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UPLIFT Florida Network

July 2022

UPLIFT Florida Network's mission is to improve the well-being of individuals and communities via a network of villages and organizations supporting them. For more information or to get involved, contact UPLIFT Formation Team's chairperson Emile Gauvreau: revgauvreau@protonmail.com.

Existing Villages Meeting & Village Formation Cohort Meetings Underway



Efforts are underway to meet with existing and developing villages in Florida regularly. By connecting and engaging existing villages, UPLIFT hopes to provide a forum to learn, share, and collaborate to further the success and impact of villages! UPLIFT's associate villages

include [Lutheran Intentional Village - Upper Pinellas](#) (LIV-UP), [Neighbors Network](#), [Neighbor to Neighbor in the Nenes](#), and [Wellington Cares LL](#). Currently, UPLIFT is supporting the development of the Neighbor to Neighbor Network of Lee County and [Pueblos en la Comunidad](#).

If you are an individual or organization interested in the possibility of creating a village in your community, contact us at info@upliftflorida.org.

Take Sarasota County's Broadband Survey to Help Improve Our Communities

Accessing broadband and technology is a core need of any community and business. Broadband is a conduit delivering education, communication, telehealth, business opportunities, and social interaction to Sarasota County. It keeps our community engaged and vital! The Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)'s Office of Broadband has several funding opportunities to address broadband equity barriers within our community.

To help qualify for funding, Sarasota County was required to form a Local Technology Planning Team (LTPT) to identify underserved areas with broadband equity barriers such as affordability, device needs, and language barriers. Sarasota County's LTPT must conduct two surveys: one that focuses on citizens and one on businesses. The data collected, along with targeted focus groups, will be used to create a plan for submission to Florida DEO's Office of Broadband. Once acquired, these funds will be used to help improve equity barriers to service throughout Sarasota County.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey(s) below by July 30, 2022!

If you are a business in Sarasota County: <https://arcg.is/14yrK80>

If you are a Sarasota County citizen: <https://arcg.is/1C0iiv>

Volunteer Spotlight: Cathy Lieblich



Cathy Lieblich recently joined the UPLIFT Board of Directors and is the new president of [Neighbors Network](#), one of four existing villages in Florida. She has been involved with Neighbors Network since 2016.

Since joining UPLIFT's board, Cathy has served as co-lead for the Village Formation Team, met with potential UPLIFT volunteers and strategic partners, and followed up with people that have expressed an interest in forming a village and/or becoming involved with UPLIFT.

Cathy will be "retiring" at the end of August after over 40 years of experience in the field of aging on the local, state, and national levels. She considers herself lucky to have been able to



Associate Village Spotlight: Neighbors Network



The slogan of one of UPLIFT’s associate villages sums up its essence: “Neighbors Network is not a place, it’s a way of living.”

Neighbors Network (NN) is dedicated to helping members 55+ stay independent, active, and connected. NN’s expansive service area includes Winter Park, Maitland, Eatonville, College Park, Baldwin Park, and surrounding neighborhoods.

Vetted volunteers assist members with household tasks, minor household repairs, errands, organizing, uncluttering, technology support, and rides to medical appointments, hair salons, grocery stores, pharmacies, and more. During FY 2020–2021, NN supported members to remain living safely and independently in their homes by providing over 1,500 services delivered by volunteers.

Social activities, including lunches, book clubs, museum tours, and nature walks, keep members active and engaged with each other and the community. Combating social isolation during COVID called for creativity. NN came through, offering a Zoom-based book club, home delivery of volunteer-baked treats, and a weekly bookmobile that provided books donated by members, volunteers, and others.

To learn more about this vibrant village, visit <https://neighborsnetworkfl.org/>.

July is Ultraviolet Safety Awareness Month

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SUN SAFETY



Ultraviolet Safety Awareness Month reminds us to protect ourselves from the harmful effects of UV rays. To protect yourself from the sun, the CDC recommends these helpful tips:

- Minimize sun exposure during peak and midday hours
- Wear sunscreen before sun exposure to the sun and reapply it every two hours
- Use protective barriers such as hats, sunglasses, and clothing to block full sun exposure

Learn more [here](#).

The Affordable Connectivity Program Helps Households Afford Internet Service

Affordable Connectivity Program
*Helping Households Get
Access to Broadband*

A photograph of a young girl with a pink flower in her hair, a woman in a yellow top, and an older man with a white beard, all smiling and looking at something together.

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC benefit program that Congress created to help ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.



Learn if you qualify and apply at: AffordableConnectivity.gov

[The Affordable Connectivity Program \(ACP\)](#) is an FCC benefit program that helps households afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare, and more. The

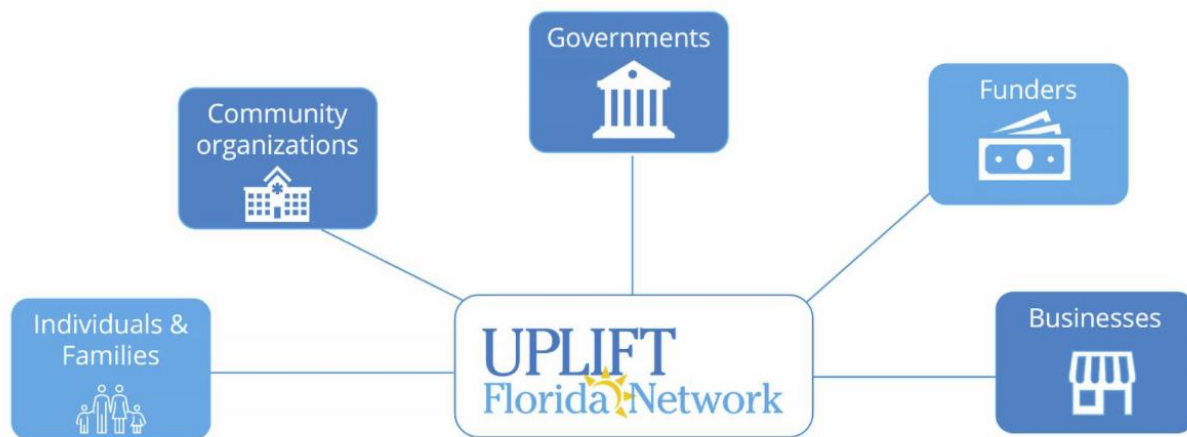
benefit provides a discount of \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

A household is eligible for ACP if the household income is at or below 200% of the [Federal Poverty Guidelines](#) or if a household member participates in an assistance program like SNAP, Medicaid, Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, and more. To apply electronically or print out a mail-in application, go to [AffordableConnectivity.gov](#).

Please share this widely with your entire network!

Become A Strategic Partner



[UPLIFT Florida Network](#) aspires to contribute to the diverse ecosystem by improving the well-being of older adults via strategic partnerships with families, schools, cultural and health organizations, businesses, and governments so Floridians can live, thrive, and age comfortably in community. Critical to UPLIFT's success is identifying and implementing innovative new strategies, services, and alliances with like-minded nonprofit organizations and our villages. **Sign up [here](#) if you are interested in attending UPLIFT's initial strategic alliance meeting in the summer of 2022 to discuss collaborative opportunities.**

Are you Prepared for Hurricane Season?

Hurricane Season runs from June 1 through November 30, 2022. AARP Florida provides resources such as online videos, toolkits, how-to guides, and more. You can access these resources [here](#) and additional ones at aarp.org/fldisasterhelp.



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