



Town of Palm Beach United Way
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Town of Palm Beach United Way business breakfast inspires with stories of individual success and community impact

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PALM BEACH, FL – Clients from two Town of Palm Beach United Way partner agencies delivered inspiring messages of determination and community spirit at the 30th Annual Business and Professional Breakfast on Tuesday, December 17 at The Breakers Palm Beach. More than 250 business and community leaders attended the event.

Jackie Applebaum, a client at The Arc of Palm Beach County, spoke about the job training and social skills she learned at The Arc, an agency that offers services and programs that improve the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities in Palm Beach County. Applebaum’s experiences at The Arc helped her obtain a job, earn a paycheck and achieve greater independence. She now serves as a mentor for other adults with developmental disabilities.

Pete Cabrera is a former client of Adopt-A-Family, the largest service provider for homeless families in Palm Beach County. Cabrera shared his experience living in Adopt-A-Family’s affordable housing units and attending the agency’s aftercare program while his mother worked to make ends meet. The values and relationships Cabrera formed at Adopt-A-Family put him on a path to success that allowed him to become a first generation college student and pursue a medical career.

“Everyone in attendance was moved and inspired by Jackie and Pete’s stories,” said **Mary Freitas**, board chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. “It was an honor to hear their journeys and how much they’ve accomplished despite significant life obstacles. Their success stories demonstrate the Town of Palm Beach United Way’s remarkable ability to impact thousands of lives every day in our community.”

The breakfast, which has been graciously underwritten by The Breakers for the past 30 years, is the signature event of the Town of Palm Beach United Way’s Business and Professional Campaign. Last year’s campaign raised \$370,440 from 1,400 employees and 81 businesses.

“The Business and Professional campaign is an important part of the United Way’s fundraising and community-building efforts,” said **Stephen Hall, Jr.**, chairman of the Business and Professional Campaign. “All of us – business owners, managers and employees – can learn something from Jackie and Pete’s stories, whether it’s appreciating the simple significance of being employed, or the extreme determination it takes to accomplish our goals. The business community plays an essential role in contributing to individual successes and helping make our community a better place to live and work for all.”

The 30-member Business and Professional Committee (list attached) secures corporate gifts and employee donations from hundreds of businesses and professionals in Palm Beach, South Palm Beach and Manalapan. Those contributions help the Town of Palm Beach United Way support 72 health and human service programs at 43 non-profit agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

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**Town of Palm Beach United Way
Business and Professional Committee**

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