

SPRING 2022

TEAM

NEWSLETTER



INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

1400 27th St, Vero Beach, FL 32960 | UPIRC.org | (772) 564-9365

NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

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Build UP

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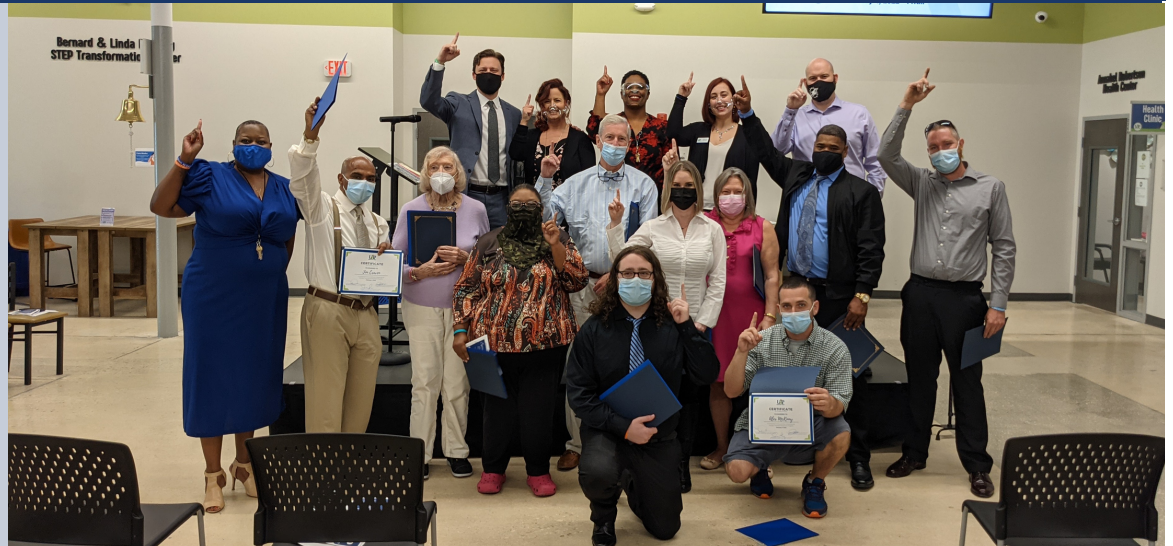
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From the Executive Director

BY MATT TANNER

With so much of the national narrative last year focused on “The Great Resignation” and millions of Americans leaving the workforce, our focus this year is getting our community BACK to work by creating more workforce pathways to economic mobility. Through the first two cohorts this year of our Success Training Employment Program (STEP), we have already doubled the number of graduates and tripled the number of adults who have successfully landed jobs in comparison to last year. For every single STEP graduate, there is a social cost avoidance to our county of approximately \$52,554 (costs that would otherwise go towards unemployment benefits, housing and food assistance and emergency room visits). For every 100 adults who graduate STEP, the annual social cost avoidance to our county is \$5.3 million.

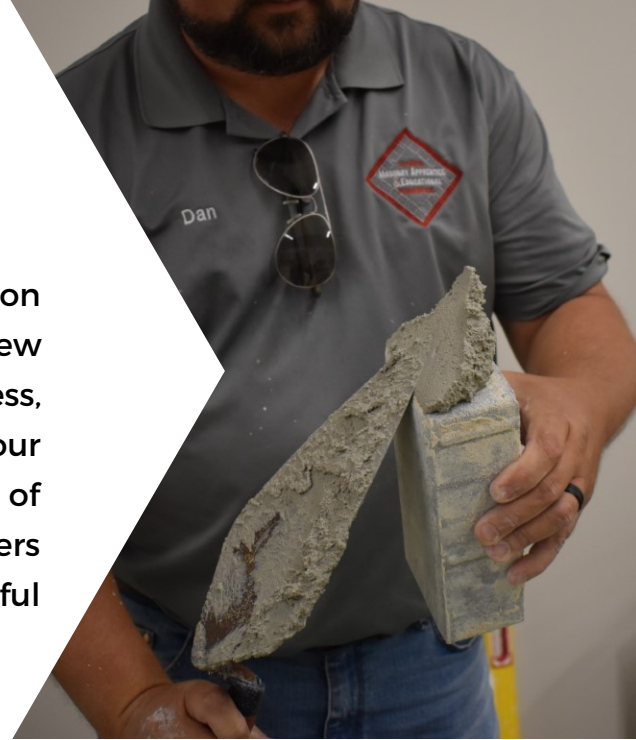
The UP Center has also created another new workforce venture, the **UPskill Academy**. For so many adults in our county, adding that new certificate or skill is the missing piece in becoming eligible for better career opportunities and pay. The **UPskill Academy** features free access to GED preparation and certifications in CPR/First Aid, Microsoft Office Suite, Mental Health First Aid, customer service, food handling and OSHA.

Your support enables UP to strengthen our workforce programs and deepen our impact in the community by lifting hundreds of lives up to economic self-sufficiency. On behalf of the entire UP family, we thank you for your belief in our mission.

MATT TANNER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UP INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

UP Launches New Initiative: *Build UP*

In partnership with the Treasure Coast Builders Association and Treasure Coast Manufacturers Association, our new Build UP initiative is focused on growing awareness, training, and career pathways for youth and adults in our community that may have never previously thought of these leading industries as an option. These careers provide upward mobility, and above all else, a meaningful wage and job security that position men and women to lift themselves and their families out of poverty.



