



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



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year. As we begin 2026, I am filled with gratitude for what our community continues to make possible together and energized by the impact ahead. While our focus is firmly on the future and our shared goal of **servicing more people**, we carry forward the strong momentum and meaningful results achieved in 2025.

Over the past year, United Way of Palm Beach County supported more than 100 local nonprofit partners, strengthening programs and services that reach children, families, veterans, and seniors. Together, we helped connect nearly 6,000 children with caring mentors, marked the tenth anniversary of the Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan, and prepared more than 8,700 tax returns at no cost through our Taxes Filed Free program, returning critical dollars to hardworking families and our local economy. These milestones, and many others, reflect sustained collaboration and measurable progress in strengthening our community.

Throughout the year, and especially during the holidays, we worked alongside dedicated partners to provide meals, toys, literacy materials, and other essential support to children and families, while continuing our work across our focus areas of *Youth Opportunity, Healthy Community, Financial Security, and Community Resiliency*. These efforts reflect our shared belief that everyone deserves the opportunity to thrive.

The stories and highlights in this newsletter capture a snapshot of what is possible when a community comes together with purpose. As we turn the page to a new year, I am deeply grateful to our board of directors, donors, business partners, volunteers, and staff who make this work possible. Together, we will continue to mobilize resources, inspire action, and build a stronger, more resilient Palm Beach County.

I invite you to explore the many ways to stay engaged and be part of the positive change shaping our evolving community.

With gratitude,

Laurie George





## Season of Hope 2025

We are deeply grateful to our community for coming together to spread hope, joy, and compassion across Palm Beach County this holiday season. Through our Season of Hope toy drive in partnership with [WPTV](#), the generosity of our neighbors made a meaningful difference. **More than 2,000 toys** were donated and delivered to local children, and **more than \$4,000** was raised to support families in need.

Each gift collected represents so much more than a toy. It's a smile on a child's face, a moment of excitement and wonder, and the magic of the holidays for a family that may have otherwise gone without. For parents navigating tough choices between essentials like food, housing, and childcare, these moments bring relief and reassurance that their community cares.

Because of you, thousands of children experienced the joy of unwrapping gifts this holiday season, and families were reminded that they are not alone.

Thank you for helping make Season of Hope a powerful reminder of what's possible when a community comes together.



## Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's 28th Annual Money Drop



A heartfelt thank you to Clerk Mike Caruso and the generous employees of the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's office for their continued commitment to giving back. Through the 28th Annual Money Drop and other fundraising initiatives, vital nonprofits, including United Way of Palm Beach County, will be able to serve more people in our community.

Clerk Mike Caruso proudly joined Circuit Sound, the office's employee-led choir, for the Money Drop holiday concert, raising thousands of dollars while bringing the community together. This inspiring initiative truly lifted spirits, spread joy, and shared the magic of the holiday season!

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## Florida Power & Light

Nearly **100 volunteers** from Florida Power & Light came together to wrap **200 gifts** as part of our Season of Hope. During this event, they had the opportunity to hear from Jeff DeMario, CEO of Vita Nova, one of our partner agencies. Jeff shared how these gifts will directly support teens in our community, highlighting the lasting impact they'll have this holiday season.



## LexisNexis Risk Solutions

A **total of 200 toys**, each wrapped with love and care by LexisNexis Risk Solutions volunteers, were ready to bring joy to children throughout Palm Beach County as part of Season of Hope. Together, they've made this holiday season a little bit warmer, a little bit brighter, and a whole lot more special.



## Mentoring 4 Kids

Thanks to the generosity and kindness of volunteers from our community, the spirit of giving shone through in the most beautiful way. **More than 100 gifts** were wrapped by compassionate volunteers for Alpert Jewish Family Service's "Mentoring 4 Kids" program, an incredible initiative that provides



## Leaders United

On Giving Tuesday, we were grateful to our Leaders United volunteers who wrapped joy, kindness, and hope for children across Palm Beach County. Together, they made the Season of Hope shine even brighter. Thank you to TBC Corporation for their sponsorship and to The Gardens Mall for their support.

vital support to children from single-parent households.



### Family Volunteer Day

A sincere thank you to all the dedicated volunteers and families who joined us for our Family Volunteer Day, assembling literacy kits with love. Each kit sparks curiosity, builds essential literacy skills, and turns storytime into an exciting adventure. It was truly heartwarming to witness the spirit of teamwork and generosity as everyone came together to make a lasting impact on the literacy journey of students in Palm Beach County.



