



December 2, 2022

Dear Friends,

The holidays should be filled with family, friends, food, and fun! But for many in our community, the holidays will be a time of great financial challenge and worry. The worry of not being able to put food on the table, pay for housing, afford transportation, or pay for childcare. At United Against Poverty, we are committed to serving all families and individuals who need our help.

The programs that we have at UP St Lucie County are built to help the community. After a difficult year in 2021, we came back strong in 2022, by bringing in a full team dedicated to helping those in need of assistance. So far, the results have been strong, our Life Enrichment Center has provided:

- **274** individuals with over **1,500+** services in our Crisis Stabilization Programs.
- Our Success Training Employment Program (STEP) has graduated **38** individuals with **22** finding successful employment.
- Combined income for our graduates is at \$460,010, going back into the community and helping themselves and their families to economic self-sufficiency.

Our STEP program has **tripled** the number of individuals that have graduated and found employment from last year, and we see it continuing to grow in 2023. It is due to our valuable programs that we are able to do what we do and help those like Michelle.

Michelle came to us with a crisis. She had been through a difficult divorce, lost her 2 children to her husband and had been out of work for a couple of months, living in an RV in someone's yard, which she was going to lose the spot if she didn't pay rent by the end of the month. She had her car repossessed, cell phone disconnected and no food. We provided Michelle emergency food and a hygiene kit and shared resources to assist her. Michelle was ready to work but couldn't find employment. We provided resume assistance, and employment seeking skills. Within 2 weeks Michelle was employed, able to obtain a free cell phone and service, and select her own groceries from our Member Share Grocery program for the first time in months. Michelle is now stable, and we are continuing to assist her with the steps needed to get her children back.

**Have you considered donating through your Donor Advisor Fund or personal foundation?**

Please use the enclosed envelope to donate today, or directly on our website at [www.upscl.org/donate](http://www.upscl.org/donate). Whatever the amount, we're grateful for you and your support of our mission to ensure we continue to serve those in our community!

Sincerely,

*Sean Howald*

Sean Howald  
Campus Director

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DEC 28 2022

CHIEFS OFFICE/FPPD

*Lifting Lives*