



Celebrating 25 Years

2022-23

Annual Report



CFNS

ACCREDITED
FOUNDATION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO

Dear fundholders and community partners,

GiveWell Community Foundation marked its 25th anniversary this year, and there have been so many things to celebrate! We've reflected on the community leaders who had the vision to create the Foundation, celebrated the accomplishments during those 25 years, and looked forward to a hopeful future of continuing to positively impact our community.

This fiscal year, we continued seeing high numbers in grantmaking to nonprofits. Included in that were grants from the United Community Relief Fund to provide hurricane relief to organizations in Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties that were affected by Hurricane Ian. This fund is one of two major collaborations between GiveWell Community Foundation and the United Way of Central Florida. The other is the United Community Needs Assessment (UCNA).

The final report for the UCNA was completed this year, and we've been sharing the results of the assessment with our donors, nonprofit agencies, community leaders, government officials, and the public. We have been encouraged by the level of engagement as we develop plans to use the findings of the assessment to help address our community's most pressing needs.

Some of the other highlights in this annual report include 1,382 grants totaling \$40.6 million, 82% of which went to nonprofits in our community, and \$31 million in total donations to the Community Foundation. Our generous fundholders and partners throughout our community make it all possible.

GiveWell Community Foundation's board of directors and staff are grateful to partner with you as we continue to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve.

From the beginning of our story in 1997, to the next chapters ahead, we thank you for your continued support of GiveWell Community Foundation!



Callie

Callie Neslund
President/CEO

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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF IMPACT

GiveWell Community Foundation's story begins in 1997, thanks to the vision of Jack Grady and 17 other dedicated community leaders. They understood the importance of giving back, and how a community foundation could help donors meet community needs through local nonprofit organizations, while providing mechanisms for sustainable support. Through their efforts, the Community Foundation of Greater Lakeland was formed. By 2003, the idea had spread across the county when a group of leaders in Winter Haven formed the Community Foundation of Greater Winter Haven. Then, in 2014, the two organizations merged to create GiveWell Community Foundation, which serves Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties.

