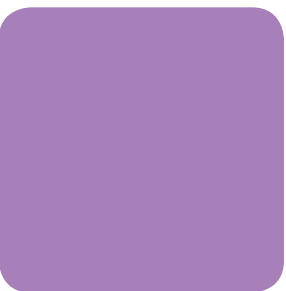




# IMPACT POLK

**2014 - 2015**

A Program of the GiveWell Community Foundation



## For Your Information

### What is Impact Polk?

Impact Polk is the community grant program of the GiveWell Community Foundation. All submitted applications are reviewed by staff to ensure they meet grant program guidelines. Approved applications meeting publication criteria are included in the Impact Polk publication, which is distributed to all GiveWell Community Foundation fundholders and the community at large for their philanthropic consideration.

### Who can apply for Impact Polk?

All nonprofits that have current Section 501(c)3 status as determined by the Internal Revenue Service and whose project's service area has a Polk County zip code are eligible.

### What if I want more information on one of the programs listed in the Impact Polk publication?

Our professional staff is well versed on the programs listed in this publication and is readily available to help you make funding decisions that make sense to you.

### How can I fund Impact Polk?

If you are a current fundholder at the GiveWell Community Foundation, simply fill out a grant request, either through DonorCentral or on a paper form.

If you do not have a fund with us, you can donate online at [www.giveCF.org](http://www.giveCF.org) or mail us a check with a letter stating the name of the program you would like to fund. You will receive an acknowledgment letter for tax purposes.

### Can I donate anonymously?

Yes, please note on your check or grant request that you would like your donation to be anonymous.

### How will I know that my donation is used properly?

Any nonprofit receiving funding from this grant program must provide follow-up reports to the GiveWell Community Foundation. This information is shared with the donor(s) of the specific project and, in the rare event that a nonprofit did not use gift monies as intended by a donor, the GiveWell Community Foundation has the ability to intervene until donor intent is met.

### Can I help support the GiveWell Community Foundation?

The GiveWell Community Foundation provides many opportunities to the nonprofits in our community, but, just like the nonprofits we serve, we require funds to be able to provide these services. Because the GiveWell Community Foundation has a strict no fundraising policy, we rely on gifts from our fund holders and community donors to assist us in our work.

For more information or to discuss a listed project, contact us at (863)683-3131 or [info@givecf.org](mailto:info@givecf.org).

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A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THE REGISTRATION NUMBER FOR GIVEWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IS CH11626.

# Arts & Culture

## **Bach Festival of Central Florida**

### ***Bach Festival of Central Florida Festival Weekend***

**\$10,000**

Our organization is in its 40th year in performing the classical music of Bach here in Polk County. As part of our regular program, we hire local professional musicians to perform the music in order to expose the local population of Polk County to live performances of classical-style music.



## **Florida Dance Theatre**

### ***Celebrate Dance Festival III***

**\$10,500 FUNDED!**

The 3rd Annual Celebrate Dance Festival brings dance to the forefront in Polk County. The 3rd annual event is planned for April 24th - 26th, 2015 and once again will bring aspiring young dancers from around central Florida to Lakeland with the opportunity to: study with Master Teachers, observe a live performance by the professional company of Florida Dance Theatre along with international guest artists, and perform at a free performance at Lake Mirror Promenade.

## **Imperial Symphony Orchestra**

### ***ISO School Day Enrichment Programs***

**\$9,999 FUNDED!**

The Imperial Symphony Orchestra's (ISO) School Day Enrichment Programs provide 9,000 students in Polk's 4th and 5th grade classrooms the opportunity to experience a live performance by an orchestra, and the opportunity for teachers to use the weeks before and after the concert as a teaching tool on the importance of arts appreciation. For the majority of students this is their first exposure to the beauty and sounds of live symphonic music. Many of our community's music teachers and musicians credit their initial exposure at a School Day Concert as to what ultimately led them to their chosen career.

## **Imperial Symphony Orchestra**

### ***Next Generation for the Arts Scholarship***

**\$12,000 FUNDED!**

The Next Generation for the Arts Scholarship (NGA) provides all students from Kindergarten through College Senior complete and total access to all Imperial Symphony Orchestra (ISO) performances. The ISO is committed to fostering the next generation of musicians and believes providing students the opportunities to experience the power and beauty of live symphonic performances will help nurture the artistic talents of Polk's future musicians. The NGA program breaks down walls by allowing all students to foster a love and appreciation for music regardless of age, race or socioeconomic status by showing children that music is truly for everyone.

## **Lakeland Choral Society, Inc.**

### ***Lee and Carol Ross Memorial Scholarship***

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Each year, Lakeland Choral Society gives back to the community through a series of concerts, as well as providing scholarships to local high school and college students through our scholarship program. Lakeland Choral Society recently instituted a Lakeland area children's chorus. Subsequently, in addition to providing scholarships to high school and college students, Lakeland Choral Society is now able to provide scholarships to members of the Florida Southern Children's Chorus. Lakeland Choral Society strives to contribute to the musical education and participation of Polk area students.

# Arts & Culture

## Lakeland Concert Band

### *Music Stand Lights for Night Outdoor Performances*

**\$7,499 FUNDED!**

The Lakeland Concert Band (LCB) is requesting LED, battery powered music stand lights for our players. The two night concerts the LCB has performed were both Lakeland Honor Flights. The Band would like to further our musical message and program with additional outdoor evening concerts to serve the citizens of Lakeland and Polk County. Portable music stand lights are essential to meeting that goal. We borrowed the Imperial Symphony Orchestra's stand lights for both Honor Flights. However, the rain storm this year and ensuing wet playing area was a safety concern with extension cords and electrical boxes on the ground.

## Lakeland Community Theatre

### *"Out of The Box" Special Needs Theatre Troupe*

**\$9,500 FUNDED!**

"Out of the Box" is Lakeland Community Theatre's "troupe with unique abilities." This troupe has grown to 40 special needs members (and counting!) ages seven to 50 years old. Working with the troupe are 15 teenage volunteers and five instructors. We meet weekly to work on improvisation, scene work, dance, poetry, musical theatre, and more. Our goal is to continue weekly classes and perform a free show for the community every spring and fall. This program offers a very unique population a creative outlet, an educational experience, and a sense of belonging in our community at no cost to them.

## Platform Art, Inc.

### *Platform KIDS Program 2015*

**\$12,000 Only \$2,000 left**

Platform Kids 2015 showcases art created by students grades 1-12. It develops a passion for art and gives students an opportunity to display their talents at professional venues, growing the next generation of artists. In 2014, 29 schools and 800 students participated; more than 500 people attended the public event featuring visual film, fashion, sound and performance. Students create art to exhibit in a public juried show format; Visual/Performance art preparation meets Sunshine State Learning Standards to build self-esteem, creative problem solving techniques and a love of experimental learning.

