



Community Schools Partner to Supply Hurricane Relief



As part of recovery efforts after Hurricane Ian, Premier Mobile Health Services offered free healthcare, hot meals, water and clothing to the Fort Myers community.

Multiple schools in Florida remain closed following the devastation of Hurricane Ian. Yet community schools across the state never stopped the vital work of supporting their students, families and communities.



United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades brought food, water and other essential supplies to the Fort Myers community following Hurricane Ian.

As the storm made its way to Florida's coast, Community Partnership Schools offered guidance for hurricane preparedness and served as shelters for displaced residents. Once the hurricane passed, these community schools worked together with local organizations — including those through core partnerships with nonprofits, universities/colleges, school districts and healthcare organizations — to begin recovery efforts. Through these partnerships, school communities received resources including food, clothing, healthcare, counseling, housing support and more.

Located in the heart of Lee County, which was hardest hit by the storm, Community Partnership Schools **Fort Myers Middle Academy** (Lee) and **Franklin Park**

Elementary (Lee) mobilized a network of partners to deliver much-needed aid to those affected. Thanks to their core partnership with United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades, the community schools will receive additional support through the SWFL Hurricane Relief Fund.

If you are interested in helping our Fort Myers Community Partnership Schools, go to collaboratory.org.

With sustainable support systems and partnerships built into the Community Partnership Schools™ model, communities are better prepared to assess the unique and changing needs of students and families, and address those needs with an eye on the futures of children and the community.

While the storm has passed, Hurricane Ian will have significant impacts on students and their communities beyond initial recovery efforts. Not only have students lost instructional time, but other factors will deeply impact students' ability to learn. Losing access to food, water or housing, facing the loss of a loved one, trauma from a devastating event, along with other stressors, affect a student's ability to reach their fullest potential. This is why community schools are integral in helping students and families to thrive.

To further support communities affected by Hurricane Ian, the UCF Center for Community Schools pulled together a list of resources, along with ways to give in support of recovery efforts.

Find resources and donate using this Hurricane Ian Resource Guide (updated regularly) at bit.ly/3VdcSUu.



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Our thoughts are with all Florida communities impacted by Hurricane Ian, especially those in southwest Florida who were most severely impacted by the storm. I want to acknowledge our Community Partnership Schools for serving as the lynchpins of ready-to-mobilize community offerings otherwise unavailable in these times of Florida tragedy.

Specifically, I want to shout out our directors (and assistant directors). CPS directors are champions – meeting difficulty with determination, opposition with insight, need with empathy. In times of pandemics and major Florida hurricanes, CPS directors are our heroes – working hand-in-hand with networks of partnerships already formed, strengthened and sustained, so essential, basic needs of students and families are addressed.

Community Partnership School Directors and Assistant Directors, you are appreciated. On the heels of national Community School Director/Coordinator Appreciation Week, I want to personally thank each and every one of you for your work. Your tireless efforts matter, not only in your school and community, but statewide. You make life better for students, families, communities and educators at your schools, but you also support each other in a way that makes the whole better – raising all Community Partnership Schools to higher levels.

We see you, and we thank you for continuing to actively embodying our CPS slogan: “Many are we, thriving as one.”

Dr. Amy Ellis, Director
UCF Center for Community Schools

Student Voice in Community Schools



Newly elected House of Courage President Carmelo Green shares his poster for Mort Elementary Student Advisory Council elections.

Through Student Leadership Councils (SLCs) and other programming, community schools in Florida are elevating students' voices and empowering students to lead.

According to the **Youth Voice Guide** developed by the Institute of Educational Leadership's Coalition for Community Schools, "Building youth leaders cultivates more inclusive decision-making in schools and helps to activate the next generation of leaders in our communities."

During the 2022-23 school year, the SLC at **Mort Elementary** (Hillsborough) met weekly with the school staff and principal. Serving as ambassadors for the school and their peers, students also participated in a certification focus group, [school videos](#) and tours.

Carmelo Green, who was recently elected as president of the House of Courage, says students who ran for **student council** made posters and gave speeches. "While I still get butterflies before giving a speech, I'm excited to

be the one who leads our meetings and school chant. I want to be a good influence and the person you can rely on for help."

At **Sabal Palm Elementary** (Leon), the SLC helped with Murdock's Market, stocking the food pantry with groceries and completing orders for families. Students met regularly where they learned more about the Community Partnerships Schools™ model, along with services offered at the school. In addition, council members visited the Florida Capitol where they met with Senator Ausley and debated a mock bill in Senate chambers.

