

# City of Sanibel

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS:** United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades formed as an organization in 1957 to be a grassroots, volunteer driven, neighbor helping neighbor movement that solves community problems and continues with that same philosophy today; and

**WHEREAS:** United Way 211 of Lee, Hendry, and Glades was created in August of 2003, and provides a free, confidential service available 24/7/365, that connects individuals and families to essential resources and services they need, including assistance with housing, food, healthcare, transportation, and more; and

**WHEREAS:** United Way 211 of Lee, Hendry, and Glades serves as a vital lifeline for residents in southwest Florida, offering access to hundreds of local programs and services that strengthen our community and support those in need; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2025, United Way 211 assisted 100 clients residing in the City of Sanibel, providing 65 referrals with the top needs being utility payment assistance, health care, and housing assistance; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2025, United Way 211 assisted 45,365 individuals and families in southwest Florida during times of need by providing 57,005 resources that helped households stay connected to essential support with the most pressing needs centered on utility and housing assistance, access to food pantries, support for individuals experiencing homelessness and coordinated entry into housing services; and

**WHEREAS:** In 2025, United Way 211 provided critical support to veterans and veteran families in our community, assisting a total of 1,663 veterans and veteran families and delivering 3,321 vital resources, with the most frequently identified needs including utility payment assistance, housing and rent payment assistance, access to food pantries, job search and placement services, and homelessness prevention, thereby strengthening stability, self-sufficiency, and quality of life for those who have served our nation; and

**WHEREAS:** United Way 211 specialists are trained to provide compassionate, expert guidance in finding local support, empowering individuals to navigate challenging circumstances and access life-changing resources; and

**WHEREAS:** United Way 211 has had a profound and lasting impact throughout Southwest Florida, serving as a vital connection point that helps thousands of individuals and families access essential services and supports, empowering them to overcome life's challenges and strengthen their stability, resilience, and overall well-being; and

**WHEREAS:** February 11th is recognized nationwide as 211 Day, to raise awareness and as a reminder of the essential role 211 plays in connecting people to help and hope not only in southwest Florida but nationwide.

*NOW, THEREFORE,* We, the City Council of the City of Sanibel, on behalf of the citizens and visitors of Sanibel, hereby recognize February 11, 2026, as "211 Day" in Sanibel, Florida, and do encourage all residents to learn more about the vital resources available through United Way 211 and to utilize this service when in need.

*IN WITNESS WHEREOF,* we have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the City of Sanibel to be affixed hereto.

This 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2026

  
Mike Miller, Mayor

  
Holly D. Smith, Vice Mayor

  
Laura DeBruce, Councilmember

  
John Henshaw, Councilmember

  
Richard Johnson, Councilmember