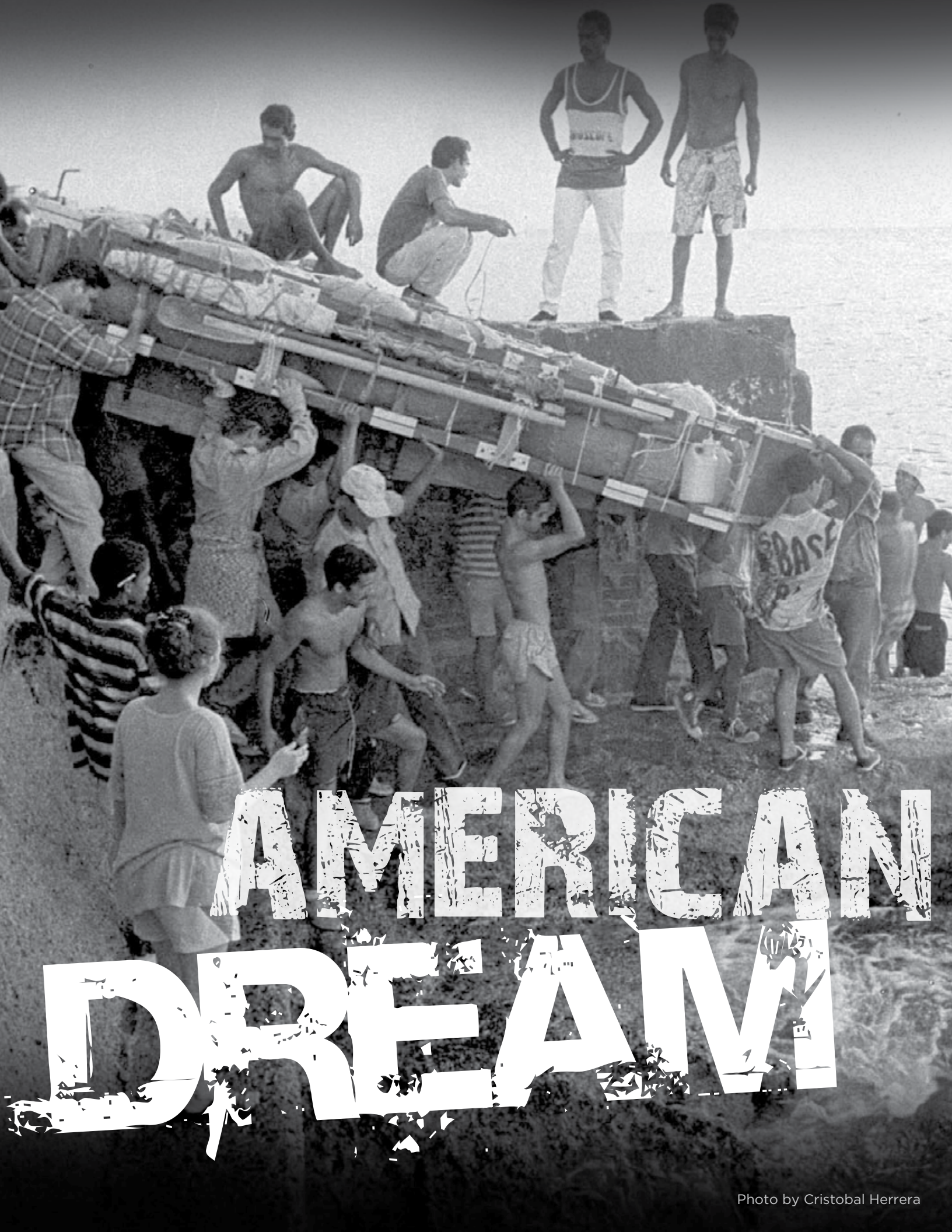




**Empowering a  
New Generation  
of Americans**







# AMERICAN DREAM

Photo by Cristobal Herrera



# 1982 – 2022

## 40-Year Retrospective

To all the friends of Hispanic Unity of Florida who have given their time, talent and funds to support our mission and who, through their involvement, have given more than 500,000 clients their most precious gift: **Hope.**

*"Give me your  
tired, your poor,  
your huddled  
masses yearning  
to breathe free."*

From The New Colossus, Emma Lazarus, 1883





## Our Mission

Empowering immigrants and others to become self-sufficient, productive and civically engaged.