Through the Elite Ambassadors program, **C.A. Weis Elementary** (Escambia) offers an enrichment program focused on building social skills, enhancing community involvement, and maintaining healthy self-esteem for boys. Through this program, students learned social skills, including how to advocate for themselves. Since the program began, students have shown leadership and teamwork, along with an

increase in positive behaviors and self-confidence. The program inspired this year's Exquisite Ambassadors, a similar program offered for girls.

Community schools support the needs of the whole child with resources that redefine and expand student success. Through collaborations between students, parents,

school staff, partners and community leaders, community schools in Florida are cultivating our nation's next generation of leaders.



Mort Elementary SLC members took a field trip to local business partner Vistra, where they developed resumes, discussed the meaning of vision, strategy and action, and took part in a professional photoshoot.

CERTIFICATION CORNER

Celebrating 3 Newly Certified CPS Sites

Congratulations to **Wilkinson Junior High** (Clay), **Sabal Palm Elementary** (Leon) and **Keystone Junior/Senior High** (Clay) for meeting each of the 12 rigorous standards to better serve students, families and their communities.

UCF certification represents years of intentional, dedicated work to build partnerships that align to student success and wellbeing — and all three Community Partnership Schools met the challenge.

UCF-CERTIFIED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS



Keystone Junior/Senior High



Sabal Palm Elementary



Wilkinson Junior High

DID YOU KNOW?

- ▶ **Fort Myers Middle Academy** (Lee), in collaboration with the YMCA of SWFL, started Ripple Explorers, an after-school program offering activities like dog safety training, reading with therapy dogs, and a nutrition class.
- ▶ At **Sulphur Springs K-8** (Hillsborough), community organizations pulled together resources to build the Out of this World Incentive Room, where elementary students celebrate achievements in good behavior, exceptional attendance or meeting academic goals. Learn more at bit.ly/3fnrgbY.
- ▶ Core partners United Way of Central Florida, Central Florida Health Care, Inc., Southeastern University and Heartland for Children held a school supply giveaway to ensure students at **Crystal Lake Elementary** (Polk) had supplies for a successful school year.
- ▶ **White City Elementary** (St. Lucie) started Girls on the Run, an after-school program with curriculum to discuss important life skills while engaging in fun runs and other movement activities.
- ▶ At **Edward H. White Academy of Leadership** (Duval), Girls Inc. brought in the Jaguars Foundation Director of Culture and Inclusion to speak to girls about local careers and opportunities in the sports and entertainment field.
- ▶ **Parker Elementary** (Bay) received new refrigerators fully stocked with food and snacks to offer students positive behavior incentives and rewards thanks to donations from Lowe's and other community members.
- ▶ Twenty-five girls from **Miami Southridge Senior High** (Miami-Dade) joined the Young Ladies of Standard Club, where they selected teacher mentors they admired and identified as positive influences on their lives.
- ▶ At **Orange Park High** (Clay), the Florida Blue Foundation provided Children's Home Society of Florida almost \$11,000 for mental health counseling and education programs for the school.
- ▶ About 50 students each week received food through the Blessings in a Backpack program at **The Webster School** (St. Johns).
- ▶ **Dodgertown Elementary** (Indian River) partnered with Treasure Coast Girls Coalition and Boys to Men to Greatness, both after-school mentorship programs that provide students with mentors, academic support, enrichment and community engagement opportunities.
- ▶ **Gulfside Elementary** (Pasco) secured \$46,815 of support through monetary and in-kind donations from the YMCA Summer Camp.

Data & Changing Needs of Students

To personalize supportive programming through evidence-based decision making, community school leaders need student-level data to analyze the impact of programming on individual students and families. A signed Data Sharing Agreement will allow community school directors to access meaningful data to understand the changing needs of students and families. With these insights, community schools will be better equipped to offer quality, coordinated and responsive services to their school communities.

According to a community school principal familiar with the data management system, "These reports provide robust information that can inform conversations at the community school, so we can find the right combination of services to move the achievement needle forward."

A small selection of pilot community schools took part in a roll out of the data management system in FY2021-22, laying the foundation for future community school sites across the state. Community schools in these districts have access to student-level data through a secure, web-based platform called Learning Circle, which helps to collect, analyze and report on student, family and community engagement data. In addition, Learning Circle offers an Early Warning function, which helps identify students who may need support services as those needs arise.

Six school districts (St. Johns, Escambia, Lee, Leon, Indian River and Alachua counties) have signed Data Sharing Agreements, and more are planning to sign, expanding the positive impact on students, families and communities.

