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Palm Beach business community helps kick off Town of Palm Beach United Way's annual fundraising campaign

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Palm Beach, Fla. — More than 200 people attended the Town of Palm Beach United Way's 34th Annual Business and Professional Breakfast held Monday, October 27, 2025, at The Breakers Palm Beach. The community event marks the unofficial start of the United Way's yearly fundraising campaign, which runs from July 1 through June 30.

The breakfast is also the signature event of the United Way's Business and Professional Committee, a 26-member committee (roster attached) that is responsible for securing corporate gifts and employee donations from businesses and professionals in Palm Beach.

Carrie Bradburn, owner of Capehart Photography, is chairwoman of the committee for the second consecutive year. The business committee fundraising goal is set at \$525,000. The United Way's overall campaign goal is \$7,290,000

"Every person who attends our Business and Professional Breakfast walks away with renewed hope, knowing that their donation to the Town of Palm Beach United Way makes a difference in the lives of others in need," said Carrie Bradburn, who also serves on the United Way board. "They hear firsthand how donations open doors to new possibilities, build futures full of promise, and make an impact that will last a lifetime. We look forward to working with the business community this season to continue creating opportunities and changing lives in Palm Beach County."

The Town of Palm Beach United Way funds programs that focus on education, health, financial stability, and basic needs, the cornerstones of thriving communities. Currently, donations are being invested in 71 health and human service programs at 38 nonprofit agencies throughout Palm Beach County.

Guests from Vita Nova, a United Way supported nonprofit, were keynote speakers at the breakfast. CEO **Jeff DeMario** spoke about Vita Nova's mission and accomplishments, and Program Participant **Zaiiden Hogans** shared his personal journey toward self-sufficiency with the help of Vita Nova. The organization supports young people who have aged out of foster care and are now facing homelessness. Vita Nova steps in to provide youth, ages 18 to 25, with housing, education, employment support, and life skills training.

"We're grateful for the opportunity to share our mission and demonstrate how United Way donor dollars change lives," DeMario said. "It's an incredible moment to see one of our clients—a young person who once had nowhere to go—stand on stage and share their story of resilience after overcoming so many challenges. Donations truly have the power to transform lives, and we thank the Palm Beach business community for being part of that transformation."

Each centerpiece at the breakfast was a care package assembled by members of the Business and Professional Committee. Each one represented a basic need currently going unmet for a young person, such as hygiene products, food, and transportation.

The Business and Professional Breakfast has been sponsored by The Breakers for 34 consecutive years. Since 1985, The Breakers and its staff have donated over \$3.9 million to Town of Palm Beach United Way. Breakers employees have served on the United Way board and committees, as loaned executives, and have volunteered countless hours.

Since 1945, the Town of Palm Beach United Way has raised over \$153 million to serve those who need it most.

"We believe that when we come together, we can change lives," said **Richard Rothschild**, Board Chair for Town of Palm Beach United Way. "From individual donations to corporate gifts - dollars we receive are invested in programs that transform lives throughout the entire county. We can't do the work alone, but together, we can create a community where everyone has the opportunity to thrive."

For more information about the United Way, please call 561-655-1919.

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

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CARRIE BRADBURN, Capehart Photography

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