

Impact Report

JULY 2023 - DECEMBER 2024

Impact Snapshot

76%

of 11,491 children have achieved developmental milestones

85%

of 1,388 individuals have increased their income by accessing benefits and/or reducing their costs

2,524

individuals have shown improvement in health and wellness indicators

SUCCESS STORY SWINDLED VETERAN OVERCOMES HOMELESSNESS

Weary of facing health concerns while living on the streets, an Air Force veteran marked his birthday in early February of last year by entering a shelter for unhoused men and women in Daytona Beach.

The income “Mont” had from a military pension was being drained from his bank account by someone he had trusted and with whom he had lived. With no valid ID to show at the bank, Mont felt powerless to stop the betrayal. Eventually, he was kicked out of the home. Upon his arrival at the shelter, it was clear he could benefit from more than a roof over his head. Fortunately, he had come to the right place.

The shelter, a United Way funded partner, provides an array of services to help those experiencing homelessness to stabilize their lives and obtain permanent housing. For Mont, this meant helping him to reclaim his income and his official identity so that he could apply for veteran-specific housing assistance. His case manager started by arranging for Mont’s pension benefit to be mailed as a check to the shelter address rather than being deposited into the bank account that had been highjacked.



Replacing the state ID Mont had lost – a key to being able to move ahead – proved to be a months-long challenge. The long-missing card was not Real ID compliant. To obtain a new ID, he needed to show his birth certificate, which he did not have. Although he had his DD214, a military document with birth information, that was not enough. Mont knew he was born in Arizona and adopted in Maryland but did not remember his birth parents’ names. Mont’s case manager diligently navigated through bureaucratic mazes in both states to successfully order the birth certificate, which he received June 7.

By June 14, Mont had an ID, a Social Security card and a new bank account. In August, Mont received a housing-assistance voucher for veterans. With housing options that accept such vouchers scarce, a situation made worse by the impacts of Hurricane Milton, it took Mont until around Thanksgiving to find an apartment. On New Year’s Eve, he stepped into his new place and out of homelessness.

Education: Boys & Girls Clubs of VFC, Children’s Home Society of Florida, ELCFV, Flagler County Ed Foundation, MFCS Head Start, Pace Center for Girls, The House Next Door

Financial Stability: Catholic Charities of Central Florida, Inc., Domestic Abuse Council, Family Renew Community, Inc., First Step Shelter Inc., Flagler Cares, SMA Healthcare, The Neighborhood Center of West Volusia, Volusia Flagler Coalition for Homeless

Health: Council on Aging of Volusia County Inc., Easterseals Northeast Central Florida, Family Life Center, Flagler Cares, Pace Center for Girls, Presbyterian Counseling Center, The House Next Door, SMA Healthcare, Volusia Flagler Coalition for Homeless



We couldn't have done it without your generous support.

\$37,697

HELP Southeast Volusia Fund was created with a purpose of providing financial support to initiatives in Southeast Volusia County. While the main goal of the fund is to address the needs of at-risk children and to break the cycle of poverty for homeless and economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the public school system, it also recognizes the need to support other critical non-profits strengthening our community.

Awarded Programs

Atlantic Center for the Arts ☀️ Offers an in-person multidisciplinary arts enrichment program for Southeast Volusia homeschool students once a month during the school year.

Help A Diabetic Child ☀️ Strives to ease the burden for children and young adults who struggle financially & emotionally while living with diabetes.

No Longer Fatherless ☀️ Exists to recruit, train and match mentors with boys and young men growing up without a father figure in Volusia & Flagler Counties.

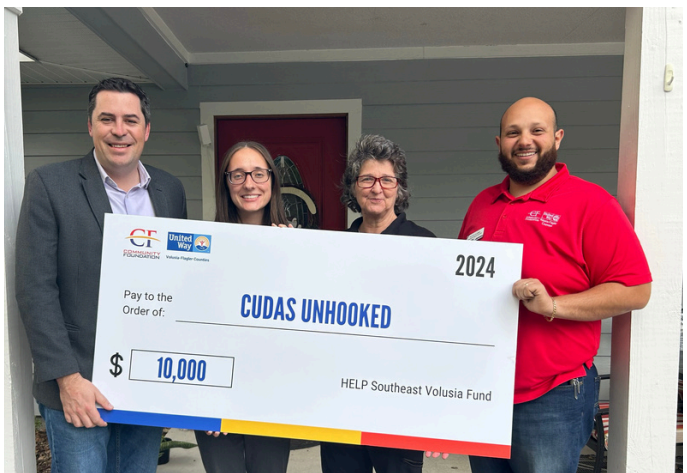
The Hub on Canal ☀️ Partners with the Volusia County Public Schools to provide art instructors who supplement art classes in Southeast Volusia public elementary schools.

Cudas UnHooked ☀️ Provide necessary support to homeless and at-risk students dedicated to becoming educated, independent, contributing members of society.

Smyrna Cares ☀️ Short term financial support and aid to families that have experienced financial hardship due to an unexpected crisis such as illness, loss of a job or storm damage.

In This Corner ☀️ A neurological boxing gym and wellness center with the mission to improve the overall health of all members of our community through diagnosis-specific fitness classes.

Gifts of Love ☀️ Provide basic needs to families in this geographic area with the primary focus on providing food assistance.



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GIVE TODAY

