



FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
NONPROFITS

Established 1990

SOURCEBOOK
Program Journal
5th Edition

35th Anniversary

People Helping People

Making Waves Through
Nonprofit Partnerships



HEARTS
HELPING EDUCATING
ADVOCATING RESEARCHING
TRAINING SAVING



November 16
2024



**Florida Association of Nonprofits
is the **HEART**
of the Nonprofit Community**

Helping
Educating
Advocating
Researching
Training
Saving

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#HEARTS**



Congressional Proclamation

The Honorable Frederica S. Wilson
United States House of Representatives
24th District, Florida

Mister Speaker, from the 24th district of the great state of Florida, I rise today to honor the Florida Association of Nonprofits on the occasion of its 35th Anniversary Awards Gala, "People Helping People Making Waves through Nonprofit Partnerships", on November 16, 2024. at the association's statewide headquarters, located at 512 NE Third Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

Whereas, Florida Association of Nonprofits, (formerly The Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations) a 501(c)(3) statewide nonprofit, is a member of the Independent Sector, Washington, D.C., and was a founding member and board member of the National Council of Nonprofit Organizations; and

Whereas, Nonprofit organizations are a significant and highly diverse sector of the United States economy employing hundreds of thousands of Floridians and improving the well-being of millions through charitable services and community outreach. United States nonprofit organizations contributed \$1.2 trillion to the economy in 2020 and accounted for 5.9 percent of the Gross Domestic Product of the United States, according to Bureau of Economic Analysis data interpreted by Independent Sector; and

Whereas, FAN works in partnership with government at the federal, state and local level in the United States such as U.S. Department of Urban Development (HUD) and The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Effective partnerships between federal agencies and state and local governments were critical for delivering economic relief and health care resources during the COVID-19 pandemic. Responding to this urgent challenge involves all levels of government—federal, state, local, tribal, and territories—and multiple programs and funding sources; and

Whereas, Florida Association of Nonprofits is Florida's first professional nonprofit network incorporated as a 501 c3 serving as a steadfast advocate for its sector, providing essential resources, support, and shaping policy for a unified voice. It was with great pride that its first initiative, the Nonprofit Bill of Rights was approved unanimously by both houses of the Florida Legislature including commending nonprofits in the State of Florida and stipulating that nonprofits receive due consideration for prompt payment of services, timely renewal of contracts, funding of state mandates, professional representation, multi-year support and timely notification of available government funding; and

Whereas, you will celebrate your rich history and legacy, raise funds for scholarships, and honor awards of excellence in nonprofit partnerships to 10 recipients in the categories of Disaster Aid, Homelessness, Housing, Poverty and Food Insecurity, Environmental Sustainability, Arts and Culture, Public Service, Education, Health Services, and the Lawton Heart Lifetime Achievement Award to Mr. Monty Trainer; and

Whereas, countless individuals and organizations have joined and collaborate in your mission to empower nonprofits partnerships, enhance their impact, and raise awareness of the vital civic, social, and economic contributions made throughout Florida and the United States. For 35 years, your dedication and passion has created ripples of positive change across our state. uplifting those in need, fostering connections, and inspiring hope. Together, you are not just making waves; you are creating a powerful tide of compassion and support that transforms lives – People Helping People; and

Now, therefore, be it resolved that I, Frederica S. Wilson, a member of the United States House of Representatives, representing the 24th Congressional District of Florida, do hereby recognize and celebrate the 35th Anniversary of the Florida Association of Nonprofits, and commend the organization for its outstanding contributions to the state of Florida and our nation.

November 16, 2024

Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress

Unifying, Strengthening and Building Capacity for Florida's Nonprofit Organizations

Florida Association of Nonprofits is the premier provider of programs, products and services needed by nonprofits in Florida.

Mission

Florida Association of Nonprofits is a statewide resource center and professional network for staff and board members of 501(c)(3) nonprofits in Florida. Founded by nonprofit leaders, the organization enhances the well-being of all people and communities in the state of Florida by building the capacity of the private nonprofit sector. Florida's more than 94,500 public charities are assisted in strengthening their leadership, management, financial, and public-policy capacity to reach their missions.

Vision

To create an oversight committee that will strictly enforce the validity of courses offered for accreditation in nonprofit management and expand technology, based on educational and communication offerings to nonprofit organizations on a national and international scale. To increase statewide support by establishing satellite Florida Association of Nonprofits offices throughout Florida.



*Kudos to
Florida Association
of Nonprofits*



Florida Association of Nonprofits provides guidance and supports in promoting nonprofit services, advising those organizations working to advance the health and welfare of the communities throughout Florida.

Jeb Bush, Former Governor State of Florida

At our 80th conference, Florida Nonprofits introduced the Florida cities to the leveraging power of the nonprofits for economic development.

Michael Sittig, Florida League of Cities

BellSouth takes its role as a corporate citizen seriously and Florida Nonprofits enabled us to reach out to the public and identify the areas where we can have the greatest impact.

Vince Lopez, BellSouth

I learned new strategies for board, volunteer and workforce development and a new appreciation of the nonprofit world.

Judith Hochman, PhD, Barry University

The Certificate Intensive was extremely effective for me. The program provided tools and techniques that will definitely benefit my organization.