## Our Vision

Everyone is empowered to live *their* American dream.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

OF

HISPANIC UNITY OF FLORIDA, INC.

FILED

FEB 25 11 39 AM '82

SECRETARY OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE FLORIDA

We, the undersigned, residents of the State of Florida,  
being twenty one (21) years or more of age, do hereby asso-  
ciate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a cor-  
poration (not for profits) under the statutes of the State  
of Florida.

ARTICLE ONE

NAME

The name of the corporation shall be Hispanic Unity  
of Florida, Inc.

ARTICLE TWO

LOCATION

The location of the principal office of Hispanic  
Unity of Florida, Inc. shall be 1341 S.W. 6 Terrace, city  
of Deerfield Beach, County of Broward, State of Florida.

ARTICLE THREE

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Hispanic Unity of Florida shall  
be as follows:

1. To provide help and guidance to the hispanic  
residents of the State of Florida and their families  
in order for them to adjust better to the american  
culture in general and that of the State of Florida  
in specific.
2. To promote, develop and conduct human service programs  
in accordance with the need of the community.
3. To act as liaison between the Hispanic Community of  
the State of Florida and government and private  
human service agencies.

Eugenio Torres envisions a service agency that helps Broward immigrants adapt to life in the U.S.

First brainstorm meeting held to make the dream a reality. Torres and other founders Angelo Fernandez, Jose “Pepe” Lopez, Jose Rodriguez and Miriam Ruiz are present.



Founders from (L) to (R):  
Event guest, Jose “Pepe” Lopez and Manny Baerga



From (L) to (R): Manny Baerga,  
Diana Wasserman-Rubin (deceased) and  
Eugenio Torres



A visit by Governor Lawton Chiles

HUF hosts first-ever convention with a \$4,000 grant from IBM. The event raises awareness of Hispanic issues and cements the agency’s importance to the community.



1984

First major funding of \$100,000 awarded by the State of Florida Office of Refugee Services. Broward County's Human Services employee Ellen Rodriguez assisted the agency with the refugee program. HUF is now on the map!



HUF's first office space in Ft Lauderdale

Doña Rylma Sanchez-Cifuentes (earned Ph.D. in education in Cuba) is the only individual who has been a HUF Board Member, employee and volunteer. She is now 90 years young!



Rylma Sanchez-Cifuentes (L) and colleagues



1985

First office space donated by Mr. Edwardo Cardounel opens in Fort Lauderdale. A staff of eight assists clients with acculturation, employment and translation services. HUF's early clients.



HUF's early clients.

1987

First gala to honor Broward community leaders active in helping Hispanics.



Former Board Member Ellen Rodriguez



Diana Wasserman-Rubin (deceased) and Maria Sanjuan, (HUF Board Member Emeriti)



Hiram Montero (HUF Board Member Emeritus)

1988

First HispanicFest held at TY Park. The annual event becomes a major fundraiser through 2010.

WSVN / Channel 7 promotes the event and becomes HUF's longest media partner. AutoNation is an event presenter for six years.



**AutoNation**



English classes known as ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) are offered at HUF.



HUF's first ESOL Class



HUF's dedicated ESOL teacher

1991

First center for Hispanic seniors opens thanks, in part, to proceeds from HispanicFest '91.



HUF seniors program participants celebrating Christmas

1993

Spanish-language legal assistance offered for the first time by HUF and Broward Lawyers Care.



HUF purchases vacant Social Security Administration office in Hollywood and moves to its current location. Support from City of Hollywood Commissioners makes purchase possible.





1994

Partnership with Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) to launch English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes now located in Casa Sanjuan Education Center. Between 700 to 1,000 students learn English (ESOL) at our center every year. HUF's partnership with BCPS is now in its 28th year



Together, let's keep the American dream alive—for everyone!

HUF becomes a United Way of Broward County funded agency.



1996

HUF receives its first major challenge gift of \$10,000 from Mr. and Mrs. Jim Moran and JM Family Enterprises, Inc. Thanks to Maria Sanjuan, HUF received the match.



