

FALL 2024

TEAM UP

NEWSLETTER

ORLANDO

150 W. Michigan St., Orlando, FL 32806

uporlando.org

407-650-0774

Dear Valued Supporter,

I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who stepped in and stepped up for our roof repair campaign last month and share the latest news.

The summer rains came in late June and our aging roof, damaged in 2022's Hurricane Ian, gave way over our Life Enrichment Center (LEC), leading to the temporary closure of our crisis intake center and medical clinic. Serving hundreds of individuals and families each week meant we could not stop, so despite the challenges, our dedicated staff has been working tirelessly to provide limited support from our smaller areas.

For more than 22 years, UP Orlando has been one of Central Florida's most active social services agencies — the place where those who are unhoused and those struggling to make ends meet, receive support. The crisis center houses a staff of navigators, who conduct intake assessments on every client, helping them develop individual action plans and guiding them through the social services and resources available. Services include emergency food and hygiene kits; case management; and assistance with applications for benefits; referrals for housing, recovery services and counseling; and more. It is also the home of the new Downtown Primary Care clinic, which opened in January and has become a valued part of UP Orlando's services. The partial shutdown comes at a time when Central Florida is seeing a surge in the number of people facing homelessness. Our intake center aided close to 8,500 people last year and we have seen a 30% increase in the first half of 2024, so closing down was not an option.

While making a presentation to the leadership of AdventHealth just days after the ceiling collapse and partial closure, I got emotional as I shared news of the current situation. I was immediately offered support and a substantial donation. On returning to my office, I received a call from Disney's Corporate Social Responsibility team and was told they were sending a large contribution. A challenge grant from Central Florida Foundation followed, along with a host of commitments from community partners, businesses and philanthropic foundations. Gifts ranged from five- and six-figure checks from individuals and businesses to \$7 in change offered by a working mom, who said she could not survive without UP Orlando. In less than four weeks, UP Orlando received enough funding to commence the repair, which will bring us back to full operations, and we are confident we will raise the remaining funds.

"Witnessing the community unite for an organization that so selflessly uplifts others and extends compassion to our area's most vulnerable residents is a powerful testament to what happens when we all work together." — Rob Deininger, CEO of AdventHealth Orlando and board member of UP Orlando.

UP Orlando is a critical resource for the community, relied upon by thousands of individuals and families to help ease their financial burdens and not only survive, but thrive. It takes a village to make this all happen, and we are so lucky to have you as a part of our UP family.

Sincerely,

Anjali Vaya



THANK YOU

Walt Disney World Resorts
Central Florida Foundation
AdventHealth
Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation
Joe and Sarah Galloway Foundation
Orlando Health
KPMG Foundation
Dr. Phillips Charities
Westgate Resorts
DeVos Family Foundation
Vystar
Florida Blue
Goodwill Industries



VOLUNTEER HIGHLIGHTS

GOAL 70,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Saves our campus \$1 million dollars a year on staffing costs!

UP Orlando flourishes thanks to the dedication of our incredible volunteers. This year, our goal is to reach 70,000 volunteer hours — a testament to the spirit and generosity of our community. Currently, we've achieved close to 42,000 hours, and we're steadily moving toward our ambitious target. Your time and effort can make a world of difference.

Join us in this journey and help us reach our goal!

To sign up for volunteer opportunities, email: smorrison@unitedagainstopoverty.org

CORPORATE PARTNERS



KPMG



ORLANDO MAGIC



FIRST ORLANDO

United Against Poverty Orlando (UP Orlando) extends a heartfelt welcome to all our corporate donors! In the past quarter, we've been thrilled to build new partnerships with Lennar Homes, KPMG, BB Americas, and many others. We're incredibly grateful for the outpouring of love and support from our vibrant community. A big thank you to all our Corporate Community Partners who have joined the UP family and become an integral part of our journey!



WESTGATE RESORTS



SPECTRUM



DISNEY

DIVERSION PROGRAM

Thanks to the compassionate leadership of State Attorney Andrew A. Bain, we are now part of the Second Chance Program (Adult Civil Citation Program, Early Resolution Diversion, Pretrial Intervention), offering non-violent first-time offenders a precious second chance through meaningful volunteer work at UP Orlando. This initiative is already making a profound difference in our community, providing individuals with the opportunity to learn, grow, and forge a path toward a brighter future.



SUCCESS TRAINING EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The Success Training Employment Program (STEP) is a FREE, transformative 3-phase journey designed to empower individuals to achieve their career and financial dreams.