Brenda Edwards, Scholarship for South Florida

Thank you for Florida Nonprofit's help in increasing my skills and knowledge base. Most helpful was the method of fundraising...beyond grants. Networking opportunities and brainstorming created a greater ability to collaborate.

Lucille Acken, Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice



Sunshine Certificate in Nonprofit Management

Florida Association of Nonprofits prides itself on a 30-year history of superior ratings from all certificate sessions. Florida Nonprofits is in the 99th percentile of recommendations from certificate graduates.

The Sunshine Certificate in Nonprofit Management classes allow participants to design a portfolio to implement new skills back at the workplace, including 133 best practices. Professional handouts cover more than the class curriculum with additional materials to build an expanded knowledge base for each participant.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership - Governance/Board Policy and Volunteerism

Executive Director Training HATS

Accounting for Time and Money

Discovering Trends Through Civic Engagement

Events - Marketing and Special Events

Revenue - Grantwriting Wars and Evaluation

Sponsorship - Campaigning Part 1: Fundraising

Human Resources and Volunteers

Information Revolution - Managing Technology

Planning - Power Vision and Strategic Thinking

*The Heart
of the
Florida
Nonprofit
Community*



FLORIDA
ASSOCIATION OF
NONPROFITS

Established 1990

November 16, 2024

Chair

MARIA HIDALGO
VITAS Healthcare

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BOB KOVACEVICH
Avatar Company

2nd Vice Chair & Past Chair

NAOMI WRIGHT, CPC
The Lady Speaks

Secretary

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IRENE DUPONT
FirstBank of Florida

Chair Emeritus

RUSS MARCHNER (deceased)
Miami-Dade County League of Cities

Immediate Past Chair

DR. BARRY BURAK
Affiliated Healthcare Centers

President CEO

MARINA PAVLOV-MARCHNER
Florida Association of Nonprofits

General Counsel

MICHAEL KOSNITZKY
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Financial Management

MICHAEL J. ROBBINS
Robbins and Moroney, CPA

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
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Dear Esteemed Guests, Partners and Friends,

On behalf of the Florida Association of Nonprofits, we are very excited to be hosting our 35th Anniversary Gala, a celebration of our shared commitment to empowering communities across the Sunshine State. This year, we gather under the inspiring theme: "People Helping People: Making Waves Through Nonprofit Partnerships," reflecting the transformative work that we do together.

As our organization honors its longstanding legacy, it is important to reflect on the significant milestones that have brought us here. Established in 1989 as the Florida Association of Nonprofit Organizations, we proudly became the first statewide organization recognized by the Florida Legislature. This recognition not only validated our vision but also laid the foundational groundwork for key legislation that supports and strengthens the nonprofit sector in our state.

Over the years, we have fostered an inclusive community among nonprofits, providing resources, advocacy, and networking opportunities that enable us to tackle the most pressing challenges facing our communities.

The impact of our work is undeniable, and it is through our partnerships—both statewide and local—that we have been able to make substantial strides. Together, we have created vibrant networks that enhance collaboration, share best practices, and mobilize resources. Whether it's addressing food insecurity, promoting education, or advocating for social justice, the collective efforts of our members illustrate the true essence of nonprofits—people helping people.

Tonight, as we celebrate our past and look forward to the future, Florida Association of Nonprofits extends our deepest gratitude to all of our partners, sponsors, and supporters who have stood by us throughout our journey. Your unwavering dedication and commitment embody the spirit of collaboration that we cherish.

Throughout the evening, we invite you to engage with fellow organizations, celebrate the successes of the past 35 years, and explore new opportunities for partnership to continue making waves across Florida. Together, let us innovate, inspire, and ignite change as we pave the way for a brighter future for all Floridians.

Thank you for being an essential part of our community. Enjoy this special evening of celebration and reflection.

With gratitude,

Corkey

Cornelia Dozier
Gala Co-Chair

Maria

Maria Hidalgo
Gala Co-Chair

Marina

Marina Pavlov-Marchner
President/CEO



XAVIER CORTADA FOUNDATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FOUNDER, XAVIER CORTADA!

The Cortada Foundation uses socially engaged art to create meaningful experiences that educate, inspire, and mobilize communities to take collective action around our climate and ecological crises.

We envision a future where communities harness the power of art as a force for social change and collaboratively work to build a more just, loving and beautiful world.

More at www.cortadafoundation.org



LEARN | PARTICIPATE | SUPPORT



About the Artist

Xavier Cortada is a Cuban-American artist whose work transforms public spaces into platforms for community engagement, education, and activism. Inducted into the State of Florida Artists Hall of Fame, Cortada is pioneering art for social change.

From the White House to Miami City Hall, from the World Bank to PAMM, at the North and South Poles, and across six continents, his work includes more than 150 public artworks, installations, collaborative murals and socially engaged projects.

Awards

Florida Association of Nonprofits 35th Anniversary Awards celebrate the power of teamwork, partnership, and shared purpose, honoring not just a single individual but an extraordinary group of people who have worked tirelessly to improve lives, strengthen communities, and support those in need. Their collective efforts have brought care, compassion, and invaluable services to countless Floridians, especially to our elderly and the environment and those who rely on essential support.

Through collaboration and a commitment to excellence, this group has transformed how we approach care and community support. Their dedication to creating safe, welcoming spaces—like the newly reopened Ward Tower Senior Social Center—demonstrates their vision of a world where everyone, especially our seniors, can live with dignity, independence, and joy.