Paul Lopez at Tripp Scott, P.A. begins to provide pro bono legal services to HUF. Catalina Avalos, also with Tripp Scott, was HUF's lead counsel for over 12 years. In 2022, Catalina was appointed to serve as judge for Broward County Courts.

# TRIPP SCOTT

## ATTORNEYS AT LAW

One of HUF's most famous employees, Senator Bob Graham, dedicates a day to HUF as one of his 366 Work Days.



Senator Graham with HUF children.



Senator Graham with Al Fernandez, ANF Group, Inc.



1999

First Russian-speaking case manager hired to assist Eastern Europeans – a sign of the changing immigrant face of Broward.

ДОБРО ПОЖАЛОВАТ

“Welcome” in Russian.

REACH 2010 launches to combat HIV/AIDS. HUF’s first research study led by CDC-funded Florida International University in partnership with Minority Development & Empowerment, the Urban League of Broward County, American Red Cross, Broward County Health Department, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance (Broward Alliance) and Broward County.



HUF HIV program staffers and volunteers.

2000

Memorial Healthcare System opens a Primary Care Facility on Johnson Street and includes Hispanic Unity of Florida as a partner.



Memorial Healthcare System and HUF partner on health fair.

Family Success Affiliate Center opens in Hollywood under contract with Broward County. Families receive social, health, and financial support.



Maximizing Out of School Time (MOST) after-school program launched to serve middle school students.

HUF is one of the first after-school providers for middle school youth funded by the Children's Services Council of Broward County.



Two Camp Amigos students (program now called Unity 4Teens)

Hispanic Unity of Florida in partnership with the Children's Services Council of Broward County, IRS, United Way of Broward County, and American Express launch Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), a free tax preparation program, now referred as Broward Tax Pro.



The agency's first financial literacy course gives clients the knowledge and skills to take control of their economic future.

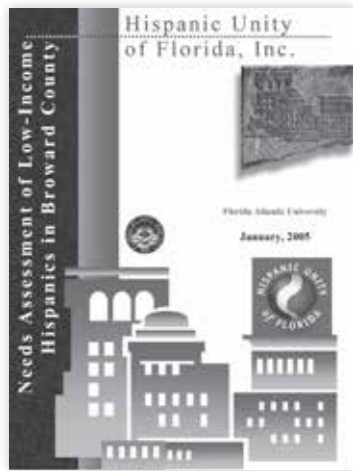


Growth of ESOL drives expansion. HUF purchases second building near administrative office. Broward County and City of Hollywood provide key funding for expansion.





HUF completes first Needs Assessment Study on Broward low-income Hispanics to help identify social services required in the community.



HUF volunteer, Arthur Donovan, starts the agency's first Citizenship class at HUF's Renacer Senior Activity Center. Today, HUF leads an in-person, 10-week intensive citizenship class program in Broward County. Today, HUF provides citizenship education and naturalization services virtually and in-person in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

HUF is one of Bank of America's first local Neighborhood Excellence awardees and receives a \$200,000 grant.



Bank of America awards Natalia Sanchez the Student Excellence Award, Margaret Sanchez the Local Hero Award and Hispanic Unity of Florida with the Neighborhood Excellence Award and a grant of \$200,000 – a “trifecta” for Hispanic Unity!

HUF becomes a vendor of Broward County Public School (BCPS) allowing the agency to provide school-based after school and summer programs at McNicol and Olsen Middle Schools.



The J. Gonzalez Emergency Fund, now known as the Beacon of Hope Foundation, was established in 2005 and supported many HUF families in need.



Margaret Sanchez with Clara, the first recipient of the emergency fund, now working as a chemist.

2007

Te Ayudo, a program which provides access to healthcare, is launched with Memorial Healthcare System and funded by the Florida Blue Foundation. Broward Health joins in 2010.



HUF becomes an affiliate member of UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR).