Principal & Director Institute



During a panel, Ft. Myers Middle Academy Principal Lynn Edward says CPS director Angela Jackson provides additional supports to students and families, where the school may not have the resources to do so.

The UCF Center for Community Schools held the Principal and Director Institute in June at the Celeste Hotel, the UCF Center's largest in-person event of the year. The institute brought together Community Partnership School (CPS) directors and principals from across the state to exchange best practices, lessons learned, and innovative strategies to better meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students and their families.

The day before the institute officially began, directors and principals had a chance to tour any one of four community schools in the area, including **Jones High** (Orange), **Eccleston Elementary** (Orange), **OCPS ACE** (Orange) and **Evans High** (Orange).

The next day, the institute kicked off with discussions between each principal-director team to identify successes and challenges related to collaboration between their roles. Following the discussion, a panel of principal-director teams shared their own challenges and recipes for success as dynamic duos.

After lunch, Children's Home Society of Florida shared approaches to increasing

teacher engagement with the work of community schools. Principal-director teams continued the conversation in breakout rooms to discuss expanding their reach to teachers, feeder schools and the community.

Following the previous day's institute, the UCF Center held the Director's Institute to offer director's an opportunity to reflect on the previous day and focus on the topic of certification. During this half-day gathering, directors from UCF-Certified Community Partnership Schools shared lessons learned from their certification experience, followed by questions from directors at implementation and planning sites related to their upcoming certification. In the final session, directors learned about approaches taken by specific CPS sites to address certification challenges, including ways to increase teacher retention, university partner involvement, and student representation.

Mark your calendars for Friday, February 3, 2023 for the Partner Institute, where all core partners will gather to strengthen collaborations in support of their community schools.

DID YOU KNOW?

▶ Through United Way of Brevard, **Endeavour Elementary** (Brevard) was awarded \$21,000 to support K-3 struggling readers reach grade level, with most of the 83 students who participated making 84% reading gains.

▶ At **Howard Bishop Middle** (Miami-Dade), the number of students participating in after-school programs increased to 84 students, the highest number of students in three years.

▶ Throughout the fourth quarter at **South Woods Elementary** (St. Johns), various programming and community/core partners' contributions totaled \$57,057 of in-kind and monetary impact to students and the community, which includes \$10,714 awarded to the school by the Florida Blue Foundation to support mental health services for students and families.

▶ Last quarter, community organizations and individuals donated over \$11,477 in monetary and in-kind donations for programming at **Arthur and Polly Mays Conservatory for the Arts** (Miami-Dade).

▶ In quarter four, **Wilkinson Junior High** (Clay) fed over 1,575 families, totaling over \$22,460 worth of food and services, which continued through the summer.

▶ In the fourth quarter, 18 volunteers at **Franklin Park Elementary** (Lee) offered classroom support in grades K-3, providing teachers more time to increase individualized instruction to students in need of reinforcement and extra practice.

▶ At **Gulfstream Academy** (Broward), the Family Resource Center provided referrals to community events as well as a meeting space for parent-teacher conferences, immunizations, behavioral health services, and case management intakes with families, with intakes increasing as Eastern European immigrants and refugees joined the community.

▶ The **College Park Elementary** (Marion) community came out strong for teacher appreciation week to provide gift cards, coupons and lunches to teachers valued at almost \$10,000.

▶ **Manatee Elementary** (Manatee), in partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay, provided 1,109 food distributions to students and families through the school's food pantry.

▶ **Homestead Middle** (Marion) teamed up with core partner Florida International University to offer the first dual enrollment course in a middle school in the southern region of the Miami-Dade school district.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Transition to FAST

What is FAST? At the start of the school year, the state began implementing the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), a new progress monitoring system aligned to the state's academic standards for grades pre-k through 10.

The UCF Center provides support to advance community schools by offering high quality and relevant research, best practices and informational resources. To help with the transition from FSA to FAST, the UCF Center's technical assistance team developed a webinar for community school professionals. **Watch the FAST Webinar at youtu.be/IViAtbNUFjc.**

FAST VS. FSA

NEW PROGRESS

MONITORING

- Hours rather than days to administer
- 3 opportunities to check in on growth
- 75% less testing time = more learning time
- Informs teachers so they can better help their students
- Based on new B.E.S.T. standards
- Customizable, unique to each student
- Timely data during the school year
- Gives schools 2 opportunities to improve

"75% less time testing, therefore, increased time for learning."