With decades of experience across healthcare, housing, arts, environment, public service and safety services, they have inspired change at every level, including statewide programs. Together, they have built programs that empower individuals and uplift entire communities, embodying the very spirit of partnership and teamwork.

It is a privilege to honor this exceptional group for their vision, compassion, and unwavering commitment to creating a better future. Let us celebrate their achievements and continue to be inspired by their dedication.



Xavier Cortada

Eco-Artist

ARTS & CULTURE

Xavier Cortada is a Cuban-American artist and a member of the Florida Artists Hall of Fame. His interdisciplinary career bridges art, science, and activism, engaging people locally and globally in creative problem-solving.

A former lawyer, Cortada began his artistic journey in the 1990s by working with marginalized communities to address critical issues such as mental health, drug abuse, and youth gang violence. He later partnered with U.S. embassies and USAID to create collaborative murals across four continents, and received numerous awards, including the U.S. State Department Millennium International Volunteer Award and the CWLA Champion of Children Award.

Through the National Science Foundation and the New York Foundation for the Arts, Cortada became the only artist to create work at both of the Earth's poles. His polar projects launched multiple large-scale environmental justice initiatives including "The Underwater," recognized by the White House's 5th National Climate Assessment and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Cortada has created more than 150 public artworks—spanning murals, installations, and participatory projects—which have mobilized thousands of people and led to the restoration of over 25 acres of Miami's coastal wetlands. He has received press coverage by the New York Times, Washington Post, CNN, PBS NewsHour, NPR, and BBC.

Known as Miami's pioneer eco-artist and appointed as Miami-Dade's inaugural artist-in-residence, Cortada has also been commissioned to create art for the White House, the World Bank, CERN, and many other prestigious institutions. In recognition of his impact, Cortada has received a National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Excellence in Science Communications Award, a Creative Capital Award, and an Environmental Law Institute National Wetlands Award.

Membership Benefits A to Z

- | | |
|--|---|
| A Accounting Classes and Seminars | N Networking Events |
| B Board of Directors | O Office Supplies |
| C Consultant Referral Services | P Presentation |
| D Directors and Officers (D&O) Protection | Q Quotes for Liability Insurance |
| E Event Planning Education | R Resources |
| F Funder Information | S Sample Bank & Subscription Discounts |
| G Grantwriting and Fundraising Training | T Training |
| H Humanitarian Award Nominations | U Unemployment Insurance |
| I Incorporation and IRS Filing Help | V Voice is Vital - Advocacy |
| J Job Bank | W Webinars |
| K Knowledgebase | X EXtinguish Social Media Anxieties |
| L Legal Q&A | Y Your Bottomline |
| M Metrics | Z WZ New? Newsletter |

Descriptions of each benefit can be viewed
at www.fano.org including a video



Dionne Polite

AARP of Florida

DISASTER RELIEF

As the Director of State Operations for AARP Florida, Dionne Polite plays a vital role in developing partnerships with nonprofits and community organizations to advance the well-being of older adults across the state. With over 50 communities in her portfolio, Polite's strategic focus on collaboration ensures that AARP Florida's outreach efforts effectively address the needs of its members. AARP, a nonprofit organization with over 37 million members, relies heavily on partnerships to provide healthcare, financial services, and social programs to its vast membership.

Polite is particularly skilled in working with nonprofit partners to address healthcare accessibility and senior services in underserved areas. Her leadership has expanded AARP Florida's impact, creating opportunities for older adults to engage with their communities through education and advocacy programs. By collaborating with local nonprofits, healthcare providers, and government agencies, Polite ensures that seniors in Florida receive the support they need to live healthy, independent lives.

Her work with organizations like Livable Communities, Age-Friendly Initiative, the Broward College Foundation and the Miami-Dade Board of Elder Affairs further underscores her commitment to nonprofit partnerships. AARP's most recent partnership is with FEMA promoting Disaster Aid, the AARP Disaster Resilience Tool Kit features strategies to help local, state and community leaders and advocates reduce the risk and impacts of disasters on older adults.

These collaborations allow AARP to deliver comprehensive services to its members, from healthcare education to financial planning. Polite's leadership in fostering these partnerships validates how nonprofit collaboration is crucial to improving the quality of life for Florida's aging population.



Dr. Marie O. Etienne

Florida Nurses Association

EDUCATION

Dr. Marie Etienne is a tenured Professor of Nursing at Miami Dade College (MDC) and a leader in nursing education, advocacy, and community health. With a career spanning over two decades, Dr. Etienne has made significant contributions to both nursing education and public health, focusing on pediatrics, geriatrics, family practice, and community health. She has developed online courses for MDC's RN-BSN program and is a certified Professional Legal Nurse Consultant, adding a multidisciplinary approach to her teaching and leadership. As President of the Florida Nurses Association and a past president of the Haitian American Nurses Association, Dr. Etienne is an advocate for the nursing profession and healthcare equity, particularly for underserved communities.