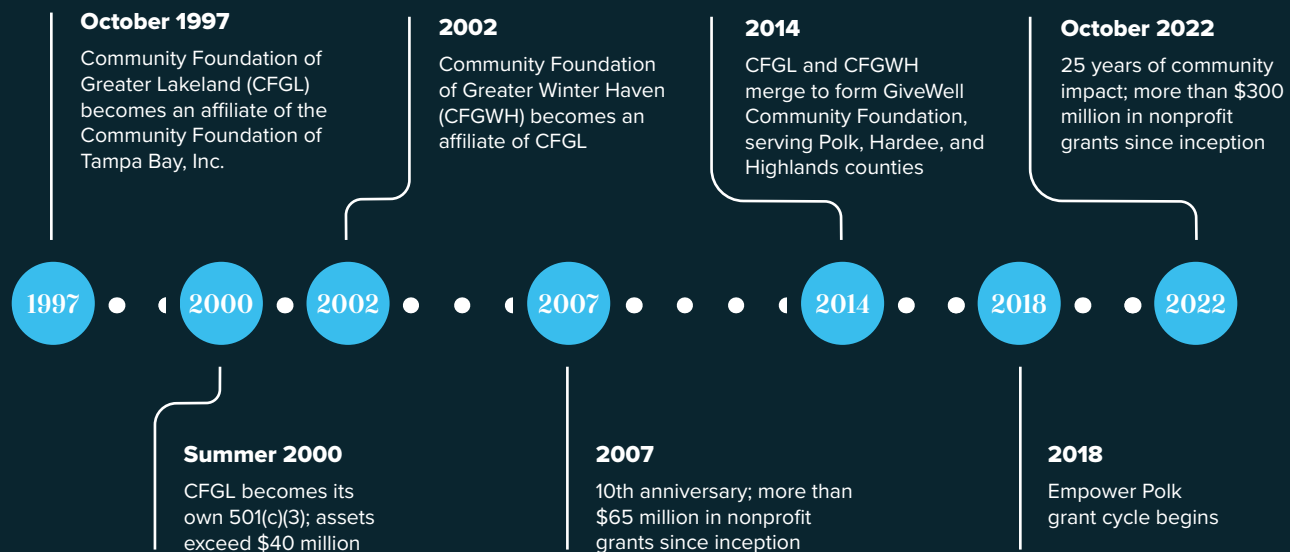


As we reflect on how far we've come since then, we are thankful for the visionaries of our past, and we continue to grow in a way that we hope would make our founders proud. Over the last 25 years, we've granted more than \$330 million to thousands of nonprofits; our staff has mentored countless local organizations to equip them with the skills necessary to run vibrant, impactful nonprofits; and we now hold more than 380 charitable funds. In addition, we've leaned into our role as collaborators, working with United Way of Central Florida to establish a disaster relief fund for the community as well as conduct a tri-county community needs assessment.

We celebrate this 25-year milestone with gratitude for the individuals and organizations who care deeply about our community, both those in the past and those partnering with us today. Together, we will continue making a difference for years to come.

FOUNDERS

Ralph C. Allen
Barney Barnett
Carol Jenkins Barnett
Robert Becker
Phill Dunne
Jack Grady
J. Michael Grady
George Harris
A. L. "Judge" Holmes
Ed Koren
Tom Moore
Tom Reuschling
Chris Sikes
Herbert R. Todd
George Truitt
John K. Vreeland
Don Whitworth
Terry Worthington







Founders, fundholders, and friends gathered on March 23, 2023, in the beautiful setting of Bonnet Springs Park, to celebrate philanthropy and GiveWell Community Foundation's 25th anniversary.

Throughout this special evening, fond memories of the passion of those who first championed the idea of bringing a community foundation to our area were mixed with the excitement of the progress that has been made since then. Thanks to the generous community we call home, the future of philanthropy and its impact will continue to thrive.



ABOUT GWCF

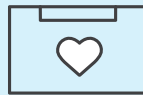
The mission of GiveWell Community Foundation (GWCF) is to champion charitable giving to improve the quality of life in the areas we serve, both now and for future generations. We accomplish this by working with individuals, families, nonprofits, and other organizations to build stronger communities in Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties through charitable funds and competitive grant cycles. To address critical community needs both now and for generations to come, we build and manage permanent endowments. In addition, we connect donors to nonprofit needs, provide leadership on critical community issues, and help donors invest in the future through impactful, philanthropic giving that creates a lasting legacy.



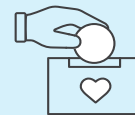
Since its founding in 1997, the Community Foundation has awarded more than \$330 million in grants. Today, GWCF is home to more than 380 charitable funds and the Impact Polk and Empower Polk grant cycles.



New Funds
21



Total Assets
\$445 M



Total Contributions
\$31 M

2022-23 Fiscal Year Highlights



*Confirmed in Compliance with
Community Foundations National Standards*

OUR GRANTS

Impactful grantmaking is at the heart of the Community Foundation's work. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, our fundholders awarded more grants than any year before.

Our primary focus is on our service area of Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties; however, GWCF fundholders have the ability to advise their funds to support organizations and causes they care about well beyond our service area.



Grant Total
\$40.6 M

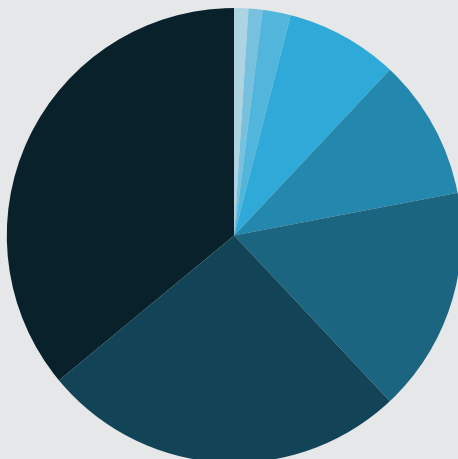


Grants Made
1,382



Grants Within
Service Area
82%

Grants By Cause



Community Development	36%
Human Services	26%
Education	16%
Health	10%
Religion	8%
Environment	2%
Arts	1%
Animal Services	1%



Empower Polk Grant Cycle

Empower Polk is an annual invitation-only, competitive grant program of GiveWell Community Foundation with the goal of empowering nonprofit organizations to become more efficient and sustainable. In total, \$104,439.67 was awarded through the 2023 Empower Polk grant cycle. Thirty-six nonprofit organizations received capacity-building grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000.