## Polk Museum of Art

### *Changing Lives Through Art*

**~~\$9,719~~ Only \$4,859.50 left**

Polk Museum of Art gives action to the emerging truth that in order to have the most effective impact, a museum must expand its reach far beyond its own walls. To affect real positive change, we extend sustainable and enriching arts experiences to communities throughout Polk County. The "Changing Lives Through Art" Program is a vehicle for personal growth and civic engagement for underserved and at-risk youth across Polk County. Its various programs provide genuine appreciation of arts and culture, expand core community knowledge, and empower lives.



## Polk Theatre, Inc.

### *The Polk Theatre's Torn Curtain Project*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

The Torn Curtain Project at the Polk Theatre will allow the curtains called "legs" and stage border curtains to be replaced. "Legs" are defined as the flown cloth or flat, masking side of the stage. Border curtains are defined as a flown scenic element used in masking. Legs and borders provide blackout coverage to the sides of the stage, blocking out light from backstage and side stage.

## Theatre Winter Haven

### *The Next Stage In A Kids Life*

**~~\$8,640~~ Only \$4,320 left**

Theatre Winter Haven seeks underwriting costs for admission and busing to attend Academy productions, and to provide scholarships for children to attend Camp Theatre. Both underserved schools and students will be allowed no-cost admission to Academy shows and Camp Theatre. It is our expectation to provide an audience related school year arts experience and an intensive interactive summer experience.



# Community Development



## Polk County Historical Museum and Genealogical Library

### *Journeys in Justice*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Journeys in Justice is a museum education program that will bring Polk County middle school students to the historic 1908 courthouse where they will learn about the Florida judicial system and civic leadership in a courtroom setting. Developed and implemented by the Polk County History Center, Journeys in Justice will include a travel trunk available for loan to the schools and travel support for the schools to bring students to the Polk County History Center. The program goal is to prepare young people for effective citizenship.

## The FALLS Adventure, Inc.

### *Junior Leadership Lakeland/Winter Haven*

**\$5,400**

Leadership Lakeland and Leadership Winter Haven: A business model impacting our community since the 1980s. The FALLS will use this grant to develop a Leadership Development Program based on this model, but instead it will serve youth of poverty middle school through post secondary education. This, too, will impact our community for years to come. Using a franchise model, neighborhood non-profits will be provided a turnkey operation to run their own "class" but still be linked with keystone activities relating to the larger community. Junior Leadership will be ready for implementation in 2016.

## A Woman's Choice

### *Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Education Program*

**\$7,100 FUNDED!**

Teen Impact Summer Abstinence Education Program is presented to teens, by teens who are committed to saying YES to healthy relationships and a positive future, by saying NO to pre-marital sex, drugs, tobacco and alcohol. The Teen Volunteer Team Members share the message about the importance of healthy lifestyles in an engaging and interactive skit presentation while serving as role models of this lifestyle themselves. This is the only program like this in our county serving teens during the summer. The program will be presented to approximately 300 teens from June 8 through July 31, 2015.

## St. Joseph's Catholic Church

### *Empowering Speakers of Other Languages*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

St. Joseph's Parish serves the greater Lakeland community and recognizes the diversity of population of its members. English for Speakers of other Languages (ESL) Classes at St. Joseph's, now located at St. Joseph's Academy, provides a means for non-English speaking immigrants to learn the predominant language used in the United States. English Language Learners have the opportunity to improve their English language skills in order to communicate more effectively with others in the community and in the United States. The program now extends to citizenship classes located at the church.

## Better Tomorrows

### *The Better Tomorrows After School Program*

**\$1,000 FUNDED!**

The Abbey Lane youth, aged 5 to 18 years, are encouraged to meet challenges within their communities by exploring science, health, technology and math opportunities. Better Tomorrows provides safe, financially accessible, structured activities for the Abbey Lane children after school and during the summer. These supervised activities are designed to be engaging and educational while promoting civic involvement and independence. Moreover, they allow parents and guardians the time and opportunity to successfully complete responsibilities without worrying about the well-being of their children.

# Education

## **Bok Tower Gardens Foundation, Inc.**

### ***The Fairchild Challenge at Bok Tower Gardens***

**~~\$6,700~~ \$0 left**

The Fairchild Challenge is an award winning, interdisciplinary, environmental science competition designed to engage students of diverse interests, abilities, talents and backgrounds to explore the natural world. Created by Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in Miami, the program has been recognized as a benchmark for exceptional STEM education (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and for empowering students to become the next generation of scientists, researchers, educated voters, policy makers, and environmentally-minded citizens.

## **Camp Fire USA Sunshine Council**

### ***Learning to Grow Garden***

**~~\$14,703~~ FUNDED!**

Camp Fire will build a sustainable, garden-based learning program that will serve as a teaching tool for 230 children and teens from Pre-K through 12th grade, 60% of which are from financially at-risk families. Whether learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, making homemade salsa, or figuring out the cubic volume of a raised bed, youth will utilize the learning garden to gain nutritional and environmental awareness, higher learning achievements, and increased life skills. Camp Fire families will have seasonal access to fresh vegetables, plus surplus crops will go to VISTE clients.

## **Center for Independent Living in Central Florida**

### ***Career Development for Students with Disabilities***

**~~\$5,000~~ FUNDED!**

The High School High Tech Program (HSHT) provides opportunities for students with disabilities to explore exciting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). By incorporating four design features; preparatory experiences, connecting activities, work-based experiences, and youth development and leadership activities; students gain valuable insight and develop skills to make informed choices for life after high school. In particular, summer internships expose students to real life work experiences preparing them for their future career development.

## **Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center**

### ***L2L = Language to Literacy***

**~~\$7,500~~ FUNDED!**

A child must hear a word before he can say it; he must say a word before he can read it and he must read a word before he can write it. That is the hierarchy of language to literacy. Thus, hearing, speaking, reading, writing make up language which equals literacy. Our request is to provide every child in speech therapy and who has a speech-language or a hearing evaluation a book to take home to read with their parents. Most of these children come from low income homes and their parents have little money to buy the developmentally appropriate books. Reading equals literacy and life success.

## **Early Learning Coalition of Polk County**

### ***Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program***

**~~\$6,000~~ Only \$3,000 left**

Child Care Executive Partnership (CCEP) Program partners with local child care providers as well as area businesses to raise funds to help cover the cost of care for the children of child care facility staff who work to provide safe and high quality early education opportunities for the children served by the Coalition. These children are provided with early education focused on preparing them to enter school ready and eager to learn. In summary, this program helps child care providers retain staff, parents keep working, and children receive high quality early education they need to succeed.

## **Florence Villa Community Development Corporation**

### ***FVCDC Youth Leadership Development Program***

**~~\$9,900~~ FUNDED!**

The FVCDC Youth Leadership Development Program offers an after-school and summer development program for youth between the ages of 13-16. The program is designed to enhance the life skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for participants to become successful in all aspects of their daily lives and future endeavors. Program components include: Conflict Resolution, Cultural Awareness, Civic Consciousness, Effective Communication, Etiquette, Financial Literacy, Health and Hygiene, Pregnancy Prevention, and Workforce Readiness Skills Development.



