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RECOVERY FUND**
*Responding in a crisis
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Our Mission

Community Impact Powered by Philanthropy

Our Work

We unite people and organizations to create opportunities for families across generations to improve their lives through cultural, educational, economic, and social support.

Every one of us has the potential to impact another person, a cause, a community.
Be The One.

LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR AND PRESIDENT/CEO

The Future is a concept that has captivated humanity since the dawn of civilization, with many yearning to somehow know what is to come. Most people devote plenty of time envisioning tomorrow and predicting the unknown, realizing much is at stake, personally and collectively, for the decisions we make today. There is assurance in the notion that we do have some control over moments that have not yet been realized. In fact, Abraham Lincoln once said, “The best way to predict your future is to create it.”

Of course, predict as we will, some aspects of the future remain difficult—if not impossible—to plan for. Our community experienced the reality of our limitations in forecasting when Hurricane Ian smashed into the Suncoast and wrought catastrophic devastation to our region. In response, we initiated the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund to support long-term, strategic enduring initiatives that will address issues the storm made visible.

At the same time, we are gearing up for the 23rd annual Season of Sharing, our local fundraising campaign that empowers neighbors to help neighbors in need of emergency assistance. While we did not predict Ian’s damage, we were so fortunate to have the Season of Sharing fund in place to help our neighbors facing immediate needs unleashed by Ian. We could not have predicted the details of the storm; however, the emergency fund we have had in place for nearly 23 years has been a way to address acute needs. It provides relief to our communities when unforeseen emergencies are not left to spiral into ongoing crises. Read about these two Funds, their distinct purposes, and the ways in which they dovetail on page 4.

Facilitating a positive, longer-term future has been a cornerstone of the work we do at our Community Foundation. That objective is at the heart of our career success initiatives (“Work in Progress,” page 8). It is a distinct honor to connect promising, talented young people to careers in which they can find personal

fulfillment and contribute their gifts to society, whether that field is in medicine, the environment, business, or the arts.

Speaking of the arts and the future, our Community Foundation has been profoundly touched by Flora Major, whose tireless efforts in the arts have most recently been realized in Sarasota-Manatee to become the sixth community nationwide to host the Diversity In Arts Leadership (DIAL) internship program. The program, through the Americans for the Arts, connects underrepresented college students to arts leaders for engaging, illuminating internships that enable them to make connections, develop skills, and begin shifting the conversation about whose stories merit attention. Read about Major and the ways in which her passion for the arts has helped our local arts scene evolve into what it is today on page 10.

One aspect of the future that is certain: the end of the year is just around the corner. Our General Counsel, Betsy Pennewill, has provided your guide to year-end giving (page 12).

As we prepare for the coming year and contemplate the promises it holds for our communities, we remain honored and grateful for our philanthropic community, those who have been our partners in creating the future we would all like to see for generations to come.

With Appreciation,



Daniel DeLeo, Board Chair



Roxanne G. Jerde, President and CEO

TWO FUNDS, ONE COMMUNITY: STRENGTHENING THE SUNCOAST THROUGH PHILANTHROPY

Autumn takes on a different look this year with heaps of drying shrubs and uprooted trees at the curb. The physical wreckage of Hurricane Ian marks the landscape as a reminder of the brutal force of an unprecedented blow to our region: tarped rooftops, toppled fences, twisted signposts, bare marquees, and mounds of fallen trees. Yet long after repairs are made and debris is cleared, Ian's damage will persist in less visible ways.

In response to the catastrophic hurricane, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, in partnership with The Patterson Foundation, has activated the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund to help our community rebound with resiliency, addressing long-term needs, both anticipated and those that will reveal themselves in the coming months. Ian's havoc coincides with the eve of the holiday season as well, a time of giving and consideration to those less fortunate. The Community Foundation is preparing to launch its twenty-third Season of Sharing campaign, again in partnership with The Patterson Foundation.

Both the emerging recovery fund and the longstanding Season of Sharing campaign will respond to needs in the coming year, and there will likely be some dovetailing of their purpose in the wake of the storm. Here's a primer on how they differ and how donors—from established philanthropists to good-Samaritan neighbors—can best leverage their gifts to help sustain our communities.

The Suncoast Disaster Recover Fund

In the wake of disasters, immediate responses typically manage on-the-spot problems; while they restore the near-term function of society, they are not tackling more complex or long-term issues. The Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund aims to step in after relief efforts fade away, focusing on longevity of rebuilding after Hurricane Ian disappears from the news cycle.

Successful recovery addresses sources of unjust outcomes and holistic rebounding of individuals, so they may sustain their well-being across several indicators, including spiritual, emotional, economic, and social. The goal is broad community health, addressing challenges that may not be immediately recognized.

