

# UNITED IS THE WAY



UNITED WAY  
Palm Beach County

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



Dear Friends,

In this newsletter, we are sharing some of the many incredible moments that truly embody the spirit of unity, service, and positive change. At United Way of Palm Beach County, we believe that *United is the Way*, and together, we continue to thrive and make a lasting impact.

Our Literacy Kits program continues to grow, making a profound difference in children's lives. Volunteers have been assembling kits that transform story time into an interactive adventure. It's inspiring to see groups like the Student Aces bring the magic of reading to life for children, igniting their imaginations and fostering a love for learning.

We also extend a heartfelt congratulations to our Executive Vice President, Dr. Seth Bernstein, for earning the Health and Wellness Champion Award at the BOLD Foundation Leadership Summit. Seth's unwavering dedication to collaboration and his leadership help us build stronger partnerships and a thriving community every day.

Our Tocqueville Society Speaker Series continued in February with another enlightening and highly regarded host. Dr. Randy Blakely spoke on resilience and mental health, information that sparked inspiring conversations within our community. I encourage you to learn more about our Tocqueville Society and consider joining this prestigious group!

It was also a great pleasure to participate in the *Great Charity Challenge*, an equestrian event where the community, heart, and hope came together to raise over \$2 million for charity. Enchanting horses dazzled spectators, while the pet parade included more of our 4-legged friends.

Finally, we were inspired as we joined local leaders to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). This milestone is a testament to the importance of providing hardworking individuals with the tax relief and support they truly deserve. We appreciate the honor of being presented with a proclamation from the County celebrating this milestone.

Thank you for being a part of this amazing journey. Together, we continue to grow and make an impact that will resonate for years to come.

With gratitude,

**-Laurie George**

---

## Literacy Kits: Out in the Community

We're excited to share a heartwarming update from our Literacy Kits program. A few times a month, volunteers gather to assemble these special kits, which transform story time into a fun, interactive adventure. With engaging props and activities, these kits make reading a magical experience for both kids and parents.

It is always a unique opportunity to witness the reception of Literacy Kits. A huge thank you to the Student Aces, a group of student athletes, who volunteered to read to children and brought Literacy Kits assembled by our very own United Way volunteers. It was an unforgettable experience to see these young volunteers connecting with the kids, bringing stories to life, and leaving an impact that will resonate far beyond the pages.

The [Fuller Center](#) pictured below received over 50 Literacy Kits along with toys for their students in December 2024. The Fuller Center provides affordable childcare and a well-rounded support system with comprehensive, family-centered care.

There's something uniquely rewarding about witnessing young readers hold in their hands what we've worked so hard to create. It's a powerful reminder of the ripple effect our efforts have, helping to shape brighter futures, one story at a time.






# United Way in the Community



### 3rd Annual BOLD Foundation Leadership Summit

A huge congratulations to our Executive Vice President, Dr. Seth Bernstein, for earning the Health and Wellness Champion Award at the 3rd Annual BOLD Foundation Leadership Summit. This year's theme, "Leading Together for Stronger Partnerships," perfectly reflects Seth's dedication to collaboration and building meaningful connections every day to contribute to a strong community. Seth's leadership continues to inspire us all!



### Tocqueville Society Speaker Series

Our latest Tocqueville Society Speaker Series featured Dr. Randy Blakely, Executive Director of the Florida Atlantic University Stiles-Nicholson Brain Institute. His inspiring journey of hope, resilience, and scientific dedication sparked meaningful conversations and offered a powerful new perspective on mental health. Thank you to Dr. Blakely and our event sponsor, FineMark National Bank & Trust. Learn more about Tocqueville Society here.

### United for Veterans: Resource Fair & Expo

United Way of Palm Beach County's MISSION UNITED hosted the United for Veterans: Resource Fair & Expo, bringing together veterans, their families, and local organizations for a day of support, connection, and empowerment. From mental health services and legal assistance to service animals and beyond, attendees explored vital resources tailored to their needs. Thank you to all the organizations that participated and shared their resources.



### Great Charity Challenge: Thank You Volunteers

One unforgettable night, one incredible community, and over \$2 million raised for charity! The Great Charity Challenge brought together horses, heart, and hope to make a real difference. United Way is proud to be part of an event that's all about supporting and uplifting so many deserving agencies and organizations in our community. Thank you to our United Way of Palm Beach County volunteers who helped with the pet parade and costume contest.

---

**February was 211 Awareness Month**

February was '211 Awareness Month,' and we're thrilled to shine a spotlight on the incredible services provided by our partners at 211. Whether you're looking for help with housing, food, healthcare, or mental health support, [211 Palm Beach & Treasure Coast](#) is your go-to for community support. We're proud to be part of the 211 network, making it easier for everyone to access the help they deserve. Watch the video below to hear from the President and CEO of 211 Palm Beach and Treasure Coast, Sharon L'Herrou.



