

GIVE.

“Because everyone deserves a chance.”

Shootings. Drive bys. Living in the projects. Fights. Hand me downs. A crippling hit and run accident. Physical therapy and rehabilitation. Siblings in prison. By age eight, there was a lot that Anthony Pratt had already survived. The youngest of five children born to a single mother living on Avenue F in Fort Pierce, he'll be the first to admit that things were a little hard at times. But he's also the first to praise his mom, "she did the best she could." Wanting better opportunities for Anthony and his brother, she enrolled the kids in Big Brothers/Big Sisters, a United Way partner agency. "All my life I had wanted to go fishing, I'd bug my uncle 'til I was blue in the face but he could never take me. I'll always remember going fishing for the first time with Big Brothers/Big Sisters," he says with a big smile. "I found myself doing things I always wanted to do. It opened up so much, you know, made the world just a bit bigger." And for a kid trying to survive the projects, "it made all the difference." Knowing that he wanted something different for himself than the life he grew up living, he worked hard, started and then sold a business painting cars, always taking care of his mom, helping his Aunt in her HIV/AIDS awareness program. When he landed a job at the CVS Distribution Center and found out they were active with the United Way of Indian River County, it seemed natural for him to join in. "I donate because there are so many people struggling. All of this, this life I've lived and what I've seen, its taught me that you can have a positive effect on the people around you because everyone, **everyone** deserves a chance." When we reach out a hand to one, we influence the condition of all. That's what it means to LIVE UNITED.

LIVE UNITED

VOLUNTEER.

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GIVE.

“United Way gives everyone the opportunity to contribute, whether its an hour of sweat, a dollar a week through payroll, or a leadership gift. It gives everyone an equal opportunity to make a difference.”

Jeff Susi has been Living United for more than 34 years. First, as a volunteer at a United Way agency doing physical therapy for people with disabilities, and more recently, as a leader in the community, championing United Way’s Day of Caring, and urging his Indian River Medical Center employees to participate through payroll deduction. “I never cease to be amazed at the generosity of this community, and United Way makes it easy for people to give. They do the legwork evaluating the agencies, they set up the volunteer projects. I find that once you arm people with the information on what is needed, they step up time and time again.” Whether its making a key call, lending his voice and leadership, or joining in painting for Day of Caring, Jeff Susi Lives United everyday in this community he loves.



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**“The more you give of yourself,
the more you get in return.”**

Lisa Licitra and her husband Mike volunteer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Fellsmere. They've taken youth groups on trips, organized events, and hopefully, are “planting the seeds” for a full future for the kids they work with. Lisa gives to the United Way through payroll deduction at work. She does it, she says, because she sees the integrity of the folks at United Way, “they are all such good people, doing such good things.” She first became aware of the United Way when she began working at the hospital, “we took a trip to Safespace [a domestic violence shelter and United Way partner agency] and it just struck me that tragedy can really happen to anyone, it doesn't matter your status or your station in life.” Since then she's been a regular contributor. Ask her about her work in Fellsmere though, about the kids they work with, and her face really lights up, “you get 100% times more than what you give.” By donating their time, they are opening up the world just a little bit to kids who might not otherwise get that chance. Donating to the United Way through payroll deduction, donating countless hours to work with kids, that's how she Lives United.



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Living United for Five Decades

More than 47 years ago, concerned and compassionate citizens created United Way of Indian River County to help people in need and, ultimately, make our community a better place to live and work. Today, United Way represents the hopes and ambitions of thousands of Indian River County residents and hundreds of area employers who want to make a real difference by improving people's lives and building a stronger community.

Jim Thompson was a volunteer on that first United Way campaign in 1961 when they raised \$41,000. "The only thing I knew was that there were a bunch of good-hearted folks getting together to try and do some good," he said. "And so I thought, sure, why not?" 47 years later Jim is still a United Way volunteer. "Its just the right thing to do." That's how he Lives United.



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GIVE.

“Indian River County is where I live and work, it means so much to me to be able to give my time, my efforts, that’s why I Live United.”



Alice Gaskill knows a thing or two about giving. She’s been a community leader and advocate for close to 25 years and a United Way volunteer and donor for just as long. She’ll be the first to tell you it took her a little bit to warm up to the United Way. After being “told” to participate by the higher ups at her job, she did so, but reluctantly. “I did it not because I wanted to, but because I felt pushed,” Despite this rocky start, she soon fell in love with the United Way. “There’s just something so real about the process, they are accountable, and hold their agencies accountable, it really shows.” Soon she was one of United Way’s most loyal contributors and advocates. Ask her today about the United Way and she’ll give you an earful, but it’s all good. That’s how she Lives United.

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