How do you know if you are really making a difference?

We asked ourselves that very question nearly three years ago. Yes, we know tens of thousands of people receive help each year, but how do we know if we’re making progress toward solving some of our community’s biggest social service issues?

Investing for results

With that challenge before us, we went to work with a team of volunteers, field experts, United Way professionals, nonprofits and community investors to become even more effective in delivering results that have a lasting impact in Miami-Dade.

The result: a new community plan focused on achieving outcomes in four specific areas determined to be essential in improving people’s lives and strengthening Miami-Dade:

- helping kids and families lead successful lives;
- improving health and independence;
- responding to emergency and basic needs; and
- encouraging civic and neighborhood involvement.

As of July 1, 2005, United Way will begin investing in key strategies that address specific goals in our four areas of focus. We have partnered with over 130 programs at 66 agencies that are committed to impacting individual lives in measurable and definable ways. Each has received specific training to prepare them to do so. Going forward, we will learn not only who our community plan helps, but also how their lives are improved; and, over time, what strategies are most effective at producing the outcomes we desire.

Elevating issues

Advocating for good public policy is another way we deliver outcomes that matter. We experienced success in this arena as well. At the county level, we played an active role in supporting the passing of Miami-Dade’s General Obligation Bond. At the state level, we supported expanding healthcare for children of low-income families, we testified in Tallahassee on the importance of quality universal pre-kindergarten for all of Florida’s four-year-olds, and we convened legislators and other key stakeholders around proposed Medicaid reforms. All along, we made it easy for you to speak out through our website.

A national model for quality early childhood education

For many years, we’ve partnered with a host of experts and community supporters to create a solution to the ever-growing need for quality childcare. Today, momentum toward reaching that solution continues to grow, thanks to efforts that include the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation, Early Learning Coalition of Dade and Monroe Counties, the Children’s Trust, and others.

This spring, as we broke ground on the United Way Center for Excellence in Early Education, we took another giant step toward turning our vision into reality. As a world-class, innovative teaching and demonstration facility, the Center advances our long-standing commitment to giving children the tools they need to succeed to the national level.

The Center features:

- a demonstration school for 140 children where various early learning philosophies will be modeled and innovation design elements featured;
- a resource and training center, which will offer innovative research, education and training programs for parents, teachers, businesses, early child care providers, and researchers;
- a national advisory board featuring the top minds in early childhood education and children’s advocacy; and
- a Children’s Advocacy Complex, which will provide housing and meeting space for other children’s planning organizations;

- partnerships with Miami-Dade’s major colleges and universities on curriculum development, training and research components.

More than 35 individuals and organizations have made gifts in support of the creation of the Center’s creation, eight gifts exceed $1 million: The Batchelor Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, Inc., Miguel S. Fernandez and family, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Glenn and Bennett Lafitte, Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises, the Suffer family and one anonymous gift.

Other milestones in 2004-2005

When four major hurricanes stormed through Florida, United Ways throughout the state went to work – distributing food, baby supplies and medicines; providing rent and utility assistance, temporary shelter and temporary childcare; deploying volunteers; and answering thousands of calls for help.

We generated $36 million locally in relief funds to help the hurricane victims in Florida and the Caribbean and the tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

- That same generosity came to life in our annual fundraising drive when giving through United Way toped $19 million. Add to that the value of matching gifts, volunteer time and in-kind gifts, and the total resources we generated this past year exceeded $84 million.

- For the third straight year, Charity Navigator, United Way of Miami-Dade is one of 1,400 autonomous United Ways around the country. Each is governed solely by a local volunteer board. Following are the leaders who guide your United Way:

   BOARD CHAIR
   George L. Memmott, Esq.

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   FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (305) 830-1500 OR VISIT WWW.UnitedWayMiami.org

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$88,447,454 Generated for Miami-Dade

United Way at work in our community

Sources of revenue and services:

- Estimated gross campaign and other revenues $53,213,000
- United Way overhead2 $6,165,490
- Investments for the future $5,327,733
- Special grants $2,601,856
- Matching gifts $3,584,927
- Volunteer time $3,774,661
- In-kind gifts $9,678,544
- Total estimated resources $88,447,454

How estimated resources will be used:

- United Way campaign 62%
- United Way paid out 38%

1 Includes administrative and operating expenses, as well as distribution of governmental matching gifts, revenue or proceeds provided for administrative use and in-kind gifts.

2 Includes administrative and operating expenses. United Way gross resources generated ($33,322,162).

2 Estimated gross campaign and other revenues generated ($27,890,838).