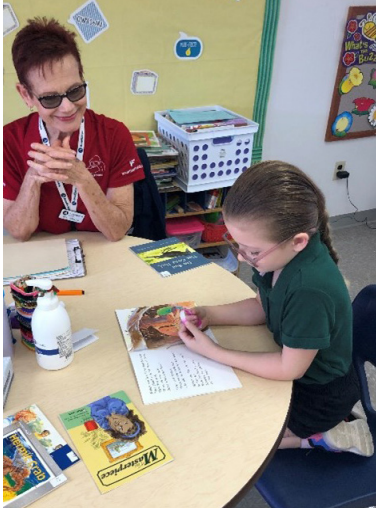
“Providing capacity-building funding for nonprofit organizations helps to empower them to be sustainable so they can continue to serve our community,” said GWCF’s President and Chief Executive Officer, Callie Neslund. “This type of funding is difficult to find, and GiveWell Community Foundation is pleased to offer this type of support through our valued fundholders. Empower Polk is also supported by the members of our grants committee who spend hours reviewing, evaluating, and meeting to discuss each application to make the most impact for our community. We are very thankful for their time and dedication.”

Funding for the Empower Polk grant cycle comes from donations made by fundholders and the public to the GWCF’s Unrestricted Grant Fund. One hundred percent of these donations go directly towards empowering local nonprofits. Donations can be made to Empower Polk at givecf.org/donate. GWCF fundholders may request a grant to Empower Polk from their donor-advised fund.

To learn more and support the Empower Polk grant cycle, please visit empowerpolk.org.

EMPOWER POLK GRANTEEES

- Bonnet Springs Park
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Polk County, Inc.
- Central Florida Speech and Hearing Center
- Circle of Friends Ministry, Inc.
- Drug Prevention Resource Center dba InnerAct Alliance
- Family Literacy Academy at Lake Wales
- Florida Children’s Museum
- Green Horizon Land Trust, Inc.
- Humane Society of Polk County
- Junior League of Greater Lakeland
- kidsPACK, Inc.
- Lakeland Community Theatre, Inc.
- Lakeland Police Foundation, Inc.
- Lakeland Volunteers in Medicine
- Learning Resource Center of Polk County
- Lighthouse Ministries, Inc.
- Noah’s Ark of Central Florida
- Options for Women Pregnancy Help Clinic
- P.E.A.C.E. Polk Ecumenical Action Council for Empowerment, Inc.
- Parker Street Ministries, Inc.
- Peace River Center
- Police Athletic League of Lakeland, Inc.
- SPCA Florida
- Talbot House Ministries of Lakeland, Inc.
- The Mission of Winter Haven
- The Salvation Army – West Polk County
- Volunteers in Service to the Elderly
- Winter Haven Chamber Foundation
- YMCA of West Central Florida



Impact Polk Grant Cycle

Impact Polk is an annual competitive, donor-directed grant program of GiveWell Community Foundation with the goal of addressing community needs throughout Polk County. Impact Polk grants often support a broad range of needs, such as animal welfare, arts and culture, education, and health and human services. GWCF awarded a total of \$750,523 to 90 local nonprofit organizations through the Impact Polk 2023 grant cycle. Thank you to the George W. Jenkins Fund within GiveWell Community Foundation which provides annual funding for the Impact Polk grant cycle. More information on this grant cycle can be found at impactpolk.org.

