

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE First Federal Bank Donates \$10,000 to United Way of North Central Florida for Home Sweet Home Initiative

GAINESVILLE, FL (May 15, 2020) — Earlier this year, First Federal Bank presented United Way of North Central Florida (UWNCFL) with a \$10,000 check for their Home Sweet Home initiative.

The Home Sweet Home initiative aims to help find solutions to end childhood homelessness. Through partnerships with the school system, homeless service providers and other nonprofit organizations, this comprehensive approach helps families avoid or escape homelessness.

"As soon as we heard about the Home Sweet Home initiative, we knew we wanted to help however we could," said First Federal Bank CEO & President, John Medina. "Giving families the chance to be in a home together is vital to a healthy family. We're honored to be a part of this initiative with United Way of North Central Florida and the other local agencies, and are thankful for their hard work."

"We are so thankful for this partnership with First Federal Bank," said UWNCFL President & CEO, Mona Gil de Gibaja. "Partnerships like this help to create a support system in our community for the children and families who need it the most."

This check presentation was held on February 11 to celebrate "211 Day," bringing awareness to United Way's 211 resource and referral line. 211 is a free and confidential service and first step for those in need in our community to find shelter or rental assistance to prevent the trauma of homelessness among other services provided, explained Gil de Gibaja.

The Home Sweet Home initiative is one of UWNCFL's many collaborations and partners with various local nonprofit organizations, such as Family Promise, to ensure families have a safe place to call home. If you need help with housing please dial 2-1-1 or 352-332-4636, or visit <u>www.unitedwayncfl.org/211</u>.

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United Way of North Central Florida fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in our community and has been a staple in North Central Florida since 1957. We serve a six-county area that includes Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy and Union counties. Since our inception, we have raised nearly \$100 million for the region. Our top priority is to create real social change that leads to better lives and healthier communities for North Central Florida.

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