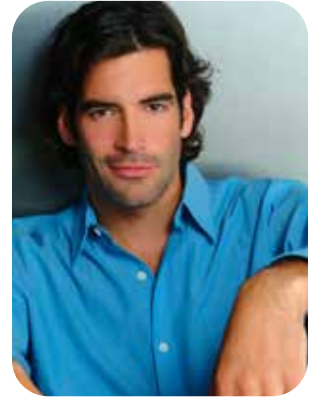
Baseball player Manny Ramirez donates antique car to help fund HUF's new preschool. Carter Oosterhouse, HGTV celebrity, visits and donates toys to preschool.



1960 Impala Coupe donated by Manny Ramirez to fund preschool renovations



Carter Oosterhouse with Unity 4Kids children.



Carter Oosterhouse, nationally recognized lifestyle expert.

HUF becomes the largest private nonprofit IRS partner in 17 states offering free tax preparation services with VITA.



Mireya Calderon assisting family with their tax return.



United Way of Broward County volunteers work hard to prepare the playground for HUF's soon to be opened Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center. The mural was designed by Nadine Floyd and Janie Casoria (deceased) and painted with the help of our volunteers.



## The Jim Moran Foundation Award

The Jim Moran Foundation established this annual award in 2003 to acknowledge those who have a history of giving back to their community through active service and personal commitment. The award included a \$25,000 gift for Josie's "favorite" charity.



Josie Bacallao (front, left) with Jan Moran (front, right) and The Jim Moran Foundation's Board of Directors (back, left to right), Irv Kiffin, Tom Blanton, Lucia Lopez, Larry McGinnes, Melanie Burgess and Rick Noland.

Ken Brown and Elizabeth Sanjuan make the largest private major gift in HUF's history: \$500,000.



Elizabeth, Lauren and Ken at 2009 Gala presenting \$500,000 check.

J. Gonzalez Foundation (now the Beacon of Hope Foundation) makes the largest scholarship gift in HUF history to the Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center.



José H. and Jorge Gonzalez at ribbon cutting with U4K preschoolers.



José H. Gonzalez and Jorge Gonzalez with HUF staffers.

New programs launched: Dental Clinic with Nova Southeastern University; Foreclosure Attorney services with Legal Aid Service of Broward; and Promoting Access to Healthcare Services (PATHS) program in partnership with Memorial Healthcare System.

Broward Legal Immigration Program (BLIP) launched in partnership with Legal Aid Service of Broward, Catholic Charities Legal Services, Broward County Hispanic Bar Association, Caribbean Bar and numerous pro bono immigration attorneys.



BLIP volunteers preparing to meet with 100 clients on a Saturday.

Funding from the USDA allows Hispanic Unity of Florida to expand its public benefits program offerings.



Carmen Marin assists a client.



## Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center Ribbon Cutting, May 7, 2009.



Melanie Burgess from The Jim Moran Foundation accepts plant from preschooler.



Funders and preschoolers plant a Gumbo Limbo tree.

## U4K Early Learning Center opened thanks to the generosity of these partners:

ANF Group, Inc.

Borelli + Partners

Broward County Child Care  
Licensing and Enforcement

Broward Hispanic Bar Association

Carter's Kids Foundation

City of Hollywood/Department of Housing  
& Community Redevelopment

Dollar General Literacy Foundation

Family Central

International Auto Group of South Florida Inc.

Beacon of Hope Foundation

Ken Brown & Elizabeth Sanjuan

Kraft Foods

Manny Ramirez

Martinez Engineering Group

Nadine Floyd and Janie Casoria

Office Depot Foundation

Rotary Club/City of Hollywood

The Jim Moran Foundation

TLC Engineers for Architecture, Inc.

Total Maintenance & Construction

United Way of Broward County

Volunteer USA Foundation

Wayne Boyd, Parsons-Odebrecht J.V.

Casa Sanjuan Education Center formally opened with a ribbon cutting in February after more than two years of renovations.



The Sanjuan and Brown family.

Casa Sanjuan Education Center opened thanks to the generosity of these partners:

ANF Group Inc., Mouji Linarez-Castillo

Broward County Board of Commissioners

Broward County Public Schools

Built By Owner, Inc.

Cable & Communications Technologies, Inc.

City of Hollywood/Department of Housing & Community Redevelopment

Delta G. Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Ken Brown & Elizabeth Sanjuan

Landscape Architect's Collaborative

Lori E. Gold

Manuel Synalovski Associates, LLC.,  
Merrill A. Romanik

Total Maintenance and Construction, Inc.