Seeded with \$500,000 from The Patterson Foundation, with matching funds up to \$750,000 that have already been met, the Fund operates on a macro level. Thanks to The Patterson Foundation's initial matching gift of \$750,000, several other family foundations from the local area and across the country were inspired to offer their own matching opportunities. To date, some \$1,750,000 has been offered in matching gifts. Approximately \$3.5 million has now been raised to help with recovery in the months ahead, and matching of contributions continues. These generous gifts will be thoughtfully and collaboratively put to use to shape our area's long-term recovery.

“For so many, one unforeseen event can present a challenge that threatens to unravel all they have built. With support to get through the challenging time, they can recover and resume a stable life.”

– Roxie Jerde, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County



Teresa and Dave Karaffa inside their Englewood business, the Lemon Bay Soap Company, which was destroyed by Hurricane Ian. The roof of the business came completely off, with nothing overhead but blue sky. *Photo credit: Zac Anderson, Sarasota Herald-Tribune*

The Community Foundation will partner with its network of nonprofits, local government, and school boards, relying on the longstanding trusting relationships we have built among the entities. The Foundation will continue its role as listener, convener, and collaborator with agencies and those impacted to assess where needs are and how best to resolve the issues—both predictable and ones we’ve yet to envision.

“We rely on the expertise of the agencies, who are truly the ‘boots on the ground,’ to educate us on where the needs are,” said Jay Young, Vice President of Philanthropy. “These are the organizations experienced in developing long-range, encompassing programs and systems that can help the greatest number of vulnerable people. We’re here to listen.”

So far, nearly 700 individuals and institutions have contributed to the Disaster Fund, and it has garnered enthusiastic support from the community-at-large. Notably, the Sarasota Orchestra and the Van Wezel put together a benefit concert, donating 100 percent of the proceeds to the fund. Young said that the outpouring of support for the fund has been astonishing.

“I’ve been so moved by people’s generosity,” he said, explaining that support has come from across the nation. “People wanting to help are drawn to us—our reputation for doing strategic, sustainable work has even been mentioned in national philanthropic publications. There has been no hesitation among those wanting to contribute to our communities’ well-being.”

This has been particularly touching for Young as he’s surveyed damage in some areas hit hard by the storm—“It’s one thing to read it in the news, quite another to see it with your own eyes,” he said. Witnessing landmark buildings skinned of their walls, hearing stories of people worried about their aging parents left with nothing, driving through streets with debris piled higher than a grown man—it’s been a collective loss and the Disaster Fund aims to help heal a region and respond to needs as they emerge over time.

Season of Sharing

Since its inception in 2000, Season of Sharing has raised and distributed more than \$34 million benefiting more than 41,000 households. This is all because of

kind neighbors who understand that while our area offers many opportunities, the threat of economic emergencies is a reality for so many in our community.

Now in its twenty-third year, Season of Sharing is a stalwart trusted safety net for those in our communities experiencing imminent crises that threaten their stability. Where the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund operates on a macro level, Season of Sharing is a micro-level fund, providing direct help to individuals requiring assistance with basic human needs, including rent, utilities, childcare, or transportation needs.

“This region has an incredibly generous culture,” said Roxie Jerde, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. “This has been evident in the decades of successful Season of Sharing campaigns, where neighbors help neighbors in need by paying their own good fortune forward.”

Last year’s record-breaking Season of Sharing campaign raised \$4.4 million for our community, providing emergency assistance for families at critical moments when they might otherwise be left without a roof over their heads. The flexible and direct nature of Season of Sharing means that case workers at over 50+ human service agencies can respond efficiently to address an individual’s or family’s acute needs,

providing a bridge to greater stability for families. This intervention helps families avert larger snowballing crises.

Jerde noted that a remarkable feature of Season of Sharing is the small number of individuals who reapply for assistance.

“For so many, one unforeseen event can present a challenge that threatens to unravel all they have built. With support to get through the challenging time, they can recover and resume a stable life,” Jerde said.

As it has in the past, The Patterson Foundation amplifies the impact of the Fund in this case as well; again this year, TPF is contributing \$100,000 for every \$500,000 raised by the community through January 31, 2023.

Choices

Everyone appreciates choices, and this is especially true in philanthropy. Donors want to be assured that their generosity is targeted to the areas of their passion, supporting the causes they care about. Whether donors want to play a part in a large-scale collective strategic effort or know they have directly impacted a family, sparing them from deeper crisis, there are many ways to engage in and uplift this community we all call home. 🏡



Floodwaters from Hurricane Ian overtook homes in North Port’s Country Club Ridge neighborhood.

