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UPDATED For Immediate Release: January 21, 2019

Local Non-Profits Helping Those Impacted By Government Shutdown

FLORIDA KEYS – United Way of the Florida Keys and the network of local nonprofits they support throughout Monroe County are once again responding to the community’s needs and have begun assisting furloughed federal workers and others impacted by the ongoing government shutdown.

United Way and other nonprofits are experiencing an uptick in inquiries from those seeking assistance with rent and mortgage payments, utility bills and groceries. Recognizing this emerging need, the UWFK Board of Directors recently voted to provide \$10,000 to assist with emergency short-term financial assistance through two of their partner agencies. In addition, the Board authorized an additional \$5,000 if the shut down continues through February 1.

“We want everyone to know that local resources are available to assist individuals and families during this uncertain time,” said Leah Stockton, President/CEO of United Way of the Florida Keys. “For some people, this may be the first time they have ever needed to ask for assistance, but please know that we are here, willing to help, and are honored to serve those who serve our country.”

UWFK funding is earmarked for currently unpaid federal employees in Monroe County, and will provide gift cards for basic needs as well as emergency financial assistance covering medical care, living expenses, utility payments, or childcare costs. Assistance is available through:

- [The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition](#) (Upper and Lower Keys)
- [KAIR Keys Area Interdenominational Resources](#) (Middle Keys)

Aid through the agencies above is administered through an application process. Clients will be asked to show employee identification from an agency impacted by the government shut down.

Assistance with food and/or grocery gift cards is also available through UWFK’s partners:

- [SOS Foundation](#) (Stock Island and Key Largo)
- [The Florida Keys Outreach Coalition](#) (Key West)
- [Burton Memorial United Methodist Church](#) (Tavernier)

In addition to the resources listed above, free pediatric or adult medical care, support for children from struggling families and more services are also available through other local United Way partner agencies’ established programs.

“Florida Keys Outreach Coalition is proud to partner with United Way of the Florida Keys. We know this assistance will not solve all the problems these families are experiencing, but we are glad to be part of our community’s response during this difficult time,” said Stephanie Kaple, FKOC Executive Director.

Anyone needing further assistance in Monroe County should refer to the UWFK [Community Resource Guide](#) available at KeysUnitedWay.org or call the United Way of the Florida Keys at 305-735-1929 for help connecting with additional resources. To make a financial contribution or find out more about United Way of the Florida Keys and our nonprofit partners’ work in the community year-round, please visit KeysUnitedWay.org.

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About United Way of the Florida Keys:

United Way of the Florida Keys is an independent, local 501(c)(3) organization that has been supporting the Keys community for more than 30 years. UWFK supports strong working families and funds nonprofits that provide critical services to Keys residents. Money raised in the Keys stays in the Keys.

United Way also plays a unique role in convening businesses, nonprofits and government to work together to address community needs. For more information, visit www.keysunitedway.org or call (305) 735-1929. Give. Advocate. Volunteer. LIVE UNITED.