Unitarian Universalist Association

United Colors Production, Luis Valderrama

United Way of Broward County and the  
2009 Day of Caring Volunteers

### HUF Staff and Family

Ingrid Ekblad

Juan Carlos, Juan Carlos Jr.,  
Natalia & Margaret Sanchez

Virginia Cielo

The Jim Moran Foundation awards HUF \$900,000 to launch the agency's Center for Working Families (CWF) program. At the time, this was the largest foundation grant that HUF had ever received.



HUF launches the 10-week intensive Citizenship class program. By 2021 HUF has served 5,000+ clients annually with citizenship and naturalization services.



Clients studying for their Citizenship exam.

Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center opens its doors in June 2010 and renames its classroom the J. Gonzalez Foundation Room, now the Beacon of Hope Foundation.



The Center for Working Families (CWF) begins services in March supported by United Way of Broward County, Children's Services Council of Broward County and The Jim Moran Foundation. (In 2012, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation joins these major program funders.)



CWF Staff and Felipe Pinzon, VP of Programs at HUF.

HUF's RENACER Senior Activity Center clients move to SE Focal Point Senior Center.





Unity 4Teens (U4T) program adds after school programming at two high schools. The Children's Services Council of Broward County, is the largest youth program funder and HUF's largest funder. Today, HUF is serving four middle schools and three high schools with after school/summer programs with over 500 youths participating.



Ken Brown and Elizabeth Sanjuan name HUF's conference room "The Maria Sanjuan Conference Room" in honor of Elizabeth's mom (and HUF pioneer.)



Maria Sanjuan

450 individuals attend the inaugural Entrepreneur Summit helping entrepreneurs to “get informed, get connected and get inspired.”



George Feldenkreis, Chairman & CEO of Perry Ellis International, Keynote Speaker at Entrepreneur Summit luncheon.



2011 American Dreamer Award Recipients and Gale Butler, AutoNation, the event's presenting sponsor.

More than 800 guests attend the 2011 Noche de Estrellas Gala. Cristina Saralegui, Emmy-winning Latina talk-show star and entrepreneur, receives HUF's Lifetime Achievement Award .



Cristina Saralegui

First Miniature Golf Tournament launches and is led by co-chairs Cheryl Goldstein and Elizabeth Sanjuan.



Boy learning to swing at our first mini-golf tourney.

HUF celebrates agency's 30th anniversary.



In a touching ceremony, 55 parents and family participate in our second graduating class from the Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center Program. Master of Ceremonies, and one of our generous funders, Kenny Tate, “Planted the Seeds of Knowledge” on the 12 VPK graduates.



Kenny Tate of Tate Capital LLC, presents our student with his graduation certificate.



## 2012 Entrepreneur Summit

More than 500 up-and-coming entrepreneurs attend the 2nd annual Entrepreneur Summit. Eight exemplary South Florida business-owners were honored.



2012 American Dreamers and Keynote Speaker: L to R: Luis Capó, George Yap, Alberto Perlman, Laurans Mendelson, Harry Kraemer (Keynote Speaker), Michelle Bernstein, Nelson Fernandez, Alberto Gil, & Al Fernandez.

30th Anniversary Gala Honorees.



Individual Amigo Award honoree, Janet Murguía, President and CEO of UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR).



Lifetime Achievement Award recipients Gloria and Emilio Estefan.



Corporate Amigo Award honoree, AT&T, from L to R: Nydia Menendez, Carlos Blanco-Sposito, presented by Cleveland Clinic's Dr. Dalia McCoy.

30th Anniversary Gala. Target sponsors the Lifetime Achievement Award.



Greg Cunningham and Cosette Gutierrez of Target



Second Annual Mini-Golf Tournament.



Co-Chairs Elizabeth Sanjuan and Cheryl Goldstein.



Four generations of the Fornias-Soldani-Lemon family support the Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center.



Vicente Fornias, Maria Soldani, Dr. Melissa Soldani-Lemon, Zach and Zoey Lemon



HUF launches, with support from UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR), the Comprando Rico Y Sano (Good & Healthy) program to help reduce food insecurity. Clients learn to eat healthy on a small budget.