Photo credit: Thomas Bender, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, USA TODAY NETWORK



Stephanie Fopiano, right, gets a hug from Kenya Taylor, both from North Port, as she gets emotional about her situation at the Venice High School hurricane shelter in Venice, Florida, following Hurricane Ian on Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. Fopiano, evacuated with her 68-year old mother before Hurricane Ian and is now at her third shelter in a week. Taylor, who was evacuated by airboat, said she is trying to stay strong and help the other people at the shelter with her. *Photo credit: Mike Lang, Sarasota Herald-Tribune, USA TODAY NETWORK*

WORK IN PROGRESS

When we consider that 90,000 hours of the average person's life is spent at work, it becomes clear that augmenting the joy to be found on the job—through purpose, expression, inquiry, and creation—is an important personal and community endeavor.

A person's overall quality of life is a view the Community Foundation of Sarasota County takes seriously. Through several initiatives over recent years, our focus on career development has been a vital aspect of the foundation's 2Gen philosophy. Our partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute formalized our 2Gen approach to education, where support for both parents and children is offered to improve outcomes of the whole family. Research conducted at Ascend at the Aspen Institute revealed that an annual raise of just \$3,000 for parents when their children are young results in a 17% increase in the children's future earnings.

"We want to make this community better for all who call it home," said Roxie Jerde, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. "A meaningful and rewarding career is important to an adult, as well as their families – current and future."

Enhancing career training and supporting exploration opportunities boosts individuals' personal sense of fulfillment, which can help people to endure stressful situations, remain motivated and productive, and provide emotional support for their loved ones.

In many cases, career development opens doors to professions that allow for financial wellbeing as well. The stability that comes along with this is priceless, both for workers and for all the people in their lives who depend on them.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County has partnered with several organizations to enhance career development across the spectrum of sectors.

Healthcare: Along with the arts and our picturesque beaches, the excellent healthcare available in this region attracts many new residents and maintains an essential safety net for longtime citizens. With this in mind, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has long partnered with the Suncoast Nursing Action Coalition (SNAC), an organization that advances the nursing profession to support the quality of care available here. Working with SNAC, the Community Foundation and the Manatee Community Foundation have awarded nearly \$630,000 in scholarships since 2016.



From L-R: Lauren David, Sarasota Art Museum; Yadira Gonzalez, Manatee Performing Arts Center; Sierra Schumann, The Ringling; Jonathan Lee, CreArte Latino Cultural Center; Jordyn Caldwell, Sarasota Ballet. *Photo credit: Colin Reid*

These SNAC scholarships function like a Peloton fitness system, strengthening the community in myriad ways: supporting entire families and their positive trajectories; providing skilled health professionals for our population; and educating top experts in nursing that can support innovative initiatives in healthcare in the region.

Environmental Science: In 2019, through an anonymous donor, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County awarded a \$55,000 grant to the Cross College Alliance to launch a paid internship program for college students pursuing science and environmental studies.

“How we spend our days is how we live our lives.”

– Annie Dillard

That year, the Alliance launched the Environmental Discovery Awards Program (EDAP), pairing students with local organizations, such as Mote Marine and Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, to complete paid internships. Work the students accomplished—from investigating ocean acidification to growing a permaculture garden—is vital to sustaining a healthy environment. This is especially urgent in the face of climate change, which threatens to continue to alter the unique ecosystems of our coastal community.

Since 2019, the EDAP program has placed 69 students in paid internships and received more than three dozen proposals from environmental organizations. Survey data reveals that 90 percent of interns reported that the experience helped them gain insight into a professional field.

The Arts: The latest career development opportunity introduced in our area debuted in summer 2022 as part of a national cohort. The Diversity in Arts Leadership (DIAL) internship program (a program of the Americans for the Arts) provides meaningful experiential education to people who are underrepresented arts decision-making careers.

Interest in DIAL initially came to our Foundation through arts patron Flora Major, who had helped support the program in New York City and Nashville. The spark erupted into flame when our Knowledge & Equity team studied trends that revealed that, even in arts-centric Sarasota, volunteers outnumber paid employees 10 to one.

“In a community that so reveres its arts, cultivating talent in arts leadership is critical,” said Flora Major. “With this internship we have attracted these eager, talented young people. There is still a future in this world.”




DIAL Interns with Josephine Eisenberg, Cross-College Alliance Initiative Coordinator and Marlon Wilson, DIAL Internship Coordinator, at the orientation in May 2022.