For those struggling with unemployment or underemployment, STEP offers a beacon of hope. In Phase One, participants gain crucial skills like interview prep, resume building, and emotional intelligence. Phase Two provides personalized career coaching, a tailored career plan, and connecting with top employers leading to pathways to higher-paying jobs. In Phase Three, we focus on sustaining success through financial guidance, support for job retention and promotions, and ongoing personal and professional growth. STEP is not just a program; it's a lifeline to a brighter, more secure future. Your support helps make these transformative opportunities possible.

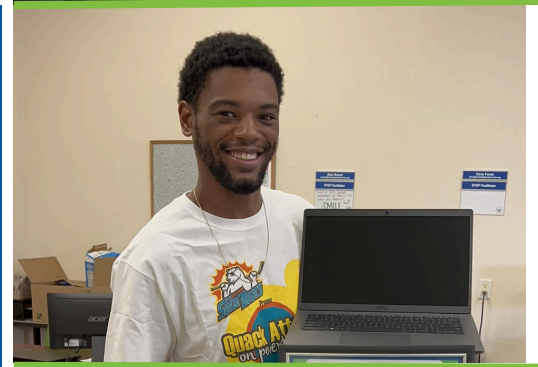
A major thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Don and Cindy Diebel for your extraordinary \$30,000 contribution to our Summer Match Campaign. Your generosity played a crucial role in helping us reach our \$60,000 goal this summer. We also extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who supported this campaign—your collective efforts have made a tremendous impact!

Congrats Cohort 59!



Congratulations STEP Cohort 60!

What a huge milestone for us here at UP Orlando. We always tell our STEP graduates they are a part of the UP family for life. With 60 cohorts graduated, this family just keeps growing! We are so proud of each individual who woke up and chose to do better and to take the steps towards economic self-sufficiency. Keep up the good work, grads!



So far this year, 47 individuals have enrolled in STEP, and we're proud to announce that 41 of them have already secured employment — a remarkable 70% success rate! Our graduates are making waves at top Orlando hospitality venues like Rosen Hotels and Westgate Resorts, stepping into leadership roles at Extended Stay, and even landing prestigious positions with the United Nations.

Our success is strengthened by incredible partners like the Aeras Foundation, which is generously providing each STEP graduate with a laptop upon securing employment. This vital support helps equip our participants for their futures.

Join us in celebrating the achievements of our graduates during their ceremonies. As we look ahead to 2025, we invite you to be a part of this journey, ensuring that the next cohort receives the support they need to succeed. Together, let's continue to offer a hand UP and make a lasting impact.

Join us for UPcoming STEP Graduations! Dates: 10/11 and 11/22, 11:00 AM-12:30 PM

THANK YOU TO OUR 2024 STEP GRANTORS

- Orlando Magic Youth Foundation
- Publix Super Markets Charities
- Bank of America
- Cigna
- Spectrum/ Charter Communications
- Fairwinds Foundation
- Orlando Health
- TRUIST
- Central Florida Womens League
- Heart of Florida United Way
- Orange County
- Maitland Rotary Club
- Chesley G. Magruder Foundation
- TD Charitable Foundation
- City of Orlando
- Regions Bank



"UP"COMING EVENTS



Friday, October 4th, 2024

Registration & Networking 10:30 AM/ Luncheon 12 PM-1PM

First Baptist Orlando - 3000 S. John Young Pkwy, Orlando, FL, 32805



Register Here



handuporlando.org



We are excited to announce that the Quack Attack on Poverty 5K is BACK and it is time to get your ducks in a row! We are ruffling poverty's feathers this year and we want you to join us.

This year, our Quack Attack fundraising efforts are particularly focused on two holiday initiatives:

- **Hopeful Harvest:** Annual event held on November 25th is a community-driven effort where UP Orlando provides a complete Thanksgiving meal to 450 UP families. Each family receives a turkey along with all the fixings, ensuring they can celebrate Thanksgiving surrounded by their loved ones.
- **Hope for the Holidays:** This event held in December is a time for the community to come together and distribute a breakfast meal along with toys to families and children, ensuring they can enjoy a joyful holiday celebration.



November 23rd, 2024

Register Here



quackattack.org

CONNECT WITH UP:

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2024 COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

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Family Volunteer Night



Second
Friday of
every Month

Corporate Volunteer Days



Email: kmartorelli@unitedagainstopoverty.org

United Against Poverty Orlando

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uporlando.org

@unitedagainstopoverty

twitter.com/up_orlando

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THANK YOU! We couldn't do our work without your hand UP!
No matter the obstacle, we are thankful to be able to rely on our
community to be our champions.