# Education

## Florida Air Museum

### *Aerospace Discovery at the Florida Air Museum*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Aerospace Discovery at the Florida Air Museum, offers a “Brighter Future through Aviation” to students of all ages but, more specifically, to students ages 7 to 17 year round. Impact Polk funds will help SUN ‘n FUN to work with the Polk County School Board to introduce students to the world of aviation via field trips offered to more than 600 students at no cost to schools. Funds will be used for busses, instructor materials and student admission for Polk County students. SUN ‘n FUN will share a portion of the activity costs, matching grant funds where possible and will seek ways to sustain the activity in subsequent years.



## Florida Prosperity Partnership Polk

### *Gotta Plan - Financial Fitness for Families*

**\$8,600 FUNDED!**

GottaPlan is a financial education platform that combines on-line learning with certified credit counselors (money coaches) allowing Polk County Families to create a plan for financial stability. Forty-four percent of our families do not have the ability to survive for 90 days in the event of a financial crisis such as job loss, divorce, or medical emergency. Many do not have a plan to pay their bills on time or pay every bill every month. The program is fun and user friendly for all ages. It is designed to teach families how to manage their finances, improve their credit score and save money.

## Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

### *Youth Exercising Mind and Body*

**\$15,000**

We are looking to expand services for our youth in the area of academic tutoring and recreational activities to build a strong and healthy mind and body. “Youth Exercising Mind & Body” is to help our youth build a strong foundation to expand their academic and athletic capabilities to produce intelligent, healthy and physically active well rounded young leaders. We provide tutoring three days a week and would like to expand to five days a week with hours for youth to get more individual tutoring. Expansion of our athletic activities and educational supplies will enhance activity and learning with educational arts & crafts projects, educational computer programs, interactive software and e-books.

## Florida Southern College

### *Preparing Dyslexic Students in Polk to Succeed*

**\$9,200 FUNDED!**

One of the best predictors for success in life is early literacy. Unfortunately, dyslexic children have significant auditory and visual processing skill deficiencies that greatly inhibit their reading ability. Our goal at the Roberts Academy is to use teaching strategies and technology to help our students combat dyslexia. We are seeking funding for technology to complement our curriculum, including a SMARTBoard and Student Response Clickers, and a voice amplification system. This technology will significantly enhance our pedagogy and launch a new era of excellence at our school.

## Florida West Coast Public Broadcasting Inc. (WEDU)

### *Florida PBS LearningMedia Workshops*

**\$3,000 FUNDED!**

PBS LearningMedia, a free educational service, features more than 87,000 digital learning objects to support teaching PreK through 12th grade. Content is drawn from PBS programming and more than 200 educational partners, such as the National Archives and NASA. As part of the 2014-2015 state budget, the Florida Legislature allocated funding to PBS for the customization of LearningMedia content to Florida education standards which will be finalized late 2014. WEDU is requesting funds to provide a series of free workshops on the use of Florida PBS LearningMedia and complementary PBS resources to educators in Polk County.



# Education



## **Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay** *Achieve Success with JA Teen Teachers* **\$9,500 FUNDED!**

Junior Achievement (JA) Teen Teachers serve as positive role models to 440 elementary students. They will present hands-on learning activities by utilizing the Junior Achievement economic education programs. Before volunteering, 50 high school students will participate in JA Career Success. After their training, teens teach economics, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and workforce skills in 22 Kindergarten through third grade classrooms. Learning practical life skills together, teens and the children they teach will achieve educational and economic success, inspiring them to dream big and achieve their goals!

## **Geneva Classical Academy, Inc.** *Art Program Enhancements* **\$7,950**

Art - visual, musical, culinary, dance, and theater - is an aspect of existence that makes us human. It reflects our search for meaning, and at best helps us to discover truth, goodness, and beauty. Helping students to interact with these transcendent values nourishes their souls to make them better human beings and citizens. Geneva Classical Academy seeks to aid students in discovering these ideals through training in both art appreciation and application of artistic skills. If funded, Geneva intends to enhance our art program for music, visual arts, drama, and culinary arts to cultivate art appreciation and hone artistic skills.

## **Junior League of Greater Lakeland** *Reading is Fundamental (RIF)* **\$10,000**

Two-thirds of America's children living in poverty have no books at home. Reading is Fundamental (RIF) ensures that all children have access to books, particularly those children most at risk for educational failure. RIF volunteers distribute books and promote the importance of literacy at targeted schools in Polk County. The Junior League of Greater Lakeland maintains this 40-year-old program as the longest running RIF program in the State of Florida.

## **Gulf Ridge Council, Boy Scouts of America (BSA)** *Project STEM - NOVA Awards Camp* **\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). According to US Department of Labor statistics the 20 fastest growing occupations over the next 10 years include 15 that require significant mathematics and science preparation. This program uses the BSA NOVA awards program during three sessions of summer camp and quarterly weekend sessions to excite youth about STEM related fields by working with adult mentors that will utilize specially developed modules to teach youth how nature, space exploration and any STEM related field impacts us in our day to day lives.

## **Junior League of Greater Lakeland** *Ready to Read (RTR)* **\$10,000**

Ready to Read is a comprehensive program serving students at Title I schools in the poverty pockets of Lakeland. This program serves one school for two years, providing bi-annual family reading workshops, teacher support, and overall school support. Each year, books and programs are chosen to help students make learning gains inside and outside of the classroom. Families who attend the workshops participate in hands-on activities to better engage their children in reading. The League partners with organizations, like the Learning Resource Center, to provide relevant and exciting activities.



# Education

## Lakes Education Action Drive, Inc.

### *Getting Students Outdoors*

### *Summer Educational Program*

**\$3,000 FUNDED!**

Schools are hampered from offering exploration beyond the classroom due to curriculum and budget restrictions. They do not adequately address science. Once in high school, students must pass an EOC exam in Biology to graduate. If they choose to go to college, an ACT exam is required that includes higher level science. Exposure to sciences early on is key. Our program provides hands-on environmental summer education to include interactive educational presentations and field trips where students will participate in exciting, educational activities. Students have an opportunity to be outdoors, learn about living things, develop an understanding of how nature works and continue learning during the summer.

## Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.

### *Camp READY! 2015 South Lakeland*

**\$14,919 FUNDED!**

Learning Resource Center's Camp READY! is improving kindergarten readiness in Polk County where 40% of Kindergartners enter school lacking language skills needed for success. Camp READY! provides four weeks of interactive learning (reading readiness, cooking, movement, and crafts). On average, Camp READY! campers gain six months in language development. A parent wrote, "Amazing program! I am recommending it to every parent I know. The kids loved coming to camp every day." LRC respectfully requests GiveWell Community Foundation's help to bring Camp READY! 2015 to 50 Kindergartners in South Lakeland.

## Learning Resource Center of Polk County, Inc.

### *Camp READY! 2015 Family Fundamentals*

**\$14,919.75**

Learning Resource Center's Camp READY! is improving kindergarten readiness in Polk County where 40% of Kindergartners enter school lacking language skills needed for success. Camp READY! provides four weeks of interactive learning (reading readiness, cooking, movement, and crafts). On average, Camp READY! campers gain six months in language development. A parent wrote, "Amazing program! I am recommending it to every parent I know. The kids loved coming to camp every day." LRC respectfully requests GiveWell Community Foundation's help to bring Camp READY! 2015 to 50 Kindergartners at Family Fundamentals.

