funded agencies. Children 8 and older are welcome to join in and make a difference!

[Register Here](#)

Be a Champion for PBC by Giving or Getting Involved!

DONATE



VOLUNTEER



JOIN



OUR MISSION

TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IN PALM BEACH COUNTY HAS ACCESS TO THE BASICS: A QUALITY EDUCATION, A PLACE TO LIVE, FINANCIAL STABILITY, GOOD MEDICAL CARE, AND ENOUGH TO EAT.



UnitedWayPBC.org