Dr. Etienne's leadership extends beyond academia. She has worked closely with healthcare organizations and government bodies to address healthcare disparities, particularly in minority communities. Her involvement with the Haitian American Professionals Coalition and her leadership in the Haitian Alliance Nurses Association International exemplify her commitment to building partnerships that enhance healthcare delivery for vulnerable populations. Dr. Etienne's ability to bring together diverse groups, including healthcare professionals, educators, and policymakers, makes her an invaluable partner for organizations looking to improve healthcare outcomes through education and advocacy.

Her dedication to mentoring the next generation of nurses and her advocacy for healthcare equity ensure that her partnerships are grounded in both practical expertise and a vision for systemic change.

ANDEE EBANKS

Photographer & Content Curator

I inspire to showcase Organizations & Individuals unique stories through Photography

EVENTS:

Private Foundations
Fundraisers - Charitable Organizations - Learning Institutions - Conventions
Religious Functions - Festivals VIP Events- Product Launches, etc.

Serving South East Florida



COLLABORATION & ENDORSEMENTS:

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BRHCOC
FANO
Hanleys Foundation
ECO Resorts
Las Olas Life Market



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NOTABLE BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

- Examining balance sheets and financial statements
- Working capital management
 - inventory, receivables, payables, accruals



ACHIEVEMENTS

- 200K cash in business revenue (2yrs)
- 30K spent on business operations (2023)
 - No outside capital
- Accommodated clientele based of 45K (3yrs)
- Reduced individual tax bill (2023) by 47K through strategic financial planning and capital allocation



AUDIENCE

- Small business owners
- Solopreneurs



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Avatar

www.avatarcompany.com

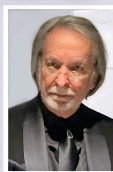
WHAT WE DO

WE HELP INTERNATIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE IN THE REALM OF BEST PRACTICES AND THEREBY ENHANCE THEIR CAPACITY TO ATTRACT AND SECURE PREDICTABLE RECURRING INCOME INCLUDING GRANT AWARDS.

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The Impact of Nonprofits in Florida

Nonprofit organizations exist to assist individuals and communities to make our world a better place. Their various missions serve the public by addressing essential services not met by the private sector. Food & Shelter, Education & Literacy, Awareness & Engagement, Child Care & Senior Services, Health, Prevention, Environment, Arts & Culture, Legal, Justice, Safety, Inequities are just some of the hundreds of ways nonprofits impact our society. Nonprofit organizations significantly affect the economy, the workforce, and collectively work towards a better future for all.

Economic Impact of the Nonprofits in Florida

- Employs 534,116 people, 6.2% of the state's workforce
- Generates nearly \$90 billion in annual revenues
- Holds assets of nearly \$206 billion
- Florida foundations annually give over \$1.7 billion
- Floridians give \$11.1 billion to charity each year, representing 3.4% of household income

Source: Independent Sector

Florida Cities with Highest # of Nonprofit Employees

Metro Area	# Nonprofits	# Employees
Miami	35,220	349,066
Tampa	16,731	155,962
Orlando	14,207	148,962
Jacksonville	9,358	95,034

Nonprofit Employees as a % of Total Employment

Source: TED-The Economics Daily as reported on the US Bureau of Labor Statistics website

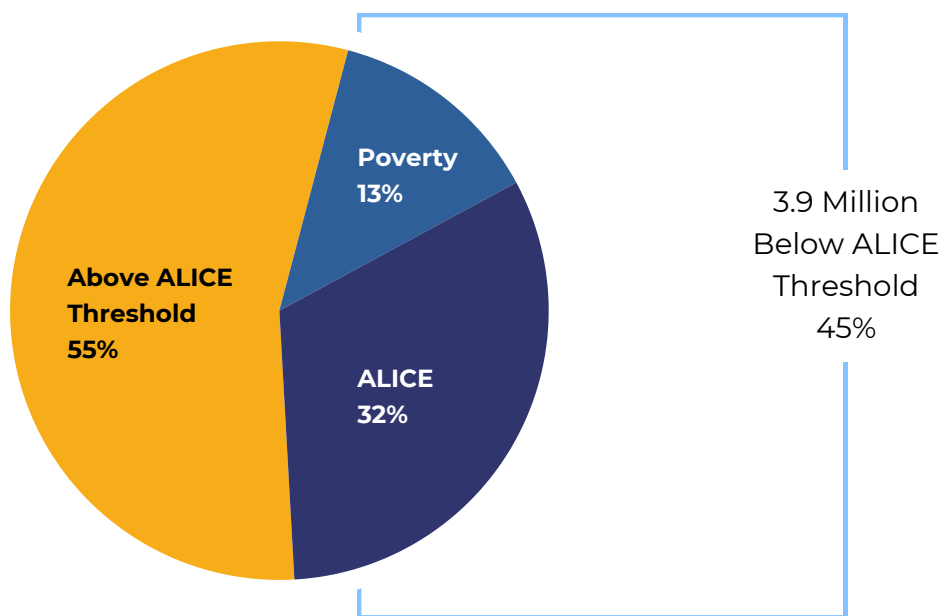
	Total Private Employees	Nonprofit Employees	% of Nonprofit vs Private Employees
Florida	8,308,654	546,791	7.2%
Miami-Dade	1,056,714	84,927	8.0%
Broward	733,136	31,086	4.2%
Hillsborough	674,160	54,426	8.1%
Orange	819,066	65,093	7.9%
Palm Beach	577,168	29,880	5.2%
Duval	498,084	54,213	10.9%

In 2022, over 350,000 nonprofits in the U.S. accounted for 12.8 million jobs, or 9.9% of private employment.