## Magnolia Montessori Academy

### *F.A.R.M. Learning at Magnolia Montessori*

**\$14,535**

Fostering Authentic, Relevant Montessori (FARM) Learning provides entrepreneurial education through the management of an agricultural business. In FARM Learning, students work on a farm, focusing on these objectives: exploring real-world applications of mathematics/language standards; practicing 21st century skills (collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication); and establishing and maintaining a business. Learning outcomes include increases in learning gains for participating students in mathematics and language; and an increase in student awareness of business start-up.

## Neighborhood Ministries, FUMC Lakeland

### *Neighborhood Ministries, First UMC*

**\$10,600**

Our ministry is a free program that operates to service the children and youth of our community by providing a faith based, safe place for them to come after school where they can get a healthy snack, homework help, counseling from a LMHC if needed, specialized skills training for future educational or employment opportunities, and spiritual enrichment. In addition, it also serves the greater good by preventing juvenile crime and teen pregnancy by providing supervision during the critical hours after school and during the summer months.



# Education

## New Beginnings High School

### *New Beginnings High School Automotive Program*

**\$14,250**

Addressing the Polk County drop out epidemic, the New Beginnings High School Dream Automotive Academy will provide students who have dropped out with an opportunity to complete high school, while gaining employable skills. The program has the following goals: 1. Increase graduation rates of Polk County Students through attainment of ASE Certificate & High School for 40 students. 2. Post program completion placement in college or employment settings. 3. Increased literacy/ numeracy gains of participating students. 4. Leadership and life skills development of participating students.

## Our Children's Academy

### *Our Children's Farm-to-Table Food Truck*

**\$9,654 FUNDED!**

Our Children's Farm-to-Table Food Truck will provide our students the opportunity to learn career and culinary art skills through a safe, educational, mobile experience. Participants in this project will learn food prep, hospitality, workforce, and independent life skills. Additionally, this unique project will help facilitate proper etiquette and day-to-day routines as students will learn to prepare healthy foods. Students will also incorporate their knowledge in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through harvesting fresh produce, as a majority of the food students prepare will come straight from Our Children's garden.

## Our Children's Rehab Center

### *Life, Culture & Literacy: A Community Exploration*

**\$15,000**

Life, Culture & Literacy: A Community Exploration helps both the community and our children have a better understanding of each other. Our goal is to teach our children about the importance of the arts and culture, and to help them find a place to be successful as a future part of this vital growing community. Our Children's Rehab Center hopes to build partnerships through a community outreach program that will allow students to cultivate positive and relative experiences while also learning appropriate social skills and, most importantly, helping our students to feel like they belong.

## Polk Education Foundation

### *Building a Foundation of Reading*

**\$10,000**

The Polk Education Foundation runs an AmeriCorps program called Polk Reads. This program serves low performing kindergarten through third grade readers at schools selected from the lowest performing elementary schools. Students get one-on-one reading tutoring three times a week during their reading block. Classroom teachers select students to be served and work with the tutor to determine the reading skills covered. By tutoring low performing students in the lower grade levels, we are helping them build a foundation of reading, which will in turn help them be more successful in the upper grades.

## Polk Education Foundation

### *Free Teacher Market*

**\$5,000 FUNDED!**

The Free Teacher Market serves Polk public school teachers by giving them a place to "shop" free of charge for office and classroom supplies. The Market is stocked with donations of new and used items from the community and is open during the school year. Cash donations are needed to replenish popular items which run out quickly, such as basic school supplies, and to enhance the market with items such as teaching manipulatives, bulletin board materials and consumable student workbooks, all done to minimize the amount of money teachers spend out of their own pockets.



# Education

## Polk State College Foundation

### *First Generation Scholarships*

**\$10,000**

First-generation college students represent 65% of the student population at Polk State College. A first-generation college student refers to a student whose parents have not received a bachelor's degree. Polk State College recognizes the vital importance of supporting these students in a variety of ways. The financial implications of earning a college degree are often cited as the number one reason students do not attend college, or cannot complete their education. The Polk State College Foundation recognizes this and is requesting funding to support this large population of students.

## Santa Fe Catholic High School

### *Santa Fe Catholic Resource Program*

**\$9,100 FUNDED!**

We at Santa Fe Catholic High School are proud to be committed to fully serve all those who seek to obtain a Catholic education. Our Resource Program is geared to support students with varying degrees of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Our high school resource teacher perception of these students' learning styles can provide support for these students by incorporating their strengths and needs when planning for course instruction. In addition, our resource teacher assists with academic modifications and provides daily positive reinforcement.



## Scripture Union

### *Building Strong Minds and Hearts in Children*

**\$4,500 FUNDED!**

Scripture Union Southeast Region is planning three after school tutoring and club programs for the Lakeland, Auburndale and Winter Haven region. The program will consist of tutoring and homework help for elementary school age children with a specific aim at children from more "at risk" communities. The program includes tutoring, snack time, activity time, games, singing and character development. We are presently running one test program in Auburndale at the Lions Club using volunteers from three different Auburndale Churches along with high school volunteers helping with games and activities.

## READ Lakeland, Inc.

### *Raising the Bar: Enrichment Topics for Adults*

**\$6,700 FUNDED!**

Read Lakeland is an adult literacy program whose mission is to improve the quality of life in the community through the teaching of basic literacy skills to adult learners. The project, "Raising the Bar: Enrichment Topics for Adult Learners" will supplement the literacy skills of adult learners through personal growth in basic life skills. Enrichment topics cover personal finances, job search skills and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The project will take participants to a heightened level of learning on how to manage the many aspects of living in the 21st century.

## Southeastern University

### *Painting a Palette of Visual Arts Courses*

**\$10,000**

Southeastern University's College of Communications, Languages, and the Arts desires to enhance its program in Graphic Design by adding traditional courses in the visual arts. These classes are pertinent for a comprehensive and successful program in Graphic Design. Courses added for January 2015 include painting, drawing, color theory, and art gallery exhibitions. Albeit the university has committed to hiring a full-time professor for such courses by November 1, funds are needed to purchase a full complement of furniture, equipment, paints, and non-consumable supplies for the program.



# Education

## Sunrise Community of Polk County

### *Sunrise Community Adult Training*

#### *Scholarship Program*

**\$12,000**

Sunrise Community Adult Training Scholarship Program will provide adults with developmental disabilities the opportunity to attend a life skills program dedicated to serving people with developmental disabilities (i.e. autism, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and intellectual delay). The program will provide training in vital skill sets required for success in everyday life such as money management, health and safety, and work skills. An individualized program plan is developed around each client, resulting in services that are a blend of instruction, interventions, activities and experiences.

