



Ivana Krkljus

Thrive Social Impact Fellow

I joined Central Florida Foundation as a Thrive Social Impact fellow in September of 2021 and during my time of working with Sandi and the rest of the fellows, I have had an immensely enriching experience and learning about systemic change through a shared set of community goals. Thrive is about discovery and curiosity, tearing down silos, implementing practical solutions, and ensuring that all of them work. It has been unclear in the past who is responsible for certain community issues. Achieving success through thrive involves streamlining goals and rewarding proven solutions for system change.

During my time as a Fellow, I had the opportunity to conduct literature reviews and conduct research in the Thrive areas in order to plan how impacts funds will accelerate, scale, pilot, or fill gaps to achieve the goals. One of my most memorable times from being a Social Impact fellow involves participating and assisting with the flow of 17 rooms event. It is becoming increasingly clear that communities around the world are able to achieve rapid progress on multiple issues simultaneously by breaking down silos and leveraging shared resources and interdependencies across economic, social, and environmental issues. Globally, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been hailed as a framework for organizing local development priorities because they combine broad technical expertise with an opportunity for cross-domain synergy. One underpinning question for local leaders attempting to address intersecting issues through the SDGs is how to facilitate new forms of collaboration? The goal of this event was to develop non-traditional partnerships, solidify coordinated actions across SDGs, and increase our collective organizational momentum.

I am grateful for my experience working with the Central Florida Foundation and I am excited to follow its journey in the future as I am confident that they will be accomplishing great things and advancing the scientific discovery by powering philanthropy, engaging with the community, and investing for positive impact.

- Ivana Krkljus