

Partnership between the City of Key West and the United Way of Collier and the Keys

# WHY and HOW did this project start?

- In late 2020, our residents needed assistance to get through the long periods of unemployment or reduced income so they could remain in Key West
  - many of them were already struggling prior to the pandemic, but some had never before utilized social services
- UWCK plays a key role in bringing together those that offer solutions during times of need.
  - Key West Recovers and community leaders joined UWCK in December 2020 to identify measures that would assist the community, resulting in a five-part plan presented to the City Commissioners on January 5, when up to \$500,000 was approved for COVID relief

United Way of Collier and the Keys

By January 8, UWCK had started disbursing funds via our nonprofit partners to expand assistance efforts to the community

United #

# Getting the word out...



United Way of Collier and the Keys

United Way developed a communication strategy including social media, email, working with local businesses and organizations and media engagement.

Key West Recovers also hired a 3 month Communication Coordinator to amplify assistance information in multiple languages.





# City of Key West Support

#### January - March 2021

Rental: \$166,061

Medical: \$33,800

• Food: \$47,220

Utilities and Basic Needs: \$29,000

• Programmatic Support: \$24,000

TOTAL: \$300,081



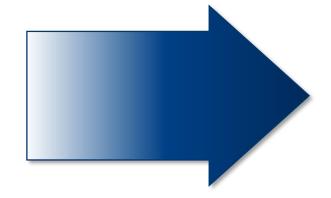
This is in addition to the Rapid Testing program with Keys AHEC.



### **Rental Assistance Partners**

















# **Summary of 2021 Rental Assistance**

#### January - March Rental Assistance

- 57 complete applications
- Assisted 49 households
  - Representing 114 individuals 74 adults and 40 children
  - Several households received assistance for more than one month's rent
- Average amount of assistance was \$3,389.01

TOTAL: \$166,061.58





### **Direct Assistance Partners**















# **Summary of Food Assistance**

#### **January 2021 Food Assistance**

- 5,893 individuals had access to healthy food through food provided at FKOC and SOS pantries, and hot meals and groceries delivered through MCC
  - 16% of clients served were children and 84% were adults, 24% of which were senior citizens
  - 51% of clients served were below the FPL; 48% were ALICE; 1% were above ALICE threshold

TOTAL: \$47,220





# **Summary of Medical Assistance**

**January - March Medical Assistance** 

- <u>Guidance Care Center</u>: 12 individuals received intensive, inpatient crisis stabilization for suicide prevention
- Womankind: 48 individuals
  - Served during 57 visits
  - Clients received provider visits, diagnostics, procedures, laboratory testing, and prescriptions and one patient had four visits so a critical health problem could be identified and treated
  - Of 37 patients reporting their work status, only 10 were working full time,
     12 were part time, and 15 were completely unemployed
- 47% of clients served were below the FPL; 48% were ALICE; 5% were above ALICE thresholds

TOTAL: \$33,800



## **Summary of Utilities/Basic Needs Assistance**

#### January - March Utilities/Basic Needs Assistance

- This program utilized a new collaboration with FKOC and United Way for an online application and remote case management system
- 221 individuals received assistance with utility bills and other basic needs such as childcare, transportation, and limited medical expenses
  - 35% of clients served were children and 65% were adults
  - 54% of clients served were below the FPL; 46% were ALICE; none were above ALICE thresholds

**TOTAL: \$29,000** 





# Life-changing Assistance

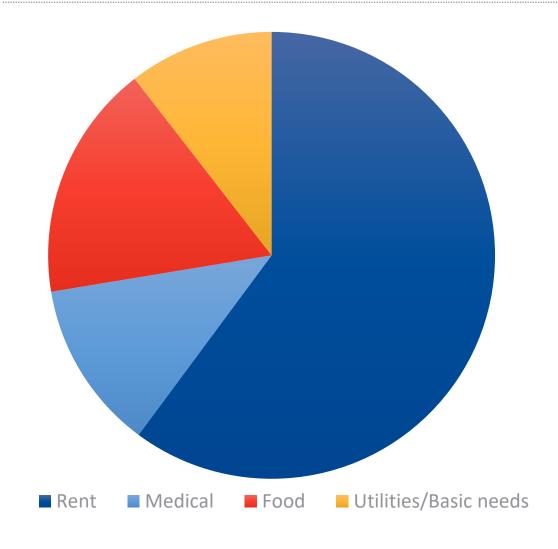
"I don't recall a time since I was 16 years old that I didn't have a job. This pandemic caught us all off guard. Being unemployed for months is a scary reality I never thought I'd have to confront. United Way helped ease those fears. The rental assistance program saved our family." ~ D.C.

"Thank you so very much for helping Womankind to financially assist people like myself who lost wages for a very extended period of time due to COVID. I was personally out of work for 7 months. This is a great help in getting me back on my feet while still taking care of my health." ~ client saved \$207 in medical costs

"Thank you for the healthy food for our family. We have also told our friends who needed help. We are so thankful to have you in our community."

United Way of Collier and the Keys

# Impact of \$300,081 in Relief through UWCK



#### 6,288 Individuals – January-March 2021

- 53% of clients served were below the FPL
- 46% were ALICE paycheck to paycheck
- 1% were above ALICE thresholds





## Where are we now?

- The Stop-Gap plan served its purpose and the economy is doing well
- Food need is back to nearly pre-COVID levels
- There are fewer than 200 evictions in process
- Some individuals are still struggling with the loss of income during the pandemic and underemployment, as well as certain industries are still struggling
- There is a severe shortage of workers compared to job openings
- Through Key West Recovers, United Way and the Stop-Gap plan working with the City, we have helped in many ways so far. There are still issues to address.

However, these partnerships and the assistance from the City saw our residents through the worst of the crisis.



## **THANK YOU**

It has been our pleasure and privilege to partner with the City and nonprofits who helped get these relief funds out to the residents who needed them so desperately.

We are always honored to collaborate and help our community.

Together, we #LiveUnited