## The Salvation Army Serving West Polk County

### *YES! Youth Education Success Summer Program*

**\$14,800 FUNDED!**

The YES! Youth Education Success Summer Program provides summer care for school-aged children in a mentoring and character-building environment with a focus on maintaining academic skills. The children of low-income working families are out of school during the summer with few opportunities for improving their social and developmental skills. One component of the grant will provide for up to 15 Summer Day Camp scholarships for low-income children. The second component provides for one week of Summer Camp for up to 17 community children at The Salvation Army's Camp Keystone in Starke, Florida.



## TiAnViCa Riding Academy

### *TiAnViCa Summer Horse Camp*

**\$3,100 FUNDED!**

Each year TiAnViCa serves many children and adults with disabilities. After our riding season is over, we open up our facility for three weeks of summer camp for able bodied children. Many of our participants are children and siblings of our therapeutic riding program riders. The summer camp introduces children in first through sixth grade to horses, the barn, and basic riding skills in three one-week camps.

## Symphony Guild of Winter Haven

### *Nurturing the Arts through Student Scholarships*

**\$3,000**

The Symphony Guild of Winter Haven has established an annual scholarship fund enabling qualified music students enrolled at Polk State College (PSC) to continue their education at PSC. While these scholarships are for registered students at PSC, the Guild wants to increase its scholarship programs by establishing financial help to music students continuing their educational pursuits who are currently attending Winter Haven High School, Harrison School of Performing Arts (Polk County's only performing arts high school), and Lake Region High School. These recipients will be able to choose their advanced education not limited to attending PSC.

## United Way of Central Florida

### *Family Fundamentals' Bridge the Gap to School*

#### *Readiness - My Own Library*

**\$6,940 FUNDED!**

Bridge the Gap to School Readiness is a five day-a-week program specifically designed to teach and model outcome based activities that prepare children to enter school ready to succeed. In a developmentally appropriate classroom, children and their parents experience a literacy rich environment. The parents learn how to be the best first teacher they can be. The "My Own Library" will provide the attending children with age-appropriate books daily to take home as their own. They are building a library while their parents have access to quality resources to continue the learning/teaching process.



# Education

## United Way of Central Florida

### *Success by 6's Imagination Library*

~~\$6,000~~ Only \$3,000 left

The Imagination Library increases opportunities for parents to read and interact with their children, while building school readiness skills. Reading with young children improves language proficiency, and language skills are the primary predictor of academic success or failure in kindergarten. Each month a carefully selected, age-appropriate book is mailed in the child's name directly to their home. The Imagination Library is a gift to our at-risk children, helping families become more involved in preparing their children to enter school ready to succeed.

## YMCA of West Central Florida

### *Kindergarten Learn to Swim Program*

~~\$15,000~~ FUNDED!

The YMCA Kindergarten Learn to Swim Program is a two-week interactive water safety and education program. In partnership with Polk County Schools, the children prepare in their classroom for their week of swimming instruction by learning about water safety, adult supervision, and identifying danger areas. The following week, children are transported to one of our aquatic facilities for a full week of lessons by certified instructors. Our goal is to teach 1,500 kindergartners at 16 elementary schools, reaching a new population of children every year.

## Winter Haven Chamber Foundation

### *Young Entrepreneurs Academy of Polk County*

~~\$10,000~~

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is an exciting after school program that transforms local middle and high school students into entrepreneurial success stories. This program is a national program supported by the US Chamber of Commerce and we intend to bring this structured program to Polk County. YEA! is an eight-month program that uses a project-based approach to spark creativity, teach students cross-functional skills, confidence, public speaking and how to create a job, not just take a job. Think "Shark Tank" meets the traditional chamber Leadership programs.



## YMCA of West Central Florida

### *Adaptive Programming - Unique Actions*

~~\$5,000~~ FUNDED!

Unique Actions is a program that is specially designed for youth with disabilities and is open to all children ages 3 through 17 years old. This program allows children to participate in activities at the YMCA with their peers, while working on their social/play interaction--turn-taking, sharing, parallel play plus, etc. The program will serve approximately 350 youth and families. Low student/teacher ratios will be used in order to maximize the learning process. Activities will include: Family Nights at the Y, specialty swim and gymnastics programming, family support and day programming in the summer.

## Abby Graces Hope, Inc.

### *AGH Polk Swim Voucher Program*

~~\$4,000~~ Only \$2,000 left

Abby Graces Hope (AGH) inspires to bring one of the best layers of protection against drowning within reach to all families of Polk County. Multiple layers of protection are imperative to prevent drownings. Swimming lessons alone provide an 80% reduction in drowning risks associated with children in the high risk ages one to four, along with many other benefits. In collaboration and partnership with local city aquatics programs, YMCAs and private certified instructors, AGH raises funds for swim lesson vouchers for families in financial hardship and children with special needs across the county.

# Health & Human Services

## Alliance for Independence

### AFI's Multi-Sensory Environment Initiative

**\$9,999 FUNDED!**

As part of its developing autism curriculum, Alliance for Independence seeks to incorporate a multi-sensory environment area to assist adults with autism learn to better cope with outside stimuli and to assist individuals aging in place in stimulating and maintaining residual abilities. Multi-sensory environments provide sensory stimulation for individuals who have previously been isolated in their perceptual disabilities, providing new ways of encouraging learning, motor development, cognitive development, language and social interaction skills.



## Alzheimer's Association -

### Florida Gulf Coast Chapter

#### Caregiver Connection for Women

**\$14,500**

The Caregiver Connection for Women is an array of services designed to address the unique needs of female caregivers for people living with Alzheimer's disease in Polk County. The program is an enhancement of our successful Caregiver Connection program and will focus on the disproportionately impacted community of female caregivers. The program will reduce the stress, adverse physical and mental health impacts, and isolation associated with care giving. It will enhance their skills to provide more effective care and enable them to become more in control of their care giving responsibilities.

## American Red Cross

### Red Cross Rental Assistance Program

**\$8,000 FUNDED!**

The Red Cross provides rental assistance to Polk County residents who have been affected by a disaster. Most of the disasters are home fires. Many Red Cross clients who reside in rental units do not have adequate financial means to provide funding for the required deposits to obtain new rental housing. Red Cross assists these clients by providing first month's deposits and also utility deposits when necessary. In the past fiscal year, the need for Red Cross rental assistance has increased more than 100 percent.

## Broken Chains Ministries, Inc.

### Reentry for a Better Life Program

**\$14,940 - Will not accept partial funding**

Broken Chains Ministries, Reentry for a Better Life Program provides pre- and post-release services to the offender/ex-offender which includes connecting a life coach mentor to a mentee/offender prior to release from the correction facility, through back to the community. It further offers transitional services to assist in the reintegration of homeless/(ex)-offenders back into the community, includes housing placement services, education, job readiness and skills training, services to enhance family reunification, substance abuse, mental health treatment, and post-release case management.

## Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Western Region

### Family Empowerment Program

**\$9,500 Only \$4,750 left**

The Family Empowerment Program prevents homelessness and hunger among individuals and families experiencing financial crisis in Polk County. We help clients attain financial self-sufficiency and avoid future dependence on assistance through intensive financial education in areas such as budgeting, savings, and credit management, and through case management provided by certified credit counselors and a HUD-certified foreclosure counselor. We also offer free income tax preparation to low- to moderate-income families, and encourage them to put their tax refunds into savings accounts for an extra financial cushion.

