

44 Cocoanut Row, M201 Palm Beach, FL 33480 561-655-1919

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More than 100 volunteers participate in Town of Palm Beach United Way grant review process

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Contact: Aleese Kopf, Director of Marketing and Communications

561-655-1919 or aleesekopf@palmbeachunitedway.org

PALM BEACH, Fla. – Over the next two months, 114 community volunteers will spend countless hours helping the Town of Palm Beach United Way review nonprofit funding requests as members of the organization's Allocation Committee.

Volunteers are split into 15 teams focusing on different social causes such as early childhood education, middle school, high school, disabilities, housing, food, substance abuse, and domestic violence. In total, they will review 79 health and human service programs administered at 43 nonprofit agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

The Allocation Committee is led this year by **Suzanne Brenner**, **Carla Cove** and **Cornie Thornburgh**. A majority of the Allocation Committee volunteers live or work on Palm Beach.
Some have been Town of Palm Beach United Way volunteers for over two decades, and some are brand new to the process.

"We're thrilled with how many people showed interest this year," said Cove, who manages the five teams focused on education. "The more eyes and ears we have, the better. These dedicated volunteers play a crucial role in helping the United Way invest donor dollars into high quality programs truly making a difference in our community."

Allocation Committee volunteers read program funding requests from area charities, analyze financial data, review policies and procedures, meet with agency staff and board members, deliberate as a team, and ultimately make funding recommendations to the United Way Board of Trustees.

Last year, the United Way awarded a combined \$3.5 million to 41 agencies to support 77 programs that are in turn serving more than 309,000 men, women and children in Palm Beach County.

"There really is no other process like it in our community," said Thornburgh, chair of the five allocation teams focused on income. "The Allocation Committee is a volunteer-led process that ensures the highest level of fiscal responsibility, stewardship and effectiveness. It is why people trust their donations to the Town of Palm Beach United Way."

Since the Allocation Committee review process began in 1945, more than \$101.3 million has been invested in programs that build strong educational foundations for children, create healthy communities, lift families out of poverty, and improve the quality of life for residents in Palm Beach County.

"One of the most wonderful things about the Town of Palm Beach United Way is the fact they invest donor dollars into a wide variety of programs that touch all sectors of need in our community," said Brenner, chair of five allocation teams covering health. "Mental health, food insecurity, homelessness, job skills, graduation rates, access to medical care – the United Way takes a holistic approach to improving individual lives and the community at large."

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561 655 1740



info@palmbeachunitedway.org



www.palmbeachunitedway.org



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