Photo credit: Rebecca Abrahamson

Five students from various backgrounds participated in the inaugural year of DIAL (the Community Foundation has committed to supporting the program for at least three years). Each was matched with an arts organization and a mentor, spending the summer learning key skills that will unlock opportunities, including arts-specific expertise, but also general competencies like time management, self-advocacy, and professional presentation.

The 10-week internship culminated in a celebration of program graduates during which they shared what they learned. One intern, Lauren David, said it well: “Being able to spend time doing what you love is beyond rewarding.”

As our community evolves and new challenges confront us, it is important for us to build the competent and innovative workforce needed to address needs we haven’t even imagined.

“Talented and well-prepared people help drive new approaches to caring for our community,” Jerde said. “In the long run, that makes our area more innovative, economically competitive, and attractive to the next generation.” 

PHILANTHROPY: FLORA MAJOR – A GODMOTHER TO THE ARTS

Courtesy *Scene Magazine* • By Lisa Codianne Fowler

Coming to America

Flora Major was born and raised in then-Communist Budapest, Hungary. Philanthropy came naturally and was the norm among friends and family. Nobody had any money to speak of and everyone helped each other the best way they could.

She emigrated to the USA and never forgot those difficult early years in New York City. Not speaking English, not having any money or family here, it must have been difficult, indeed.

She is convinced that her success in both retail and wholesale businesses were because she was an immigrant and tried things others would never think of doing. In her words, “We had nothing to lose. You just do it.”

Art and soul

She moved to Sarasota after her beloved husband passed away and needed a fundamental change in her life. Sarasota was that change. She quickly became a patron of the Arts, both as a spectator and a donor. One of the first institutions she got involved with was the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

Community Foundations are extremely important in all communities because they help those who the government either can't or won't help. Just this year she introduced Roxie Jerde, the CEO of Community Foundation of Sarasota County, to the Americans for the Arts who managed the Diversity in Art Leadership program. Roxie, her team, and other cultural leaders made DIAL happen in Sarasota. Five DIAL interns graduated in various local institutions. Flora had supported this amazing program in the past in New York City and in Nashville.

The Hermitage Artist Retreat is another gem she supports. In 2021 she funded The Hermitage Major Theatre Award with an \$800,000 gift. The gift provides a \$35,000 commission yearly for the creation of a new work of theater. She is very excited about this program, which helps those artists who otherwise would have to wait on tables or find other ways to pay the rent.

Ringling College of Art and Design and it's Sarasota Art Museum, of which she is one of the founders, is another passion of hers. She is a trustee of the college and established several scholarships to help those who need it. At the Sarasota Art Museum she sponsored 11 high school students as interns this summer. They were learning about how museums operate from A to Z. This experience will hopefully encourage them to seek further education in the Arts. Perhaps at our Ringling College?

Other local cultural interests are Selby Gardens to which she loaned several pieces to their exhibits over the years from her own art collection, Sarasota Orchestra, and Asolo Repertory Theatre. She also served on their boards for many years.

Flora is not one to remain passive. When she's not involved with her many philanthropic efforts, she enjoys traveling with friends, visiting museums, checking out the newest shows, playing and watching tennis, and of course, cooking.

She was cooking during this interview and of course we wanted to know what she was preparing. Not surprisingly, she was making a Hungarian specialty, stuffed peppers. They are a bit different from the American or Italian versions, using white-skinned Hungarian peppers and no cheese. She gets the peppers at a Hungarian farm stand in New Jersey.



Photo credit: Nancy Guth

“We had nothing to lose. You just do it.”

– Flora Major

She makes a big batch of these about once a year, freezing much of them to share with friends and neighbors. Wouldn't it be great to live next door?

Flora will soon be back in Sarasota, just now making her reservation for Halloween. She travels with her dog Chockie (for chocolate), a dark-brown long haired miniature dachshund, who will be two years old in

November. She is “10 pounds of trouble, but so very cute,” she says, that you can't be mad at her.

We look forward to welcoming Flora and Chockie back to Sarasota, and to watch Flora continue to sprinkle her fairy dust to the children and young adults of this community. 🏠

YEAR END CHARITABLE GIFTING STRATEGIES

As the end of the year approaches, many donors consider their final year-end charitable gifts and the impact they wish to make in the community. There are many types of assets to consider for charitable gifting other than a gift of cash. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County can accept non-cash gifts and illiquid complex assets into a fund held for charitable distributions as advised by the donor. We recommend, however, first and foremost, you should always talk to your tax advisor before deciding the type of asset you will gift.