HUF is selected to coordinate the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program county-wide, including all marketing efforts. 150+ volunteers, 25+ staff, and three dozen partners & funders make up Broward's VITA Coalition (now known as Broward Tax Pro).



VITA Volunteer Appreciation Event.

2013

HUF launches its first Affordable Care Act (ACA) program with three Certified Application Counselors (CAC). By 2021, the CAC had screened 2,500 individuals for affordable health insurance coverage.



Broward County Commissioners and the Broward County Human Services Division Department partner with HUF, Urban League of Broward County, and ARC Broward on the Center for Working Families program across the county.



Family Strengthening Program pilot launched with support from the A.D. Henderson Foundation and Sandy and Kenny Tate.

The pilot is then funded later in the year by the Children's Services Council of Broward.



Research-based parent-education program that teaches parents the importance of engaging in nurturing behavior promoting healthy physical and emotional development in children.

UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR) names HUF its Southeast Affiliate of the Year!





Unity 4Kids (U4K) Early Learning Center for kids 3 to 5 year olds, becomes one of 20 nationally accredited preschools in Broward County by the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA) - One of only 5 serving South Broward.



HUF launches "First-Time Homebuyers Program", a program that teaches the steps necessary to purchase a home, rent a property, and prevent foreclosures.



HUF Board of Directors complete a five year strategic plan that includes capacity building to scale of HUF's mission. Felipe Pinzon is promoted to Senior Vice President of Strategy & Programs.



HUF expands its naturalization services to further support its citizenship program by hiring two paralegals.



Montero Family plaque installed in HUF's reception area to acknowledge the decades of involvement and support by Hiram and Lucia Montero.



Sandy and Kenny Tate pledge a major gift to support of HUF's Unity 4Kids Early Learning Center.



2016

JP Morgan Chase & Co. provides significant support to HUF's Center for Working Families and expands commitment to the agency's naturalization and citizenship work.



UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR) names HUF Affiliate of the Year!



**NCLR** 2016 AFFILIATE \*  
OF THE YEAR



Mike Fernandez is Keynote Speaker at HUF's 2016 Entrepreneur Summit.



From L to R: Mike Fernandez, MBF Healthcare Partners, Josie Bacallao from HUF, and Aurelio Fernandez, Memorial Healthcare System.



American Dreamer Awardees, 2016 Entrepreneur Summit.

HUF hosts UnidosUS (formerly known as NCLR) Peer-to-Peer Exchange and welcomes 30+ community-based organizations that directly serve the Latino population across the country.



Partners and funders discuss collaboration and services with HUF in Broward.

HUF's Founder, Eugenio Torres, returns to HUF to be interviewed by Comcast on the agency's 35th Anniversary.



Eugenio Torres – whose vision led to HUF's establishment – remains an active community leader.

Maria Sanjuan, one of HUF's earliest and most beloved volunteer leaders, chronicles HUF's nascent years – its struggles and successes.



Maria Sanjuan

HUF's Emerging Entrepreneurs - a Spanish-language, small business education program in partnership with Broward SCORE, is nationally recognized for partnership excellence.



Recognized nationally as a leader and innovator in volunteer recruitment and training for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program by the IRS.





HUF launches its two-generation (2Gen) approach and joined Ascend at the Aspen Institute. We received financial support from local and national agencies.



U4Ks Early Learning Center continues to be - for the fourth year in a row - a 5-star rated school by the Early Learning Coalition of Broward County.





As part of its NextGen Initiative, the Kresge Foundation awarded HUF with a 2-year grant to provide leadership development and strengthen the agency's 2Gen approach.

## THE KRESGE FOUNDATION

By 2019, Broward Tax Pro (VITA) had 75+ volunteers and 35 VITA staff, 35+ partners and funders. We have assisted 6,000 clients who received a combined total of \$6.3 million in tax refunds and \$1.6 million in savings in tax preparation fees. 54 elected officials from 14 cities in Broward County became VITA Champions, promoters of the program to the residents in their respective communities.



Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) invested in HUF's public policy and advocacy work to increase staff capacity. It is HUF's first CZI grant.



## Chan Zuckerberg Initiative

Otto Valenzuela, HUF's Associate Director of Public Policy & Advocacy, during a panel discussion.