College Access & Success Initiative

GWCF awarded Polk Vision (our Local College Access Network) a \$40,123.60 grant to support their work of improving students' chances of completing high school, getting into college (providing workshops to guide parents/students how to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid; Be the Future B U resource website), or finding immediate careers through job training and certifications (through middle school career exploration pilot program). Funding for this grant came from a combination of donations raised by GWCF fundholders and a matching grant from the Florida Philanthropic Network's College Access Success Initiative, made possible with funding from the Helios Education Foundation and Kresge Foundation.



Community Clinic Grant

The Community Clinic grant program helps provide medical care for Winter Haven residents without access to medical insurance. In 2023, two nonprofit clinics were awarded grants from the program. Angels Care Center of Eloise received \$10,000 for their D.O.V.E. program to help cover the costs of dental and vision care, and orthopedic injuries for indigent, migrant, and homeless residents. The Haley Center received \$10,672.13 for a diabetes program: Removing Barriers for Treating Diabetes & Obtain Improved Outcomes. GiveWell Community Foundation is grateful for the opportunity to administer these grants and for a GWCF fundholder and the continued support provided annually by the Yardley, England, Trimmer, and Orlich Charities Fund at the Central Florida Foundation.



United Community Relief Fund

This year, our community stepped up in a big way to support those who were most affected by Hurricane Ian, which impacted our area in September 2022. Individuals and companies responded by donating to help those in need. As a result of that generosity, nearly \$260,000 in grants were distributed to 23 local nonprofit organizations to support recovery and rebuilding efforts throughout the community.

The United Community Relief Fund was originally established in 2020 through a collaboration by GWCF and United Way of Central Florida in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund remains active to support those most affected by a major community crisis.





United Community Needs Assessment

The final United Community Needs Assessment (UCNA) report was completed in 2023. This collaborative effort between GiveWell Community Foundation and United Way of Central Florida (UWCF) surveyed residents in our shared service areas of Polk, Hardee, and Highlands counties. The information gathered through the survey, focus groups, and secondary data identified critical community needs in the following areas: economy & employment opportunities, housing, education, food security, transportation/infrastructure, and quality of life.

In addition to the 184-page final report, individual snapshots that summarize the results are available in both English and Spanish for each of the three counties. GWCF and UWCF continue sharing the report findings with the public, community leaders, government officials, and nonprofits to gather feedback about addressing the needs identified in the survey.



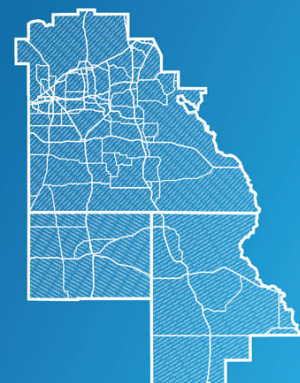
UNITED COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Polk • Hardee • Highlands



United Community Needs Assessment

A comprehensive needs assessment of
Polk, Hardee, and Highlands Counties



NONPROFIT WORKSHOP

On October 20, 2022, GiveWell Community Foundation hosted its fifth annual Nonprofit Workshop. More than 50 nonprofit executives and board members attended the event, which was available exclusively to local nonprofit organizations with GWCF agency funds. The featured speaker for this year's workshop, Sylvia Blackmon-Roberts, President and CEO of Blackmon-Roberts Group, Inc., shared grant writing strategies that can be customized to the strengths of any size organization.



FUNDS OF THE FOUNDATION

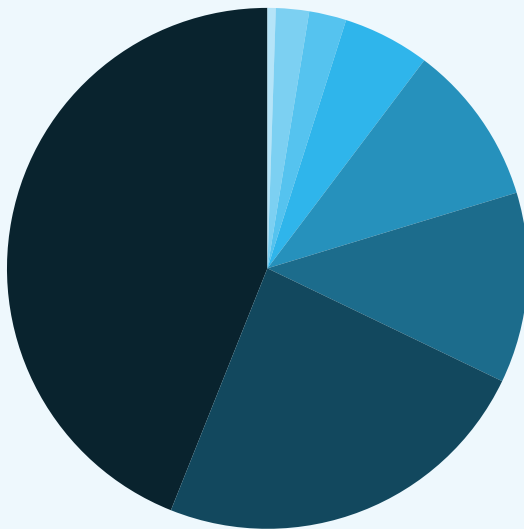
Total Funds

389

New Funds

21

Funds By Type



● Donor-Advised	171
● Agency	93
● Designated	46
● Legacy	39
● Community	21
● Memorial	9
● Field of Interest	8
● Unrestricted	2

Types of Funds

Donor-Advised Funds are established by donors who retain the right to recommend grants to nonprofits. The flexibility of these funds make them one of the most popular and fastest growing charitable vehicles in the United States.