### Community Food Distribution

Volunteers from Restoration Bridge International, Shiner Law Group, and the Florida Atlantic University Dance and Cheer Team joined forces to make a meaningful impact through a community food distribution. Through their dedication and teamwork, hundreds of families received nutritious, high-quality food, bringing nourishment, vital resources, and much-needed support to those who need it most.

## A Season of Hope in Action: Vita Nova's Impact



We were truly honored to welcome Jeff DeMario, the CEO of Vita Nova, and Zaiden Hogans, Vita Nova's youth speaker, to our December staff meeting. As one of our valued Season of Hope partner agencies, Vita Nova was a recipient of gifts this year, and Jeff graciously took the opportunity to share the profound impact these gifts have had on their organization and the young people they serve.

Vita Nova plays a crucial role as a bridge to independence for former foster youth and other homeless young adults, providing not only supportive housing but also essential services, including education, employment, and life skills training. Through its comprehensive approach, Vita Nova empowers young people, ages 18 to 25, to overcome the challenges of homelessness and achieve lasting stability. Their unwavering commitment to ending youth homelessness in Palm Beach County helps create brighter, more hopeful futures for these young adults. We are incredibly grateful to Jeff for his inspiring words and for his continued dedication to this vital work.

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A promotional banner for the Taxes Filed Free Campaign. It features a blue background on the left with the text 'FREE TAX PREPARATION' and 'Filed for you or by yourself'. The center has a white background with the text 'DID YOU EARN \$78,000 OR LESS IN 2025?'. To the right is a yellow background with the text 'FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT TaxesFiledFree.org or call 2-1-1'. The United Way Palm Beach County logo is also present.

## Fast, Free, Safe Tax Preparation

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 \$78,000 or less in 2025. Taxpayers may be eligible for up to \$8,046 in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).

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 are accessible to individuals with disabilities.

**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://TaxesFiledFree.org)

**Filed Yourself** – Visit [MyFreeTaxes.com](https://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.

[Learn More](#)

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## December 19: Dr. Seth Bernstein Day



December 19th was officially Dr. Seth Bernstein Day in Palm Beach County, as proclaimed by the Board of County Commissioners, and it also marks Seth's final day with United Way of Palm Beach County. From volunteer to board member to Executive Vice President of Community Investments, Seth's commitment to our mission and community spans more than 20 years. We are deeply grateful for his dedication and wish him all the best in his well-earned retirement!





## **PBC Food Bank Project**

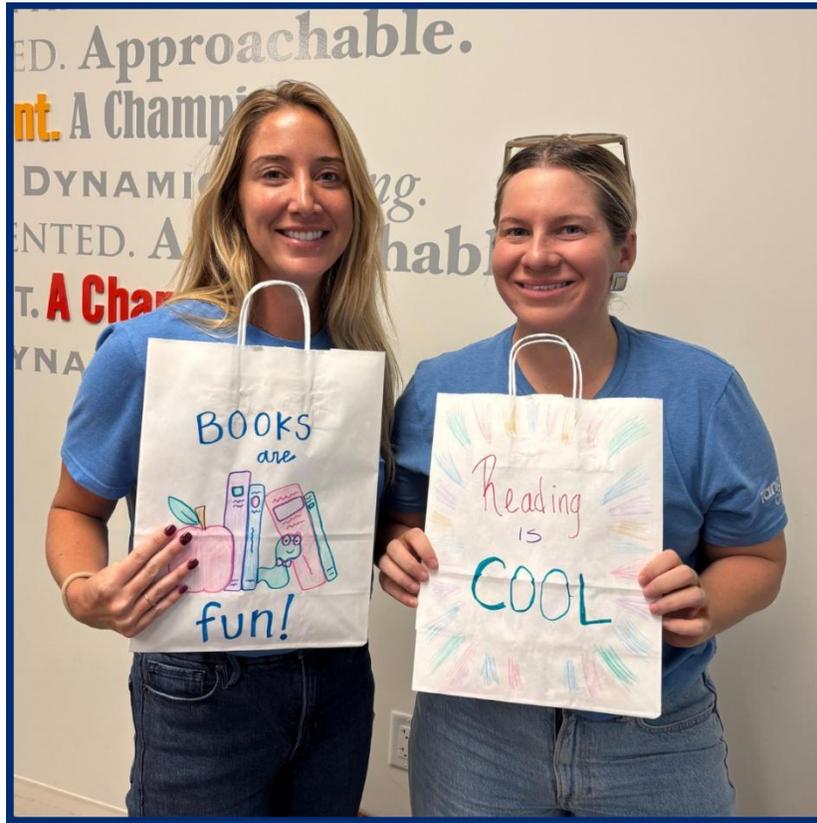
Thursday, January 29 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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

Tuesday, March 17 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 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](https://UnitedWayPBC.org)