Gift of Appreciated Stock

Gift of appreciated stock that you have held for more than a year allows you to deduct the full fair market value on the date of the gift while avoiding paying

capital gains tax. The gift may be contributed to a donor advised fund, which can be used over time to support nonprofit organizations and charitable causes you care about. Further, making a large gift of appreciated stock in the current tax year would allow you to take advantage of “bunching” your gift. For example, you contribute a large amount stock (i.e., \$40,000) to your donor advised fund in the current tax year, itemize your deductions (including your charitable gift of stock), and receive a tax deduction for the gift on your income tax return. The following tax year, you can take the standard deduction (presently \$12,950 for single filers and \$25,900 for married couples filing jointly) on your income tax return and use your donor advised fund to make your annual charitable gifts for that year. If donors wish to receive a benefit (i.e., an income stream from their gift of stock), donors should



consider gifting appreciated stock to a charitable gift annuity. The minimum amount to establish a charitable gift annuity at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County is \$100,000.

IRA Required Minimum Distribution Gifts

You may wish to consider contributing a large IRA gift to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to create a fund to benefit certain named organizations over a period of time for much needed support or to create a scholarship fund to provide educational support to individuals. You may contribute up to \$100,000 from you IRA if you are 70 1/2. While you will not receive an income tax deduction in the current tax year for making an IRA gift, your benefit is not having to report the amount of the gift from your required minimum distribution on your income tax return. Using IRA assets to make a significant lifetime gift allows you to advance a bequest already planned for a favorite nonprofit and enjoy the impact of such gift during your lifetime.

Many caring donors in our community have contributed money from their IRA accounts to support and benefit Season of Sharing, which provides assistance to individuals and families who experience an unforeseen circumstance – the sudden loss of a job, the serious illness of a spouse, a car that breaks down, or home damage from a storm – that makes it suddenly and unexpectedly difficult for them to afford rent, utility bills, and other life necessities. Season of Sharing offers assistance to help keep these individuals and families in their homes and helps with emergency needs.

Real Estate Gifts

Consider gifting real estate with which you hold a low-cost basis to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. There are certain tax benefits available to you, provided you convey, or “gift”, the property to the foundation before listing and before accepting a contract in writing from a third-party buyer. The real estate proceeds may benefit a donor advised fund to be used over time to support nonprofits organizations and charitable causes you care about. Qualified Appraisals will be required at the time of the gift and property must be mortgage free.

Year End Gifting Deadlines

- Credit card contributions via our website should be made by Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.
- Checks sent via U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked on or before Saturday, Dec. 31, 2022.
- Checks sent via FedEx must be physically received at our office on or before Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2022.
- IRA rollover checks must be received no later than Monday, Dec. 26, 2022.

Gifts related to stock gifts and mutual funds should be coordinated through Erin Jones, Chief Financial Officer (941.556.7144) and other non-cash year-end gifts must be discussed no later than December 16, 2022. IRA's, real estate gifts and assignments of business interests should be coordinated through Betsy Pennewill, General Counsel (941.556.7152). Qualified Appraisals will be required for all noncash gifts \$5,000 or more.

Business Owners

As a business owner, exit planning can be a daunting task. In many cases charitable planning can play a powerful role to avoid taxes, provided it is considered at the onset of conducting the due diligence to seek potential buyers. A donor advised fund created at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to accept an assignment of your business interest could serve the dual purpose of providing immediate tax benefits at the time of the business sale while providing the flexibility to you to give to causes your care about for years to come. Like real estate, the gift of business interests must take place before entering into a contract with a third-party buyer. 🏡

If you have questions about the correct use of Donor Advised Funds related to the support of fundraising events, please review our overview at www.cfsarasota.org/blog.

LEADERSHIP

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When the unexpected comes, neighbors help neighbors.

SEASON of SHARING
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY SINCE 2000

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Many in our region face challenges they never expected and are one paycheck away from harsh realities, difficult choices, and unimaginable losses. At times like these, it is essential for people to help their neighbors in crisis. With your support, Season of Sharing has been trusted for 22 years to provide funds to help individuals and families living on the economic edge in our community, ensuring they have security when it is most needed.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS.

As a community, we can continue to provide a helping hand. We believe that everyone can be a philanthropist, and because of support from Season of Sharing partners, all of your donation—100%—goes directly to those who need it.

Additionally, thanks to a matching gift opportunity from The Patterson Foundation, every \$500,000 raised by the community will be met with an additional \$100,000! Give through Jan. 31, 2023, to amplify your contribution through matching funds.

DONATE TODAY

Visit CFSarasota.org
or call 941-955-3000
or mail to Season of Sharing,
2635 Fruitville Road,
Sarasota, FL 34237

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Herald-Tribune

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of Sarasota County

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