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UPLIFT Florida Network

November 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 us at info@upliftflorida.org.

Meeting the Growing Needs of Older Adults Through Collaborations

Leveraging Resources Handbook

Collaborations between Villages
and Area Agencies on Aging



UPLIFT Board member [Cynthia Ayris Kemp](#) served as the consultant on a seven-month research project conducted by the [Village to Village Network](#), which culminated with the release of the [Leveraging Resources Handbook: Collaborations between Villages and Area Agencies on Aging](#). With the knowledge and connections gained through this valuable work, Cynthia intends to help UPLIFT meet the growing needs of older adults across Florida through innovative collaborations. [Download the handbook](#). Read Cynthia's experience and insights into the process, challenges, and benefits of starting and maintaining successful collaborations in her blog [here](#).

**Individuals & Communities Helping
Pre, Post, and During Hurricane Ian**



In September, Hurricane Ian landed in Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, leaving much destruction and damage behind. Millions of people were impacted both directly and indirectly. As promised, UPLIFT Florida Network is sharing stories emphasizing the truth that we are better and stronger together. These feel-good stories, which are beacons of hope from people willing and wanting to help others in need, is what UPLIFT is all about through its work to create a network of [villages](#).

[Continue Reading](#)



**Volunteer Spotlight:
Maribel Martinez**

Why Consider Starting a Village in your Community? By Cathy Lieblich



We all want to live our lives on our own terms as we age and connect with the people, communities, and resources that interest us. Villages are self-governing, caring communities that enable older adults to remain living in the home and community they love while helping

Maribel Martinez is the Principal of [Maribel Martinez Consulting](#), a minority woman-owned small business based in Miami, Florida, with over 25 years of experience in K-12 teaching, educational professional development, technology integration, nonprofit management, business development, and digital inclusion. She is respected nationally as a digital inclusion expert committed to lifting up women, students, and seniors, especially in Black and Latino communities. Her work with [UPLIFT Florida Network](#) began in 2022 after learning about the initiative through consulting with [The Patterson Foundation's Digital Access for All](#) initiative. Maribel's interest in UPLIFT stems from experiences with her elderly parents and using technology to bridge distances, help with day-to-day tasks, and entertain. She is excited to continue working with UPLIFT in the hopes that one day, aging in place with the help of resources like digital tools will become commonplace.

older neighbors do the same. Learn what a village is and whether you'd be interested in working with UPLIFT to make it a reality in your community.

[Continue to Blog](#)



Fall is Flu Season

[The CDC](#) recommends a yearly seasonal influenza (flu) vaccine as the first and most important step in protecting against flu viruses. While flu viruses are detected year-round in the U.S, they typically circulate [during the fall and winter, with flu](#) activity beginning to increase in October and peaking between December and February.

Understanding the Digital Divide

Who Is Eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program?

- Has an income that is at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines
- Participates in one of these assistance programs: Free and Reduced-Price School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision; SNAP; Medicaid; Federal Public Housing Assistance; SSI; WIC; Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits; or Lifeline
- Participates in Tribal specific programs: Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, or Tribal Head Start (income based)
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income program



Find out if you qualify and how to participate. Visit: fcc.gov/ACP

As we discussed last month, not everyone has access to the internet. Why? The digital

divide. Simply put, the digital divide is the gap between those who have access to the internet and computers and those who don't.

What has to change to close this gap and achieve digital equity? One factor is availability – increase access to the internet. Second is affordability – lower the cost of access. Third, quality – raise the speed and reliability of the internet. Gaps in availability, affordability, and quality exist at the national, state, and local levels, especially in rural, remote, and lower-income areas.

What's being done? The Federal Communications Commission (FCC)'s [Affordable Connectivity Program](#) provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. [Florida's Office of Broadband](#) offers funding opportunities to address broadband equity barriers within communities. Nonprofits support digital inclusion and digital equity through convenings, funding, and collaborations. For example, [The Patterson Foundation's Digital Access for All initiative](#) explores the efforts of multiple sectors working to enhance access to technology.

[Take Florida's Office of Broadband Internet Speed Test](#)

[View Florida's Broadband Availability Map](#)

[Spread the word about ACP to your community](#)

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