# Health & Human Services

## Catholic Charities of Central Florida - Western Region

*Lake Morton Senior Center*  
**\$14,000**

Lake Morton Senior Center serves over 250 limited income seniors, offering recreational, social and educational programs, as well as congregate dining through Polk County Elderly Services. Center programs keep clients active and engaged so that they can continue to live independently without need for institutional care. We focus on nutritional education, with healthy cooking classes in partnership with the Publix Aprons Program and the UF Cooperative Extension Program, supported by regular distribution of bags of highly nutritious food from the Agape Food Bank. We also offer exercise classes to promote good balance and to prevent falls, the most common accident for our population.

## Central Florida Speech & Hearing Center *The HEAR Mobile*

**\$10,000 - Will not accept partial funding**

"Adults 50+ with untreated hearing loss were more likely to report depression, anxiety and frustration, and were less likely to participate in social activities" and "seniors are more likely to develop dementia over time than those who retrain their hearing." (National Council on Aging, 2011). The HEAR Mobile Program goal is to help address the consequences of an untreated hearing loss. We will travel to 20 sites in the county where adults live and congregate, screen their hearing, give them information about the implications of their hearing loss and move them to action to seek treatment.

## Child Rescue Coalition Inc.

*Polk County Child Rescue*  
**~~\$10,000~~ FUNDED!**

Child Rescue Coalition will provide professional development for Polk County law enforcement investigators to earn certification for Child Rescue's Child Protection System (CPS) to identify and apprehend predators of children and for protecting children in harm's way. The project includes costs for three days of professional development for up to 10 investigators. Project costs also include technical and advisory support for Polk County law enforcement investigators, forensic analysts, and prosecutors on an ongoing basis.

## Children's Home Society of Florida

*Don't Let Them Fall*  
**\$10,000**

Don't let them Fall prepares teens in foster care for successful independent living when they reach the age of 18. This initiative works with teens before they leave structured programs, so they are better able to adapt to life on their own. Activities and instruction help prepare participants to make good decisions, to live healthy lifestyles, to find and keep jobs, to manage their money, and to avoid the pitfalls of newfound "freedom."



## Church of the Resurrection

*Community Food Pantry Expansion*  
**~~\$8,999~~ Only \$4,499.50 left**

Resurrection Catholic Church has a small Food Pantry currently allowing us to serve approximately 160 Polk County families each month. We have a larger space available that can be used as the Food Pantry with proper renovation and outfitting. If we are able to use this larger space, we will have the ability to collect and store more food, including food from AGAPE Food Bank, thus being able to serve more needy residents of Polk County on an ongoing basis.



# Health & Human Services

## Citizen CPR, Inc.

### *Children Drown Without a Sound*

**\$10,405 FUNDED!**

Citizen CPR has created a county-wide Drowning Prevention Task Force. It has a wide-spread strategy to combat drowning and disabilities from near drownings in Polk County in our most vulnerable residents ages one to five. In years past, there have been a smattering of state programs, county programs carried out by a few persons. There is no county wide collaborative prevention program in place. This program would provide several layers of prevention education throughout community with new creative ways to reach the public. Collaboration will be strong with public and private groups.

## The FALLS Adventure, Inc.

### *Actionable Research Impacting Poor Neighborhoods*

**\$4,445**

The low-social economic status neighborhoods of Lakeland/ Winter Haven are in desperate need. The credible body of research and wisdom established by The Barbara Bush Foundation, National Research Institute, Yale, Harvard & Project Adventure will be uniquely combined and put into action by The FALLS Adventure. Using its one-of-a-kind Mobile Ropes course and classroom, The FALLS will promote more effective education for our kids of poverty, more practical leadership skills for their parents, and more employment opportunities for both.

## Education & Empowerment, Inc.

### *Education & Empowerment Center Food Box Program*

**\$9,100 FUNDED!**

The Success for All Education & Empowerment Center in Dundee provides an opportunity for people living in East Polk County with disabilities to participant in meaningful day time activities. Several program participants described experiencing “food hardships” on a daily basis which served as the impetus for our Food Box program. As a result, we have become an active Feeding America partner through the Agape Food Bank which enables ADT (Adult Day Training) program participants to be involved in the preparation/distribution of supplemental food boxes for people with disabilities in our area.

## Florida Baptist Children’s Homes

### *In the Loop - A Summer Program for Kids at FBCH*

**\$15,000 FUNDED!**

In the Loop is a summer program for residents in care at the Florida Baptist Children’s Homes (FBCH). The Lakeland campus of FBCH is home to approximately 45 boys and girls ranging in age from five to 18 years old. This program, held in the summer months, offers unique opportunities for residents to grow educationally and physically while also bonding as a family unit. FBCH is a faith-based organization providing services to children and families in need since 1904.

## Good Shepherd Hospice

### *iPads for Chaplains*

**\$10,000**

Spiritual Care is one of the unfunded benefits Good Shepherd Hospice (GSH) offers to patients and families as part of a quality end-of-life experience. Music, images of religious icons, and language translation are powerful tools to build rapport and bring peace to people of all faiths. The 10 GSH Chaplains serving Polk County are requesting individual, GSH-owned iPads to access these tools in their visits to patient homes. Use of a personal device has demonstrated the value of sharing Hispanic hymns with a non-English speaking grandmother and images of a patient’s childhood church.





# Health & Human Services



## Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine

### *Early Detection Saves Lives*

**\$15,000 FUNDED!**

Annual women's health screenings are a critical factor in prevention of various types of cancers. Early detection and treatment will save the lives of many of Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine's female patients. Many incoming patients report not having an annual women's exam in many years. Even more alarming, some have never had an annual women's exam. This program provides annual PAP tests, clinical breast exam, lab work, screening mammography, prescription services, ultrasound if required, colposcopy if required, Leetz procedure if required, patient education and referrals for advanced and specialized treatment.

## Guardianship Office of the Tenth Circuit Inc.

### *Disabled Adult Advocate Program 2015*

**\$13,126.80**

Our goal is to provide an advocate for adults in Polk County who are disabled, poor and alone so that they can receive proper medical care, mental health treatment, basic human needs and improve the quality of their life for this at risk population. This advocacy can help to avoid neglect, abuse and homelessness for the vulnerable elderly, mentally ill and developmentally disabled adults who have no family to speak up for them. This can be accomplished by regular visits and/or guardianship when necessary. As concerned citizens, we want to give these disabled adults back their dignity.

## The Haley Center

### *Computer Network Project*

**\$9,668 FUNDED!**

Our purpose in applying for the GiveWell Community Foundation grant in the amount of \$9,668 is to develop and implement a Computer Network Program. This Program updates and integrates the Haley Center's computers into a local area network and develops a more efficient pharmacy inventory control system. Once integrated the system streamlines and enhances patient induction/discharge and prescription accounting processes. In summary the grant would provide a focused, effective management tool for the Center to use in expanding primary and specialty based care to the medically "at risk" of our community.

