

Better Together is deeply grateful for the steadfast commitment of the remarkable women of Impact 100 St. Lucie. Their support, alongside our strong and collaborative community partnerships, makes our work possible every day.

Thanks to the generous Impact 100 St. Lucie Grant and the unwavering dedication of our incredible team, Better Together has achieved significant milestones over the past year in St. Lucie County. Together, we have empowered families, strengthened communities, and kept children safely out of foster care through compassion, meaningful connection, and community-driven support.

Over the past year, we have deepened our collaboration with essential partners across the county with the Department of Children and Families (DCF), local law enforcement, school districts, and hospital systems. These relationships have helped ensure that cases are identified, referred, and triaged with greater efficiency and coordination, ultimately improving outcomes for the families we serve.

In addition, our team successfully recruited 48 new community partners. A few notable additions include the Maternal Health Program, Women's Health Centers, GraceWay Village, the UP Center, and Mustard Seed Ministries. Each of these partnerships has broadened our reach in meaningful ways, enabling us to support more families in crisis, offer children increased safety and stability, and open the door to additional employment opportunities within the communities we serve.

During this grant period, our expanded Better Jobs program significantly increased its reach and momentum. We hosted four countywide job fairs, bringing together local employers, community partners, and job seekers in a supportive, resource-rich environment. Through these events, our team facilitated more than 182 interviews, leading to over 60 individuals being hired on the spot. These immediate job placements not only provided families with critical financial stability, but also strengthened long-term pathways toward self-sufficiency and economic resilience.

Best of all, over 78% of participants said they left feeling more confident, which is exactly what our impact is all about: restoring hope, building confidence, and opening doors to opportunity.

On November 3, 2025, our Central East Florida team reached an exciting milestone by hosting their very first Doing Good Together Reception. These annual receptions are evenings of food, fellowship, and celebration, bringing together our volunteers, community partners, and supporters to reflect on the impact we've made together in our community. During the event, Maru, a St. Lucie resident and one of the families we've supported, courageously shared her story and her journey toward stability for her family.

More than 40 supporters attended the reception, including notable community leaders Janet Maffucci and Diane Stark-Kennedy of Impact 100 in Port St. Lucie. Their participation, along with the presence of so many dedicated partners, underscored the growing regional momentum behind our mission.

While we have a strong track record of meeting and exceeding our goals, building community awareness and recruiting a diverse group of volunteers remains an area of ongoing growth, especially as our programs continue to expand. Volunteers are the heartbeat of our mission, as the ones who open their homes, mentor parents, support children in crisis, and help families regain stability. Through this grant cycle we proudly recruited 53 new volunteers, a meaningful

step forward, yet we recognize that continued growth is essential to meet the increasing needs of our community.

As we look ahead, strengthening our volunteer base ensures that no family has to wait for support, and no child is left without a safe place to stay. Continuing to invest in volunteer engagement is essential to sustaining and expanding the impact of our mission as we plan to increase our presence at community events, host volunteer interest sessions with churches, expand digital outreach and storytelling and enhance volunteer appreciation efforts. Together, these actions will help us build a more diverse, compassionate network of volunteers to ensure that no family in crisis is left without support.

Your contribution has made a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve and has helped us create a positive and lasting impact in the St. Lucie Community.

Sincerely,

Miranda Haupert

Development Grant Manager