

For Immediate Release

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UNITED WAY OF WEST FLORIDA ANNOUNCES ALLOCATION OF \$675,128 THROUGH ITS 2024-2025 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT GRANT PROCESS

Pensacola, Fla. – June 17, 2024 - United Way of West Florida (UWWF) is pleased to announce the allocation of \$675,128.27 in grant funding for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to support local nonprofits. These strategic investments will empower community-based organizations to continue their critical work in addressing the most pressing needs and creating lasting change throughout Escambia and Santa Rosa counties.

Through a rigorous evaluation process, United Way of West Florida volunteers have selected a diverse range of nonprofit organizations in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties as funded partners for the 2024-2025 period. These partners have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and effectiveness in their respective fields, aligning closely with UWWF's vision for a stronger community.

The grant funding awarded to these partners will support a variety of essential services and initiatives, such as education and early childhood development, health and wellness programs, financial stability, and basic needs assistance. By investing in these areas, United Way of West Florida aims to tackle the root causes of the community's biggest challenges, promoting holistic solutions that uplift individuals and families.

"We are incredibly proud to announce these transformational investments," said Laura Gilliam, CEO of United Way of West Florida. "This funding will provide crucial support to our exceptional nonprofit partners who are working tirelessly to address the complex challenges faced by individuals and families in our community. Together, we can drive lasting change and build a brighter future for Escambia and Santa Rosa counties."

"I began volunteering with the UWWF Community Impact Grant process to understand how grants are allocated and how funding decisions are made. I continue to volunteer because I find the experience as rewarding as the agencies must feel when they learn they will receive funding," said Phyliss Gonzalez, Volunteer Executive Director for Santa Rosa Bridges Inc. Community volunteers from a diverse group of organizations and areas of expertise dedicated many hours to researching and scoring applications and interviewing local nonprofits. They recommend funding decisions to United Way of West Florida's Board of Directors, which then makes a final assessment and approval.

"There is no better way to immerse yourself into your community than by being a United Way Community Investment Panelist," said Lauren Clark, Public Relations Specialist at Gulf Winds Credit Union. "To serve in this capacity is to look directly at injustices and become educated on their root causes. Yet, there is also such a great sense of hope as your eyes are opened to amazing people and organizations fighting for others to have a strong quality of life."

United Way of West Florida remains deeply committed to transparency and accountability, ensuring that donor contributions are maximized, and impact is measured effectively. By working collaboratively with funded partners, community stakeholders, and donors UWWF makes a tangible difference in the lives of those most in need.

For more information about United Way of West Florida, please visit our website at www.uwwf.org/funded-programs.

2024 – 2025 Grant Recipients

HEALTH AWARDS - \$360,050

Bright Bridge Ministries

Hot Meals Program - \$44,000

Serving Escambia County

Center for Independent Living of Northwest FL Inc

Equipment for Independence Program - \$12,750

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

Embrace Florida Kids, a ministry of the United Methodist Children's Home

Family Preservation - \$11,250

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

Epilepsy Alliance Florida Inc.

Epilepsy Services and Resource Center - \$19,050

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

Gulf Coast Kid's House

Life Skills Counseling - \$35,000

Serving Escambia County

Health and Hope Clinic

Access to Care - \$44,000

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

Manna Food Bank Incorporated

Healthy Seniors Food Program - \$15,000

Serving Escambia County

Northwest Florida Community Outreach

Harvest of Hope - \$15,000

Serving Escambia County

Pensacola Habitat for Humanity Inc

Housing Plus Aging in Place - \$35,000

Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties

Santa Rosa Kids' House

Trauma Focused Therapy - \$40,000

Serving Santa Rosa County

The Arc Gateway, Inc

*Pearl Nelson Center Pediatric Therapy - \$44,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Valerie's House

*No Child Grieves Alone - \$25,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

EDUCATION AWARDS - \$157,328.76

Autism Pensacola

*Kids for Camp - \$20,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Florida

*Beyond School Walls - \$14,062.50
Serving Escambia County*

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Emerald Coast Inc

*Academic Success and Career Readiness - \$18,750
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Children's Home Society

*Teenspace - \$15,266.26
Serving Escambia County*

Council on Aging of West Florida

*Foster Grandparent Program - \$25,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

PACE Center for Girls INC

*Girls Earning Diplomas (GED) Program - \$15,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Pensacola Children's Chorus

*Affordable Accessible Arts - \$14,250
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

ReadyKids! FL

*Reading Pals - \$35,000
Serving Escambia County*

FINANCIAL STABILITY AWARDS - \$157,750

Catholic Charities of Northwest FL

*Emergency Assistance Program - \$23,750
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

EComfort Inc

*Ecomfort Soup Kitchen - \$35,000
Serving Escambia County*

Favorhouse of Northwest Florida Inc

*Financial Stability Program for Domestic Violence Victims - \$40,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Feeding the Gulf Coast

*Mobile Pantry Program - \$15,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

Legal Services of North Florida Inc

*Stability for Victims of Interpersonal Violence (SVIV) \$44,000
Serving Escambia and Santa Rosa counties*

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For media or press inquiries, email Stephen.prestesater@uwwf.org.
To stay informed about what's happening with United Way of West Florida, sign up for our
newsletter at www.uwwf.org/signup, or follow us on social media @UWWFL.

United Way of West Florida (UWWF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that fights for the health, education, and financial stability of every citizen in our community. UWWF has operated locally for 99 years with a vision of a community United to create better opportunities for all. By investing in programs, participating in partnerships, and leveraging resources, UWWF works to meet a mission of Uniting our community to improve lives.

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