

# The Capital "U"

# Rollins student, HCC volunteer, and former HCC program participant reflects on the impact of Unity

When I think of Hope CommUnity Center and why we capitalize the "U" in CommUnity, I think of the unified support I experienced during my past 10 years being involved with Hope. I have been positively touched by the sense of community at Hope in all areas of my life.

The Sin Fronteras (Without Boundaries) Youth Group gave me the **opportunity to discover the leader I am**, to serve my community and to grow my compassion and respect for others. The Nurturing

Family Parenting classes allowed me to connect and unify with my family at a moment when we all felt like strangers. Standing up for my rights and accepting vulnerability by sharing my story give me strength to continue fighting for justice for all. The College & Career Access Program gave me hope at moments of uncertainty, allowing me to continue furthering my education. **The Hope family celebrated me** when I completed my Associates of Arts Degree, and they will celebrate me again when I finish my Bachelors degree this Spring.

**(** It's the unity of the programs and the unity of the people that create true life-changing experiences for many. **?** 

During my moments of fear and uncertainty, Hope was there. During my accomplishments and proudest moments, Hope was also there. **It's the unity of the programs and the unity of the people that create true life-changing experiences for many.** This unity creates the Hope CommUnity Center mission.

We rely on all members of the community to make Hope's mission come to life. We are grateful for you, our many friends. Through your generosity and continuous support as donors, advocates, volunteers and partners, you are helping Hope's mission of building commUnity and enriching lives.

-Astrid Rodriguez



Hope CommUnity Center is a service learning community dedicated to the empowerment of Central Florida's immigrant and working poor communities through education, advocacy, and spiritual growth. Stailey Styles leads the prayer at HCC's grand opening of its second building in the summer of 2016. HCC's opening occurred shortly after the traumatic Pulse Night Club attack that targeted predominately LGBTQ+ Latinx people. HCC youth Yoseline holds a sign in recognition of this tragedy.



% According to the contract of the contract of

... of the Community Advisory Committee consists of Parenting Class alumni. This group meets monthly to plan annual community events.



... volunteer service hours were contributed by HCC's Board of Directors.

*... Citizenship Class* participants became new U.S. citizens.

**66** It has been a privilege and a blessing for us to be a small part of your strong and vibrant ministry. **99** -Tutors Katie and Hugh McManus

**661 feel free when I share** my story [when I'm at Hope]. **97** -Community Member

... community service hours fulfilled by HCC's Sin Fronteras Youth Group for HCC events and programs.







... in scholarships were distributed among 37 students to ease their financial burdens. The students are studying at 7 colleges, universities, and technical schools.

... people received services from Hope CommUnity Center.



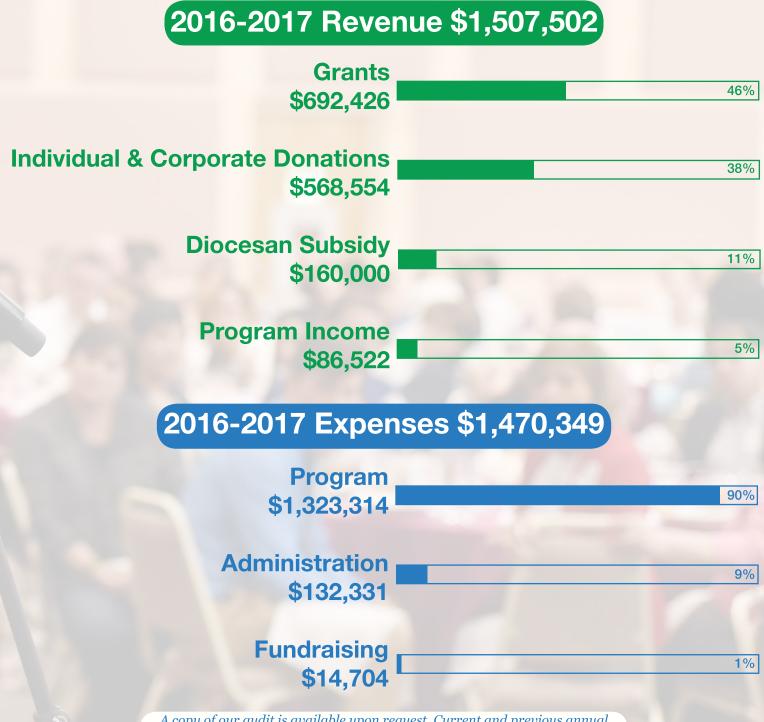
Linda Leonard-Woods is a devoted Citizenship Class volunteer and donor at Hope CommUnity Center. She says about HCC, "I am inspired by the unity of staff, volunteers, and AmeriCorps who fight for social justice and who work together to build a community of respect."





#### **"U" Brought it All Together**

The capital "U" in Hope CommUnity Center is a testament to the incredible unified spirit of donors, volunteers, staff, board and community. Together we not only believe real change is possible in Central Florida–we are watching it happen as Hope CommUnity Center continues to build "commUnities" and enrich lives! **We are grateful for your confidence, continued investment and partnership with Hope.** 



A copy of our audit is available upon request. Current and previous annual reports, as well as a list of funders are available at hcc-offm.org.

Notre Dame AmeriCorps alumnus Shawn Welcome performs two spoken word pieces, *Rio* and *Dragon's Blood*, at the Hearts for Hope luncheon in February 2017. The luncheon raised over \$125,000 that supported Hope's programming and scholarship funds.

### **HCC Board of Directors**

Michael Almeida, Human Resources, Walt Disney Company Jean Bauman, Business Owner Mary Carroll, LMHC Linda Landman Gonzalez, VP Orlando Magic Linda Ley-Siemer, Education Consultant Robert McIntosh, Retired Attorney Giorgina Pinedo-Rolón, GIO Communications Roxanne Rose, Property Management Betsy Swart, Professor, U. of Southern California Flor Tovar, FLOR Foundation Maggie Woods, Retired School Principal

**66** I volunteer at HCC to be part of something far larger than myself. Together as a community we can make a difference in the lives of the disenfranchised and poor communities of Central Florida. Working together is how change happens. **99** 

-Board Member Mary Carroll

## **HCC Staff Members**



Dulce Barrera Anallely Becerra Gina Castaño Ely Castillo Minerva Colón Abel Cortez David Crump Mariela Delgado Lynn Devanie Reca Fernandez Laura Firtel Chris Furino Eli Garcia Sr. Ann Kendrick Roxana Martel Nilka Meléndez Elizabeth Ortel Elizabeth Riebel Ivis Rodriguez Marlene Rodriguez Alexander Saunders Stailey Styles Teresa Young

Hope has a loving and diverse family of staff members who work in six departments and ten programs overall. Assisting in this incredible effort were 8 Notre Dame Mission Volunteer AmeriCorps members.

Featured above (from left to right): Ivis and Elizabeth tutor a young student; Mariela, Sr. Ann, and Laura get thrown in "jail" at the Kermes Spring Festival; and Eli and Anallely lead a Know Your Rights training for Central Florida immigrant communities.



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