FAITH & COMMUNITY LEADERS RALLYING TOGETHER FOR A COMMON CAUSE

UPLIFT COMMUNITIES









Collaboration with the Faith Community

A collaboration critical for community wellness and health. LSF Health Systems' Uplift Communities initiative is aligned with the Governor's Faith and Community Initiatives' objectives:

- Highlight and Recognize Faith organizations working in our rural areas
- Open communication between the state, state agencies, and Florida's faith and community organizations.
- Enhance care for children and those in need.

About Uplift Communities

Uplift Communities was launched in 2022 to bring together behavioral health providers, community stakeholders and faith leaders committed to the health and well-being of their communities. The objective is to bring greater awareness of mental health issues as well as resources in our rural communities and increase collaboration and impact.

Our Vision

"We envision our faith communities empowered to confidently provide support, education, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by mental health and substance misuse disorders, through strong collaboration with community services."

Results of Uplift

- Churches are hosting Mental Health First Aide Trainings
- Opening of a Resource Center for services and better access to care.
- Noted an increase in Foster Homes and request for information
- Creation of Non-Profits addressing Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Opening of Cold Night Shelters for Homeless
- Collaboration between agencies and the Faith Community
- Awarded the Religious Sector Champion of 2025

LEARN MORE

uplift@lsfnet.org

A comprehensive study by Grim and Grim (2019) with 278 studies on alcohol abuse revealed that 86% showed faith reduced risks of abuse. Similarly, 84% of 185 studies on drug use found faith to be a protective factor.

www.lsfupliftcommunities.org

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons needing special accommodations to participate in any meeting/hearing should contact Fatou Mbaye at 904-900-1075 for assistance. LSF Health systems is a Managing Entity contracted with the Department of Children and Families.

UPLIFT
HERNANDO

Hope Grows in Every Community; Connecting Neighbors For a Brighter Tomorrow

Resources for Mental Health & Substance Misuse

WHEN
April 22, 2027

TIME
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WHERE
Christian Church in the Wildwood
Bulding A, 10051 Country Rd, Brooksville, FL

THE NEED IN HERNANDO COUNTY

1 in 4
people who seek mental health treatment turn to clergy first — more than psychiatrists or doctors
National Comorbidity Survey

139:1
People per Mental Health Provider, ranking Hernando in the bottom tier statewide

21.2%
of adults in Hernando County report experiencing frequent mental distress

Across rural Florida, the church is often the most trusted and accessible gathering space. Uplift equips congregations to host mental health and recovery resources where people already feel safe — turning every church into a bridge between need and care. Florida needs 545 more mental health practitioners just to meet minimum standards (HRSA, 2025)

WHAT WE DO

Uplift Communities is an initiative of LSF Health Systems, launched under the Governor's Faith and Community Initiative. We bring behavioral health providers, community stakeholders, and faith leaders together to reduce stigma, open communication, and strengthen care.

THREE OBJECTIVES

- **Raise Awareness**
  Create safe spaces to discuss mental health & substance misuse openly, reducing stigma.
- **Connections**
  Connect agencies, providers, and faith organizations to improve services and provide warm handoffs.
- **Enhance Care**
  Train community leaders and build referral networks.

PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP

Your investment in Uplift Communities goes directly to serving the people of Hernando County — funding event production, speaker honoraria, resource materials, and the follow-up outreach that connects attendees to ongoing care. Every level of support is honored and meaningful.

Level	Press Release	Listing on event landing page	Speaking Opportunity	Featured in post-event newsletter	Logo on all materials	Social Media recognition	Complementary vendor table in prime location
Community Sponsors $250					✓	✓	✓
Hope Sponsors $500				✓	✓	✓	✓
Compassion Sponsors $1,000			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Healing Sponsors $2,500		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Uplift Champions $5,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
In-Kind Sponsors:	Includes venue, catering, AV services, Printed materials, swag bags, door prizes. Named in-kind sponsors receive equivalent recognition at the same tier as value.						
Vendor Tables $50	Space for 6 foot table set up with 2 chairs, Listing in event program, distribute materials, collect contacts, full access to all event programming.						

Online

https://lsfhealthsystems.org/uplift-hernando/

By Check

Payable to Lutheran Services Florida Memo: Uplift Communities – Hernando
7785 Baymeadows Way, Suite 300
Jacksonville, FL 32256

"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."— Ecclesiastes 4:9-10