OUTDATED STATEWIDE

ASSESSMENT

- Takes days to administer, and means less learning time
- High stakes test
- Encourages narrow focus on tests
- Based on Common Core
- Not customizable to each student
- Fails to give parents timely information to support their children at home
- Too late for meaningful conversations between parents, students, and teachers to modify instruction

FDOE. (2022). Florida's assessment of student thinking. Florida Department of Education. Retrieved July 11, 2022, from <https://www.fdoe.org/fast/>



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FAST vs. FSA: Comparison of new and outdated approaches to statewide testing.

REGISTERED COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL SITES AND CORE PARTNERS (*UCF-Certified)

Arthur & Polly Mays Conservatory of the Arts *Miami, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

***C. A. Weis Elementary** *Pensacola, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Community Health of Northwest Florida, Escambia County School District, University of West Florida

College Park Elementary *Ocala, FL:* United Way of Marion County, Ocala Health, Marion County Public Schools, Public Education Foundation of Marion County, College of Central Florida

Crystal Lake Elementary *Lakeland, FL:* Heartland for Children, Central Florida Health Care, Polk County Public Schools, United Way of Central Florida, Southeastern University

Dodgertown Elementary *Vero Beach, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Treasure Coast Community Health, School District of Indian River County, Indian River State College

Eccleston Elementary *Orlando, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida, University of Central Florida

***Edward H. White Academy of Leadership** *Jacksonville, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Agape Community Health Center, Duval County School District, Boys & Girls Club Northeast Florida, University of North Florida, Florida State College of Jacksonville

***Endeavour Elementary** *Cocoa, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Brevard Health Alliance, Brevard County Public Schools, City of Cocoa, Eastern Florida State College, University of Central Florida

***Evans High** *Orlando, FL* **Flagship school: Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, University of Central Florida

Fort Myers Middle Academy *Ft. Myers, FL:* United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, & Okeechobee, Lee Health, School District of Lee County, Florida Gulf Coast University

Franklin Park Elementary *Ft. Myers, FL:* United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, & Okeechobee, Lee Health, School District of Lee County, Florida Gulf Coast University

***Gulfside Elementary** *Holiday, FL:* Youth and Family Alternatives, Inc., Premier Community HealthCare, Florida Department of Health in Pasco County, BayCare, Pasco County Schools, YMCA of the Suncoast and Metropolitan Ministries

Gulfstream Academy and Early Learning Center *Hallandale Beach, FL:* United Way of Broward County, Memorial Healthcare System, Broward County Public Schools, Early Learning Coalition of Broward County, Hispanic Unity of Florida, Broward College

Homestead Middle *Homestead, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Community Health of South Florida, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

Howard Bishop Middle *Gainesville, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Alachua County Health Department, Alachua County School District, Santa Fe College, University of Florida

Jones High *Orlando, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, University of Central Florida

***Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High** *Keystone Heights, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Aza Health, Clay County School District, Santa Fe College

***Mort Elementary School** *Tampa, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Tampa Family Health Centers, Hillsborough County Public Schools, Tampa Innovation Place, University Area Community Development Corporation, University of South Florida

Miami Southridge Senior High *Miami, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Florida International University

Manatee Elementary *Bradenton, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, MCR Health, School District of Manatee County, University of South Florida

***OCPS Academic Center for Excellence** *Orlando, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Blossom Family Health, Orange County Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club, Harris Rosen Foundation, University of Central Florida, Valencia College

Orange Park High *Orange Park, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange Park Medical Center, Palms Medical Group, Clay County District Schools, St. John's River College

Parker Elementary *Panama City, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, PanCare Health, Bay County Public Schools, Gulf Coast State College

***Sabal Palm Elementary** *Tallahassee, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Florida State University Primary Health, Leon County School District, Florida A&M University

***South Woods Elementary** *Elkton, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, St. Johns County School District, St. John's River College

***Sulphur Springs K-8** *Tampa, FL:* Tampa Metropolitan Area YMCA, Tampa Family Health Centers, Hillsborough County School District, Sulphur Springs Neighborhood of Promise, University of South Florida

***The Webster School** *St. Augustine, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Flagler Health+, St. Johns County School District, St. John's River State College

White City Elementary *Ft. Pierce, FL:* United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee, Cleveland Clinic Martin Health, St. Lucie Public Schools, Indian River State College

***Wilkinson Junior High (7-8)** *Middleburg, FL:* Children's Home Society of Florida, Baptist Health/ Wolfson Children's Hospital, Clay County School District, St. John's River State College

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