Build UP is off to an amazing start! In January, in partnership with The Porch Factory, we had a group of young adults graduate from our first training class. They spent five days of hard-skill training at The Porch Factory facility and three days of emotional intelligence and workplace skills training at the UP Center. All the graduates became new employees of The Porch Factory, immediately earning a living wage.

PROGRAMS UPDATE

Our Education Programs are Going UP!

We are only a few months into 2022 and our UP Education Program has taken off! We have hosted over 70 workshops for more than 300 adult participants. We offer a wide variety of workshop topics with a special focus on key topics that we know the community we serve can truly benefit from, such as financial literacy, computer skills, mental health and English as a second language. Thus far in 2022, 30 adults have already received CPR/First Aid training, 10 adults have started on their pathway to a GED and through our partnership with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, more than 200 low-income families have filed their taxes for free at the UP Center.

UP INDIAN RIVER CAMPUS 2021 IMPACT

- 845 families served through our Crisis Stabilization Program
- 63 graduates of our Success Training Employment Program (STEP), a 75% increase over 2020
- 47% increase in new employer partners
- 6,500 individuals and families served through Member Share Grocery Program (MSGP). Those members retained \$6.3 million in resources.
- 100+ workshops for 400+ participants in our UP Education Program
- 350 volunteers provided 13,000 hours of volunteer service (\$371,000 value)
- 4,000 visits to the walk-in UP Health Clinic, including 1,400 mental health visits



UP Success Story

Elizabeth "Zee" Allen

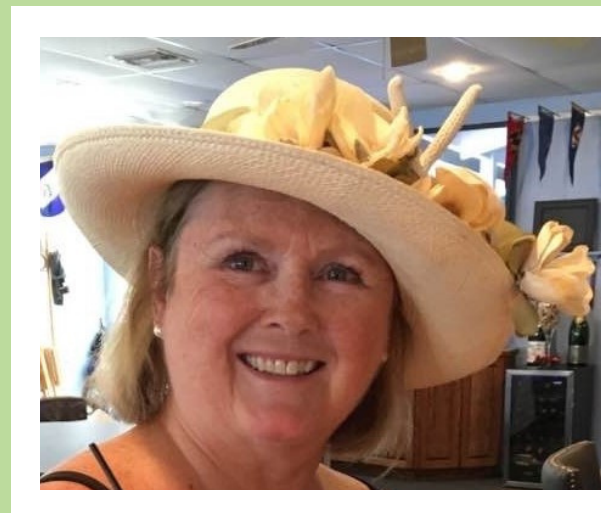
"Zee" is a recent STEP graduate of Cohort 44, our first cohort of the year. She is a veteran of the United States Air Force with a background in supply chain and logistics management. Zee recently moved to Vero and had a difficult time finding a job and community resources. After finding out about STEP, she decided to give it a shot and quickly became a leader in class. She is now working at Girard Equipment as the new Accounting Assistant earning \$45,000 a year with benefits.

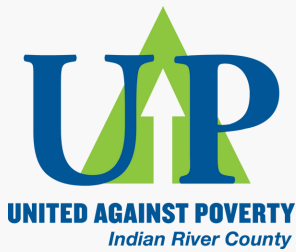
"STEP provided me the opportunity to get my skill set up with Emotional Intelligence. I was able to establish connections through United Against Poverty, and the STEP class helped me and my peers see our vision and where to go to next. I appreciate the fact that I was helped to find a great job with Girard as an Accounting Assistant by marrying my personality with the company's culture." - Zee

Board Member Spotlight: Cate Davis

Cate Davis joined UP Indian River County's Board of Directors last year. Since joining, she has been an amazing cheerleader for the organization and has become a great asset and friend as she is always able to provide advice and support where we need it. Cate hosted an awareness event for UP to introduce her peers to our work and she was a tremendous support to the Development team with our first-ever online auction

Thank you for all you do, Cate!





GWENDOLYN BUTSON
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
UNITED AGAINST POVERTY

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June 25, 2022 | 1pm - 8pm

Burger Competition & Slider Tasting 1pm - 4pm

Get your Punch Cards and VIP Tickets on Facebook or Eventbrite by looking up "Burgers & Brews 2022"

Enjoy live music throughout the entire event! There will be local, talented bands during this year's Burgers & Brews!

Stay updated on who will be performing and competing in the burger competition at BurgersAndBrews.org

The Valentine Ball

ONLINE AUCTION RECAP

UP IRC held our first online auction and it was amazing! Special thank you to all our sponsors, auction item donors, and bidders, for helping make this event such a success!

Featured Item Donors

Bill & Libby King | Mr. & Mrs. William Forgione | Don & Linda Drinkard | Wild Thyme Catering | Dennis & Trude See | Marilyn Marion

Sponsors

Peter and Kjestine Bijur | Pamela Harmon and Timothy Muris | Mary Ryan | Barbara Lowry | Baerbel O'Haire - Merrill Lynch Wealth Management | Mark & Cindy Galant | George and Marlen Higgs | George and Elke Fetterolf | Schommer Properties | Bob and Carmen Stork

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Connect with UP

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