This chart represents data for Florida and its six (6) counties with population over 1 million.

ALICE in the Crosscurrents: COVID and Financial Hardship in Florida

Source: Produced by United Way of Florida in partnership with United for ALICE. It is a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship for ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) Households.



The number of households in financial hardship in Florida continues to be undercounted in official measures. According to the FPL, 13% of households in Florida (1.1 million) were in poverty in 2021.

Yet United for ALICE data shows that another 32% (2.7 million household) - more than twice as many - were ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE households earn above the FPL, but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they live.

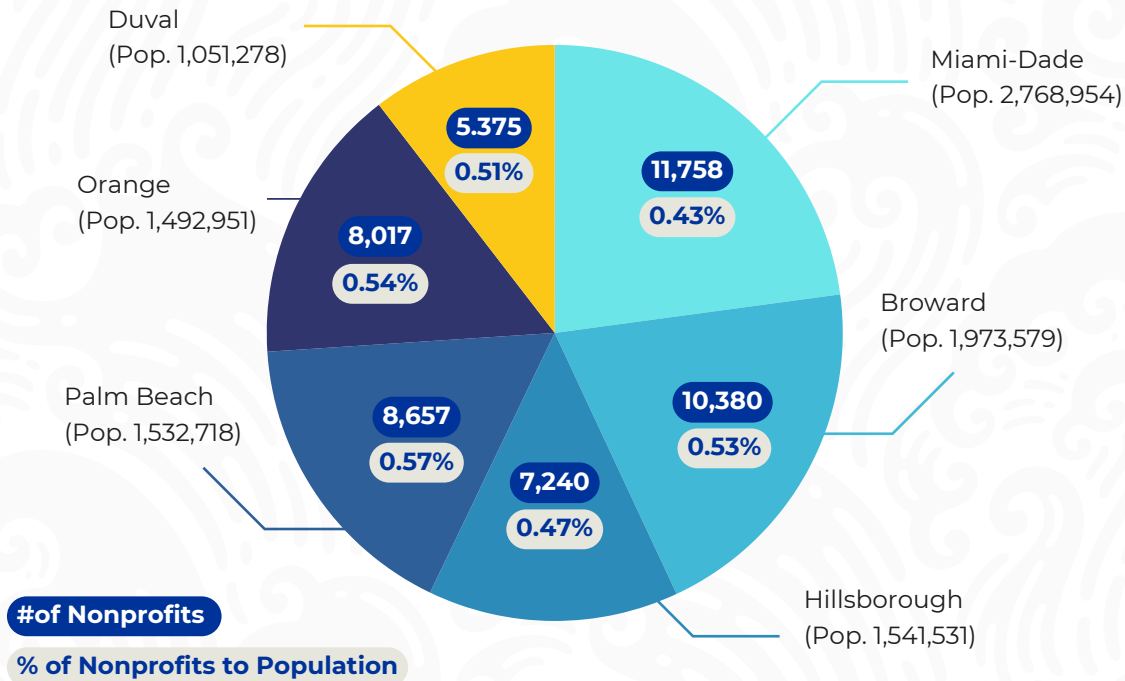
The reality is that of the 8.5 million households in Florida, 3.9 million (45%) had income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2021. These included both households in poverty and ALICE households.

You can request a copy of the full ALICE Report by emailing: members@fano.org

of 501(c)(3) Nonprofits in Florida

Counties with > 1 Million Population

Source: IRS (2022)



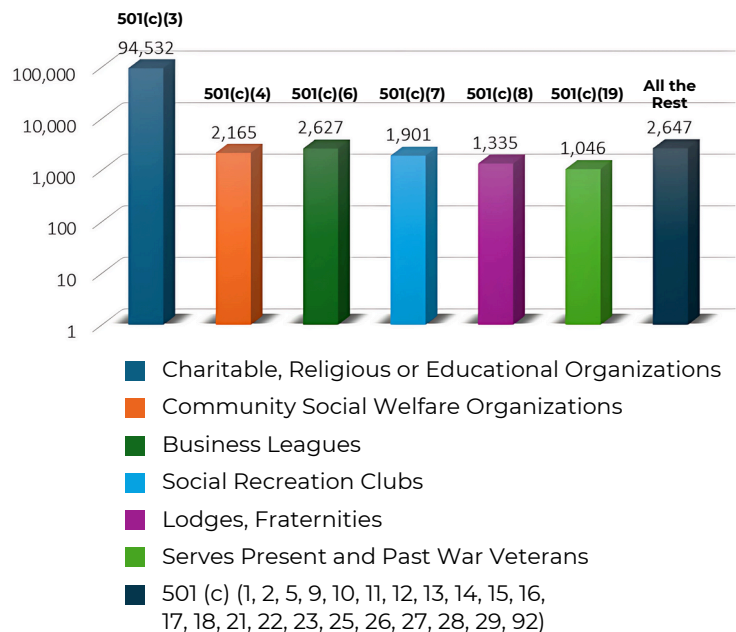
50% of all Florida 501(c)(3) Nonprofits are within the six (6) Counties with > 1 Million Population