## LifeChoice Community Pregnancy Center

### *"Earn While You Learn" Education Program*

**\$3,000 FUNDED!**

Earn While You Learn (EWYL) is an education-based resource program for young, first-time, expectant parents. The largest EWYL program in Eastern Polk, EWYL offers tangible resources through parenting classes and education that impact future generations. Clients earn credit to "buy" diapers, strollers, cribs, and car seats in the Baby Boutique. Clients choose classes from over 130 subjects i.e. prenatal to postpartum care, infant safe-sleep, car seat safety, shaken baby syndrome, and infant first aid. We are negotiating partnerships with New Beginnings High School and Ridge Career Center for EWYL 2015.

## New Life Center for Family Preservation, Inc.

### *Homeless to Wholeness*

**\$9,900 FUNDED!**

The New Life Center for Family Preservation is requesting funds to assist in the continuation of the community programs they are currently providing to homeless and low-income single pregnant women and teens in Polk County. The New Life Center provides free services including long term supportive housing in our residential facility, case management services, referrals to other community organizations, access to maternity and baby items, life skills and parenting skills training, education and job placement assistance, transportation, Doula Services (birth coaching) and more.

# Health & Human Services

## Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland

### *Paint Your Heart Out Lakeland 2015*

**\$5,000 FUNDED!**

Paint Your Heart Out (PYHO) Lakeland has a two-part mission: assisting low-income elderly and disabled Lakeland homeowners and encouraging volunteerism in the community. With help from community volunteers of many ages, we provide free painting and property clean-up services to qualified homeowners. For these efforts, PYHO not only delivers these much needed services to homeowners, but also encourages and celebrates volunteerism in the community. We plan to involve at least 600 volunteers to paint at least 25 homes by the end of March 2015. This grant will help alleviate costs from our efforts.

## The Seed Sowers Evangelistic Association

### *Bread for the Westgate Neighborhood*

**\$13,084**

Seed Sowers Evangelistic Association owns a community center in the Westgate Neighborhood called "Harvest Time Ministry Center". Collaborating with the Westgate Neighborhood Association, Heaven My Home Baptist Church, and Career Tech, Bread For The Neighborhood is providing the Westgate Neighborhood programs to its citizens in these areas; advancement in food security, mental/emotional security, and employability skills. A breakfast is offered every Saturday morning from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. followed by a community development meeting after which every attendee receives a bag of groceries.

## Peace River Center

### *Domestic Violence Shelter Furnishings*

**\$14,930 FUNDED!**

Recently during an accreditation review of the Lakeland Domestic Violence Shelter, the reviewer commented that the children's living room has a lovely mural, but that the worn out furniture in the room was depressing and detracted from the space. This was hard to hear, but true. In fact, a walkthrough of the shelter reveals that much of the furniture has outlived its beauty, if not its functionality. This project seeks to replace distressed sofas, lounge chairs, dressers and wardrobes in order to create a more inviting and homey space for families fleeing from domestic violence.

## Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland, Inc.

### *Client Centered Intake*

**\$14,401**

This project is to convert open office space into four offices. These offices are necessary to house coordinated intake, the first step in the effort to end homelessness in Polk County. The coordinated intake staff deal with client personal information and require closed doors. Polk County homeless providers are transitioning to five intake centers that will do initial assessment of all clients and refer them to the most appropriate program. This approach has been shown to put the focus more on client needs and provide better outcomes. Talbot House is the center in Lakeland.

## Prevent Blindness Florida

### *Community Vision Program - See to Learn*

**\$9,500 FUNDED!**

Prevent Blindness Florida proposes to provide vision screenings, free eye medical examinations and eye wear for 600 adults and children in the Polk County area. We will work in concert with the Lakeland local health department, Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine and Peace River Center to offer on-site screenings, educational information and linkage to eye care professionals. The individuals financially qualified will receive vouchers for vision care.



# Health & Human Services

## Tampa Lighthouse for the Blind, Inc.

### *We're College or Workforce Bound!*

~~\$2,946.53~~ Only \$1,473.27 left

This request is to purchase six iPads for instructors use in Lighthouse for the Blind's Transition Program for blind or visually impaired teens residing throughout Polk County. The program is designed to insure that college or vocational school bound students learn accessible software and technology to complete coursework, access printed materials, utilize college digital learning environments, develop presentations, conduct research, create and store notes and type-written assignments; and provides training and work experiences for employment after high school.

## Tenth Judicial Circuit of Florida

### *Polk County Veterans' Volunteer Mentor Program*

~~\$5,000~~ FUNDED!

One in five veterans returning home is bringing the war back in the form of PTSD. Left untreated, service-related disorders and related substance abuse leads to involvement in the criminal justice system. The Mentor Program aims to support justice-involved veterans, and link them with benefits they have earned. Through this program, those who served in the military are allowed to participate in the court process with fellow veterans, re-instilling the camaraderie they felt in the military. Veteran participants, with the support of mentors, get needed treatment for substance abuse and PTSD.

## TiAnViCa Riding Academy, Incorporated

### *Equine Assisted Activities*

~~\$8,500~~ FUNDED!

This program will fund the care for four of our horses for one year. TiAnViCa's mission is to provide therapeutic riding experience for adults, children, and veterans with physical and non-physical disabilities, so our horses are the most vital physical component in fulfilling that mission. Making sure our equine partners are healthy and happy is a crucial factor in helping our riders face and overcome the life-altering obstacles they face (our current ridership includes people with multiple sclerosis, autism, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, and PTSD).

## Toys for Tots

### *Polk County Toys for Tots*

~~\$8,000~~ FUNDED!

The Marine Corps Reserve Polk County Toys for Tots program provides new, unwrapped toys to the needy children of Polk County. Targeting children ages one to 13 years old, in 2013 the program served over 9,000 children. Applications are provided to elementary and middle schools, and civic organizations (127 total entities) which select needy families. Families may also file directly. The national Toys for Tots Foundation contributes no toys or funds. Our local program, run entirely with local volunteers, must raise our own funds and toys. A grant will help us serve more children.



## Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

### *VISTE Tuesday Hot Meals 2015*

~~\$15,000~~ FUNDED!

The purpose of this project is to deliver fresh Hot Meals to 250 VISTE clients each Tuesday. VISTE volunteers deliver Hot Meals to 250 frail, elderly (70 or above) clients twice weekly. These meals are freshly prepared the morning of delivery, individually portioned, and often supplemented with additional items. The portions are generous, the menu varied, and the offerings heart- and diabetic-friendly. This Hot Meals service provides an integral source of nutrition for our most vulnerable clients. The seniors to whom VISTE delivers these meals usually can no longer cook for themselves.