[Learn More About 211](#)

**TAXES  
FILED  
FREE**  
TaxesFiledFree.org

**DID YOU EARN \$76,000  
OR LESS IN 2024?**  
**FREE TAX PREPARATION**  
Filed for you or by yourself  
For more information, visit [TaxesFiledFree.org](#) or call 2-1-1

The Taxes Filed Free Campaign provides free, confidential, and secure preparation and e-filing of tax returns to qualified taxpayers. To qualify, the taxpayer's income must have been \$76,000 or less in 2024. Taxpayers may be eligible for up to \$7,830 in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). Watch below to learn more about this campaign.



Taxes Filed Free gives you two options to choose from to e-file your tax return. Both options are supported by IRS-certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) volunteers. All VITA sites accommodate individuals with a disability.

**Filed For You** – Face-to-face tax preparation is provided at several county VITA sites; no appointment is required. For more information and/or to find the nearest location, visit [TaxesFiledFree.org](https://www.taxesfiledfree.org)

**Filed Yourself** – Visit [MyFreeTaxes.com](https://www.myfreetaxes.com) and file your own tax return. It's simple, fast, and secure. If you have a tax or software related question, you can submit a question by email, webchat, or call the helpline for support.

[Find a VITA Site Location](#)

[Learn More](#)

During a special event held at the Greenacres Library, we celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). United Way of Palm Beach County joined forces with local leaders, including Superintendent Mike Burke from the School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Mayor Maria G. Marino, Assistant County Administrator Tammy Fields, and key supporters from Wells Fargo and Bank of America.

Together, we raised awareness about the vital tax relief available to taxpayers and how these resources can help put money back into the pockets of many hardworking individuals. The event concluded with a special proclamation from Mayor Marino highlighting this significant milestone.



Join us as we gather to learn from extraordinary women using their voices to uplift others and create a positive social impact in our community. Feel empowered by our influential panel of women in Palm Beach County—Kalinthia Dillard, Lisa LaFrance, Pranati Kumar, and Tinú Peña—as they share their stories of resilience and success. Guiding the conversation is our incredible Women United Committee Chair, Jamie Beale Howe, who will moderate this impactful discussion.

- Thursday, March 20, 2025
- 5:30-7:30 PM
- Breakers West Country Club



Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors, [Publix Super Markets](#) and [Publix Super Market Charities](#), and our Event Sponsors, [NCCI](#) and [TBC Corporation](#)!

[Get Tickets Here](#)



---

**Back to School PBC: Registration is NOW OPEN**

**REGISTRATION**  
is now open for the

**2025**



**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED**  
for a student to participate in the event

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Students must reside in designated neighborhoods or mobile home parks in unincorporated Palm Beach County to be eligible to register.

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE AT**  
**[backtoschoolpbc.org](http://backtoschoolpbc.org)**

**ENTER CODE** **PBCOCR**

for students to receive  
**FREE SCHOOL SUPPLIES**  
& OTHER COMMUNITY RESOURCES

REGISTRATION ENDS  
**THURSDAY**  
**MAY 1, 2025**

The Back to School Event will be held on **Saturday, July 26, 2025.**

PRESENTED BY



**Register Here: Use Code PBCOCR**

# Are you Pregnant?

## APPLY FOR WIC TODAY!

Get free, healthy foods and help with:

Healthy foods (over \$114 dollars worth of foods which include, \$47 dollars of fresh fruits and vegetables)

Nutrition education

Breastfeeding support

Referrals to health care and community services

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**¿Estas embarazada?**

**LLAMA A WIC!**

**561-357-6007**

**WIC puede ayudarte brindando:**

- Alimentos saludables (más de \$114 dólares en alimentos que incluyen \$47 dólares en frutas y verduras)
- Educación sobre la nutrición
- Apoyo durante la lactancia
- Referidos para recibir atención de cuidado de la salud y servicios comunitarios

Esta institución es un proveedor que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.

**Florida  
HEALTH**  
Palm Beach County

**Eske ou ansent?**

**RELE WIC!**

**561-357-6007**

**WIC ka ede lè li bay:**

- Manje ki nourisan (plis pase \$114 dola ki gen ladan \$47 dola pou fwi ak legim fre)
- Edikasyon nitrisyon
- Sipò pou bay tete
- Referans pou swen sante ak sèvis kominotè

Enstitisyon sa a ofri tout moun menm opòtinite a.

[Learn More](#)



# Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities



## **Palm Beach County Food Bank**

Tuesday, March 18th | 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Palm Beach County Food Bank

701 Boutwell Road, Suite A-1, Lake Worth, FL 33461

Volunteer with us at the Palm Beach County Food Bank to sort and pack food items! You will be a hunger hero as the food you pack will be distributed to thousands of people in our community struggling to put meals on the table.

[Register Now](#)



## Gleaning Volunteer Project

Saturday, March 22nd | 8:30 - 11:30 am  
Boynton/Delray Beach Area

Join United Way of Palm Beach County and CROS Ministries in feeding the hungry by picking fresh produce. All of the collected produce will be distributed to our neighbors in need and give them access to nutritious food.

[Sign Up 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](https://UnitedWayPBC.org)