Categories of Tax-Exempt Organizations

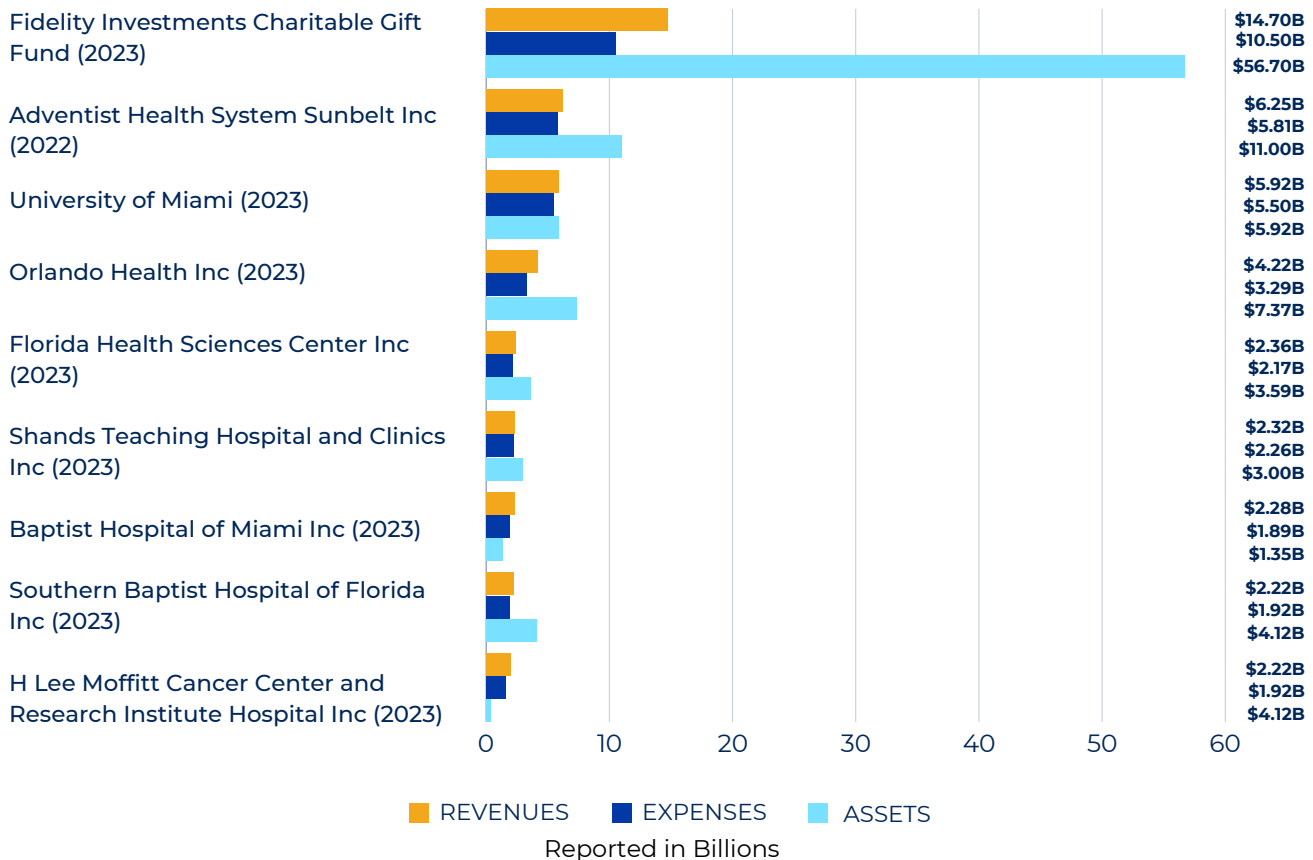
Source: IRS

Full listing of all categories and descriptions of nonprofit organizations is available by request: members@fano.org

Total Tax-Exempt Organizations in Florida: 106,253

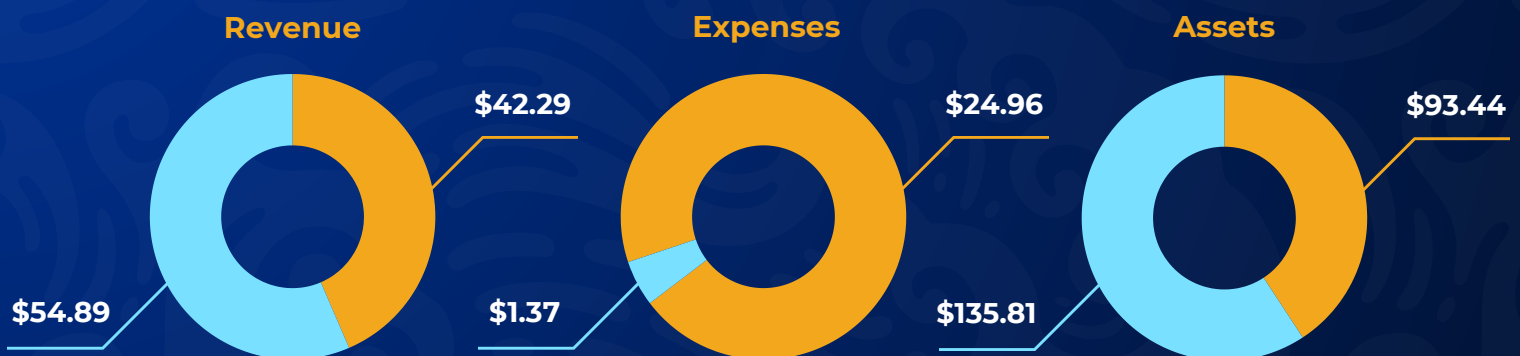


Organizations With Total Revenue Over \$2 Billion



Florida Nonprofits with Revenue Over \$1 Billion & Over \$2 Billion

- Total Nonprofit Organizations Reporting Revenue > \$1 Billion
- Total Nonprofit Organizations Reporting Revenue > \$2 Billion