With support from the Children's Services Council of Broward County (CSC), HUF expanded its youth development program to serve more public schools and youth to continue to provide a two-generation (2Gen) approach to all families.



HUF completed work with the 2020 Census which spanned more than 18 months. A member of the Broward County Complete Count Committee, HUF was part of a regional effort to include “hard-to-count” populations and coordinated the work of 11 sub-groups. The direct number of people reached through activities led by HUF is estimated to have exceeded 8,000. Our social media campaign was featured in National Census communications.



The COVID-19 pandemic required HUF to adjust its operations and priorities. Our organization, community, and clients are fortunate to have funders and donors who understood our emergent needs and granted flexibility in how we used grant dollars and/or provided additional funding opportunities. Their support allowed HUF to:

- Distribute \$200K + in emergency assistance directly to clients to pay rent, utilities and medicine.
- Invest in technology, allowing HUF to transition nearly 70 full time staff to telework.
- Invest in public policy and advocacy work to ensure HUF clients remained in their homes, had access to food and healthcare during the pandemic.



For six weeks, HUF partnered with Broward County's Health Department to administer free COVID-19 vaccines. We served over 1107 community members.



Josie Bacallao, President and CEO for 17 years, retired



Hispanic Unity of Florida embarks on a year of leadership transition.



In the late fall of 2021, Miami-Dade County awarded Hispanic Unity of Florida (HUF) a grant to provide TPS (Temporary Protective Status) services to immigrant community members. This is a 1-year grant and the first TPS specific funding project for HUF.



On January 1, 2022, Felipe Pinzon becomes HUF's new President and CEO.



*State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward and State of Black Broward*

In celebration of our 40th anniversary, HUF partnered with the Jorge M. Pérez Metropolitan Center at FIU and the Urban League of Broward County to launch the State of Black Broward and the State of Hispanic and Immigrant Broward initiatives, to advance equity and support for Broward families. These reports will influence critical conversations about racial equity and transformative, long-term solutions in our community. Hispanic Unity of Florida is deeply grateful to The Jim Moran Foundation for its continued support and trust. This report was made possible with their funding.



From (L) to (R): Felipe Pinzon, Dr. Germaine Smith-Baugh, Ed.D., and Dr. Ned Murray, Ph.D., AICP.



## A Message from the President & CEO, Felipe Pinzon

I am thrilled to be taking on this role at a time when HUF has great momentum and potential for the future. I am also grateful to HUF's exceptional and dedicated staff. It is my privilege to lead this talented team that lives our values each day with respect, dignity, integrity and unity.

Hispanic Unity of Florida was founded by a group of concerned community members who envisioned an agency dedicated to helping immigrants adapt to life in the U.S. Since 1982, HUF has helped more than 500,000 individuals and families build better lives for themselves. As a result of the resources, tools, and support provided, students are successful, families are strong, citizens are engaged, and our community is increasingly inclusive and equitable.

As the premier human services organization in South Florida dedicated to ensuring a pathway to success for immigrants and others, HUF is a one-stop American dream machine. We empower individuals to learn English, become engaged U.S. Citizens, improve their financial position – and so much more.

Today, I am motivated to ensure that we will meet these and other challenges with HUF's innovative and collaborative spirit. We know you share with us our belief of creating successful children, strong families, civically engaged citizens, and an inclusive and equitable community.

My vision for the next five years will be built on the strong foundation we have created together.

I look forward to your continued support and collaboration.

Thank you for your trust and dedication to Hispanic Unity of Florida throughout our 40 years of service.

4

**Decades**

of Excellence Serving Our Community

3

**Areas of Focus for our Clients**

Economic Development, Education and Civic Engagement

2

**Clear Agency Objectives**

**OUR VISION**

Everyone is empowered to live their American Dream.

**OUR MISSION**

Empowering immigrants and others to become self-sufficient,  
productive and civically engaged

1

**Hispanic Unity of Florida**



**Empowering a  
New Generation  
of Americans**

5840 Johnson Street, Hollywood, FL 33021  
**954.964.8884 • [www.HispanicUnity.org](http://www.HispanicUnity.org)**