# Health & Human Services

## Volunteers in Service to the Elderly (VISTE)

### *VISTE Thursday Hot Meals 2015*

**\$15,000**

The purpose of this project is to deliver fresh Hot Meals to 250 VISTE clients each Thursday. VISTE volunteers deliver Hot Meals to 250 frail, elderly (70 or above) clients twice weekly. These meals are freshly prepared the morning of delivery, individually portioned, and often supplemented with additional items. The portions are generous, the menu varied, and the offerings heart- and diabetic-friendly. This Hot Meals service provides an integral source of nutrition for our most vulnerable clients. The seniors to whom VISTE delivers these meals usually can no longer cook for themselves.

## Women's Care Center Inc.

### *Transitional Housing for Homeless Women and/or Children*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Our project will include shelter, food, clothing, transportation, personal and spiritual recovery, instruction in basic life skills, which includes job credentialing ie: ( GED, CNA and Food Safety Certification ect.). Job skills include the interview process, resume preparation and assistance with job placement. Financial education program, credit restoration, budgeting and free tax preparation. Referral assistance including child care and medical care.

## Youth for Christ of Polk County

### *Wilderness Stress Camping*

**\$10,900 FUNDED!**

Our Wilderness Stress Camping program is our summer initiation launch for our youth and volunteers to begin relationships that will in most cases last over the next three to seven years or a life time. This is a very structured camp consisting of initiatives, 11 mile hike, canoe trip, jail tour and sleeping in tents for the week. At the end of the week they have enough stories that have lasted for me over 22 years. We work closely with our judicial system, Polk County Sheriff's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, churches, opportunity schools, juvenile probation officers and resource officers for referring our youth.

## The Wilson House

### *Peer Recovery Program*

**\$15,000**

The Wilson House Peer Recovery Program will employ a full-time and part-time Peer Leader in addition to a part-time volunteer Peer Leader. The Peer Leaders will lead support groups, share knowledge of life or vocational skills training, provide assistance to help others accomplish tasks and facilitate contacts with other people to promote learning of social and recreational skills and acquire a sense of belonging. Peer support leaders become role models to those they help and instill hope within them. This program will complement our homeless services and 12-Step substance abuse program.

## 71:17 Ministries, Inc.

### *2015 Oh My Baby*

**\$15,000 FUNDED!**

At least two to three moms are discharged from Lakeland Regional Medical Center (LRMC) every week without any supplies for their newborns. Oh My Baby offers help and hope by providing Starter Kits for these mothers who are financially at risk. Distribution is determined by an LRMC social worker. Each bag contains diapers, wipes, blankets, towels, bath supplies, apparel, bottles, pacifiers, thermometers, etc. as well as a toddler Bible. Each bag costs about \$125 to fill and we deliver approximately 144 bags to LRMC every year. We would love to be able to continue to share our mission in our community in this tangible way.





# Other

## Humane Society of Polk County

### *Paws 2 Read/Paws 2 Heal*

**\$8,000 FUNDED!**

The Paws 2 Read program utilizes trained “therapy” dogs to enhance a child’s ability to read. Reading literacy is enhanced and the opportunity to advance in the education system is improved. Therapy dogs provide a safe and nonjudgmental environment to children who may have self esteem issues or who have experienced obstacles to reading skills. The Paws 2 Heal program is used in medical settings to enhance emotional well being, reduce anxiety and promote positive coping mechanisms and healing.

## Meals on Wheels of Polk County

### *Meals on Wheels of Polk County*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Meals on Wheels has a mission to deliver a hot, nutritious meal and a daily contact to the homebound of Polk County. Our organization receives no government funds and we must raise funds to continue our mission. We depend on the generosity of our community for volunteers and donations. Our 230 volunteers will drive many miles to insure that the recipients receive a hot, nutritious meal and a face-to-face encounter with a “friend” each day. This brings much comfort and peace of mind to the many we serve and their families. Meals on Wheels is dedicated to finding a way to serve all who need us.

## Polk Training Center for Handicapped Citizens, Inc.

### *Not So Shady Business*

**\$14,900 FUNDED!**

Students at Polk Training Center are responsible to weed plants as part of their daily training and work routine. Working in the field to produce plants to sell is how we sustain the Training Center. This year has been one of the worse years ever for weeds in our product. Weeding is repetitive and hot work. With production amounts increasing, time spent moving their work back and forth to the closest shade is hard on them physically. Plans are being made to build a better shaded area to protect from sun and excessive physical strain. Thus the project, “Not So Shady Business.”

## SPCA, Inc.

### *Community Cat Program*

**\$10,000**

Un-owned cats are called Community Cats, and if left uncontrolled to breed, can spread disease and become health and safety hazards to people. SPCA Florida understands that trap-neuter-vaccinate-return (TNVR) is the single most successful method of stabilizing and maintaining healthy community cat colonies. Through our Community Cat Programs and our work with community partners, we have humanely reduced the enormous number of community cats in Polk County while educating our community about the importance of spaying/neutering.



## SPCA, Inc.

### *Safety Net Program*

**\$7,000 FUNDED!**

SPCA Florida’s Safety Net Retention Programs provide alternatives for dog and cat relinquishment to animal shelters. Safety Net is not meant to be a long-term solution to our clients; yet, a resource to those experiencing a temporary financial hardship thus allowing pet owners to retain their pets. Whether it is providing pet food, affordable veterinary care for sick and injured animals, or pet deposit rental assistance, Safety Net gives animal guardians the support they needed to fulfill their responsibilities to the animals in their lives.

# Other

## Speak Up for Children in the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Inc.

### *Speaking Up for Polk's Children*

**\$2,000 FUNDED!**

Speak Up for the Children of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Inc. ("Speak Up") is run by volunteers to support abused children who are in the dependency and foster care systems. Speak Up exclusively supports the Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) program, which assigns these children a volunteer Guardian, an advocate who ensures their voice is heard. The GAL program is volunteer-based, with core staff funded by the State of Florida. However, there are costs that state funding does not cover, and where Speak Up steps in. This project will train 150 more Guardians, and provide items for children in need.

## Young Life of Polk County

### *Every Kid, Everywhere, For Eternity*

**\$10,000 FUNDED!**

Young Life (YL) comes alongside teens offering hope, encouragement, and for many, light in a dark place. YL leaders consistently show up in teens' lives and build bridges of authentic friendship. YL is for EVERY kid, regardless of their background. YL allows kids to learn about faith in a non-threatening environment, shared in terms that they understand. We are requesting funds for our camping program in order to provide scholarships to teenagers in financial need. Kids often refer to YL camp as "the best week of my life" and we never want to turn anyone away based on lack of financial resources.

## Women's Resource Center of Florida, Inc.

### *Ready Set Work*

**\$9,900 Only \$4,940.20 left**

Ready Set Work is a 12 week project designed to help participants make informed decisions about their career development, overcome job search anxiety, provide tips, tools and strategies to successfully enter today's workforce. The project includes, assessment, individual and group counseling sessions and a series of classes geared toward increasing career opportunities, for widowed, divorced, underemployed, and formerly battered women. Facilitators provide emotional support and career encouragement that our clients would not otherwise experience. Jobs and better futures are the outcomes.



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Organizations in **blue** have an established fund within the GiveWell Community Foundation.

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*Thank you to the following organizations for supplying photos for use in this book:*

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