Total Revenue for All 501(c)(3) Nonprofits in Florida is > \$16.5 Billion



María Hidalgo, Dr. (h.c)
Chairwoman, Florida Association of Nonprofits

Congratulations to the award recipients who have worked hard to create partnerships that have made our State a better place for all.

We are honored to have them with us to celebrate their outstanding achievements, as well as the 35th anniversary of the Florida Association of Nonprofits.

Each honoree here tonight has an impressive history of contributions to our communities.

Thank you for joining us for a memorable evening recognizing those on the forefront of change.



**PROUD TO SPONSOR THE
FLORIDA NONPROFITS'
35TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION GALA**

Independent Living Systems and the Florida Association of Nonprofits share a commitment to strengthening support systems for communities across Florida.

Congratulations to the honorees.

Independent Living Systems, offers a comprehensive range of turnkey payer services including clinical and third-party administrative services to health care organizations and providers that serve vulnerable populations in the Medicare, Medicaid, and Dual-Eligible markets.



Nestor Plana

Independent Living Systems (ILS)

HEALTHCARE

Nestor Plana, the Chairman and CEO of Independent Living Systems (ILS), is a visionary leader in healthcare management, specializing in services for vulnerable populations, including the elderly and individuals with special needs. Since founding ILS in 2001, Plana has built the organization into a leading provider of care management, long-term services, nutritional support, and transitional care. Under his leadership, ILS has developed innovative, member-centric care models that improve the quality of life for some of the most at-risk populations in the United States. His commitment to creating integrated care solutions has established ILS as a critical partner for healthcare plans, providers, and community-based organizations seeking to better serve complex care populations.

Plana's emphasis on partnership is evident in his collaborations with a wide range of stakeholders, including health plans, providers, and government agencies. His ability to navigate the complexities of healthcare systems and develop scalable solutions has earned him recognition, including the prestigious Golden Age Award from the Latino Center on Aging, for his contributions to improving the lives of Latino seniors. Plana's leadership in delivering high-quality care to underserved populations has been transformative in the healthcare sector, and his company's expertise in care coordination and long-term support services continues to set new standards in the industry. His dedication to improving healthcare access and outcomes makes him a crucial partner for any organization looking to innovate within the healthcare space.



Josefina Carbonell

Florida Community Care

HEALTHCARE

Josefina Carbonell is a trailblazer in healthcare, dedicated to improving the lives of Florida's most vulnerable populations. As President of the state's first Long-Term Care PLUS Healthplan under the Medicaid Managed Care program, and a leader within Independent Living Systems (ILS), she champions compassionate, high-quality care for the elderly and adults with disabilities.

With a deep commitment to health policy and long-term care, Carbonell's work has positively impacted thousands. Through FCC Healthplan, over 14,000 Floridians receive crucial health and support services in their homes, assisted living, or nursing facilities. In partnership with Miami-Dade Public Housing, she recently celebrated the reopening of the Ward Tower Senior Social Center—a vibrant space dedicated to enhancing seniors' quality of life. Ward Tower represents her vision of safe, welcoming communities where seniors can thrive.

Before joining FCC and ILS, Carbonell made her mark as Assistant Secretary for Aging at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under President George W. Bush. There, she oversaw a \$4.1 billion budget, led transformative initiatives like the National Family Caregivers Program, and championed the modernization of Medicare with the launch of Part D.

With her extensive experience and unwavering dedication, Carbonell remains a driving force in expanding care and creating brighter futures for our aging communities. Her leadership inspires a commitment to dignity, independence, and joy for all in their golden years.



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Congratulations to the 2024 Honorees!

United HomeCare is proud to be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports seniors, disabled adults, and family caregivers.



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Ron Book

Homeless Trust of Miami-Dade

HOMELESS PREVENTION

Serving as the Chairman of the Miami-Dade County Homeless Trust for over 25 years, Ron Book has been a leader in leveraging partnerships to combat homelessness in Florida. Under his leadership, the Trust has become a national model for addressing homelessness, thanks to its extensive partnerships with nonprofit organizations, government agencies, and private sector stakeholders. Book's ability to unite these diverse entities has been key to the Trust's success in managing a \$66 million budget and overseeing Miami-Dade's Continuum of Care for the homeless.

Book's collaboration with nonprofits such as Camillus House, United Way Miami, and the Chapman Partnership has led to significant achievements, including Miami-Dade being recognized for its efforts in ending veteran homelessness. Through partnerships with federal agencies like HUD, and local nonprofits dedicated to providing shelter, healthcare, and support services, Book has helped create a comprehensive network of resources for individuals and families facing homelessness.

