



UNITED WAY OF THE BIG BEND
32304 ZIP Code Impact Information
September 2023

United Way of the Big Bend (UWBB) uses the United Way Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) Report data as an informational tool for reviewing where their initiatives can have impact. This led to UWBB's decision to pilot a Kindergarten readiness program like the UWBB ReadingPals program at the VPK site for the Riley school children, down at Wesson Elementary. The mentors loved their KinderPals. UWBB is expanding to Pineview in Fall 2023 as well. Mentors in this program support their Pals' practice of early literacy and other kindergarten readiness skills. Just like in the ReadingPals program, the Kindergartners get to take home a book each week. UWBB knows that the most effective way to raise people out of poverty is to address educational success.

UWBB also knows that residents in this ZIP Code need mechanisms for gaining financial stability. Knowing that every penny counts for families in this inflationary time, of the 14 UWBB sites providing Volunteer Income Tax program, in 2023 three were in the 32304 ZIP Code. These sites were Tallahassee Community College, Joe Louis Community Center and the Lincoln Neighborhood Center. These three sites, plus the other 11, combined brought over \$2 million dollars back to community members via full refunds.

UWBB is partnering with and funding an agency whose program addresses a critical gap in early care services by providing access to free childcare for parents who are looking for work or trying to get into work training programs. This would then allow them to qualify for state and federal funding assistance for childcare. This is a real gap for families in the 32304 ZIP Code.