Agency Funds are created by nonprofits to protect and invest their assets for the future of their work and mission.

Designated Funds are established to benefit a particular organization or project.

Legacy Funds allow donors to leave a legacy of giving by incorporating charitable giving into their estate plans. These are funded upon the donor's passing.

Community Funds allow municipalities, local service clubs, and community groups to improve the quality of life of our area.

Memorial Funds honor a loved one by supporting causes or nonprofits which would have been meaningful to that person.

Field of Interest Funds create a resource to target an area of interest to the donor, such as education or arts and culture.

Unrestricted Funds enable GWCF to address current community needs and allows the public to participate by pooling donations.

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Board Chair

Kimberly Elmhurst
Vice Chair

Wesley Barnett
Treasurer

Anne Furr
Secretary

Jack Hollis
Immediate Past Chair

Roger Ingley
Audit Committee Chair

Doug McPherson
Investment Committee Chair

Ann Barnhart

Barney Barnett
Member at Large

Bo Boyte

Jeff Chamberlain

Bruce Davis

Bill Dorman

Jack Harrell III

Ginny Harris

Christina Criser Jackson

Katrina Lunsford

Tom Oldt

Linda Rich

Jason Rodda

Sandra Sheets

Jillian Spangler

George Tinsley, Sr.

Mark Turner

Katherine Sultenfuss Schichtel
Ex Officio

FOUNDATION STAFF

Callie Neslund
President / CEO

John Attaway
Counsel

Dorena Geary, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Sanda Groendal
Receptionist

Sara Hallett
Communications Manager

Johnna Martinez
Grants Manager

Lori Martini
Vice President / Chief Philanthropic Officer

Christy Vreeland
Office Manager

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Independent Auditor:
Ramos & Floyd CPAs PLLC

Assets

	FY 2022-2023	FY 2021-2022
Cash	\$21,853,195	\$31,851,656
Investments	\$417,581,284	\$381,233,622
Other Assets	\$5,673,341	\$6,177,253
Total Assets	\$445,107,820	\$419,262,531

Liabilities & Net Assets

Current Liabilities	\$2,359,305	\$2,278,232
Funds Held as Agency Endowments	\$36,875,479	\$20,456,727
Foundation Net Assets	\$405,873,036	\$396,527,572
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$445,107,820	\$419,262,531

Revenue & Support

Gifts Received	\$31,243,073	\$221,062,379
Net Investment Returns	\$35,077,047	(\$24,626,753)
Total Revenue and Support	\$66,320,120	\$196,435,626

Grants & Expenses

Grants Awarded and Programs	\$55,699,010	\$32,945,274
Support Services	\$1,275,646	\$1,158,133
Total Grants and Expenses	\$56,974,656	\$34,103,407

Donor-Restricted Net Assets

Restricted Contributions	\$0	\$1,863,150
Total Restricted Contributions	\$0	\$1,863,150

Net Asset Summary

Change in Net Assets	\$9,345,464	\$164,195,369
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$396,527,572	\$232,332,203
Total Net Assets	\$405,873,036	\$396,527,572

give help. give hope. give well.



Scan the QR code or visit **givecf.org/report**
for an online version of the annual report.



GiveWell Community Foundation

863-683-3131 | info@givecf.org | www.givecf.org

Lakeland Office

1501 South Florida Avenue
Lakeland, FL 33803

Winter Haven Office

20 3rd Street SW, Suite 307
Winter Haven, FL 33880