In addition to his work with the Homeless Trust, Book's nonprofit leadership extends to his role as Chairman of the Lauren's Kids Foundation, which he co-founded with his daughter Senator Lauren Book, to prevent childhood sexual abuse. His commitment to nonprofit collaboration is evident in his ability to secure funding and resources for both homelessness and child protection initiatives. Book's leadership highlights the critical role nonprofits play in addressing complex social issues in Florida, ensuring that those in need have access to vital services.



Senator Rene Garcia

Miami-Dade County Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE/FOOD SERVICE

Rene Garcia, a Miami-Dade County Commissioner, has long championed the power of partnership in public service. With a career spanning over two decades, Garcia has collaborated with numerous nonprofit organizations to enhance healthcare access, mental health services, and affordable housing initiatives across Florida. His ability to build coalitions with nonprofits, local governments, and private sector stakeholders has been key to advancing his legislative priorities.

Garcia works with organizations such as Farm Share and Share Your Heart which assists food-insecure Floridians by providing the food and support they need. Farm Share distributed more than 104 million pounds of food to more than 23 million households residing in all of Florida's 67 counties.

The Commissioner has exemplified his commitment to nonprofit collaboration by partnering with nonprofit healthcare providers and advocacy groups to expand the Florida KidCare program for children from low-income families, assist vulnerable seniors, and enable more Floridians to receive essential care, especially in underserved communities.

As Chairman of the Public Health Trust/Medical Schools Annual Operating Agreement Committee, Garcia continues to emphasize the importance of public-private partnerships in addressing Miami-Dade County's healthcare needs. His work on the Community Health Committee and the Housing, Recreation, Culture and Community Development Committee further demonstrates his devotion to leveraging nonprofit partnerships to create sustainable solutions for social challenges.



Dr. Barbara E. Sanchez

Crime Prevention Alliance of Florida
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians Business Council

SAFETY

With over 25 years of dedication, Dr. Barbara Sanchez has been a guiding force in building partnerships to reduce crime and foster safety. Her work extends across borders, from community police education to championing senior citizens' safety, earning recognition from leaders worldwide. Dr. Sanchez's efforts have reached the White House under President George W. Bush, the International Police Association, and leaders in countries such as Peru, Argentina, and Chile. Her determination has led her to over 17 countries and is so valued that the Policia of Puerto Rico awarded her a full uniform as a symbol of honor.

Dr. Sanchez believes that knowing our neighbors and working together with law enforcement are essential. Through her sincere approach, she reminds us that unity can indeed save lives.

Currently completing her PhD in Criminal Justice, Dr. Sanchez continues to grow her impact, inspiring others to join her mission. As a mother of three, she teaches her children the importance of respect and the value of community. She is a leader, advocate, and visionary in the global fight for safer communities.





Happy Birthday
MONTY TRAINER



Monty Trainer

Servant Leader, Nonprofit Advocate, Philanthropist

LAWTON'S HEART HUMANITARIAN LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Monty Trainer is a legendary civic icon, nonprofit advocate and volunteer, political influencer, and global cultural ambassador in the State of Florida.

Celebrating nearly 50 years as an award-winning, internationally recognized multiple restaurant entrepreneur, his namesake business Monty's Bayshore Restaurant was branded Florida's first culinary landmark destination. Monty Trainer, known as "Grove Father" - the true ambassador of Coconut Grove - is simply known as Monty by celebrities such as Cher, Madonna, and Bono, and many famous musicians including Gloria Estefan, Jimmy Buffet, Joni Mitchell, and others.

His brand has been co-marketed as a corporate partner with many entertainment and charity events, television, sports, and attractions which include the American Airlines Arena, Miami Heat, Florida Panthers, Miss America, Miss Universe, Coconut Grove Arts Festival, Sister Cities International, as well as Miami Dade County Days in Tallahassee, known for the World-famous "Paella Fest" promoting Latin and Caribbean culture serving the Governor and Florida Legislature.

Monty is founder and Chair of the Greater Miami Host Committee holding world-class signature events since 1981 such as the Summit of the Americas, Florida's first Super Bowl, Miami Broward Carnival, Miami Dade Millennium, Viva Florida 500 partnered with the 35th Annual Big Orange New Year's Eve Celebration.

A past Florida Chairman of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic partnering with Florida Atlantic University, Florida Public Schools, and statewide correctional institutions, Mr. Trainer is a Trustee for Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, and also serves on the Board of Directors of the Coconut Grove BID, the Miami-Dade County Cultural Affairs Council, and the Miami Dade League of Cities. Mr. Trainer is former Chair of the Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, and former Chairman of the New World School of the Arts, forming a partnership for fundraising and educational expansion with his alma mater - the University of Florida. Mr. Trainer is a University of Florida Bull Gator and a University of Miami Golden Cane. He avidly supports both institutions with his alumni membership of Florida Blue Key and the UM Iron Arrow Society providing food services for athletes.

He has been a consultant for the National Restaurant Association, universities including FIU School of Hospitality Management, international restaurants and hotel operations including the Marriott and Hilton chains. He hosts, serves, and receives guests and visitors from around the world with goodwill, offering his style of reception and entertainment.

Monty Trainer has been honored in the Congressional Record and by the Florida Legislature for his many years of service to South Florida and International Communities.

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Making Waves Through Nonprofit Partnerships

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