

**4 INITIATIVE:
STRAUSS**
*Programs addressing
literacy expand*

**8 COMMUNITY:
LIFELONG
LEARNING**
Lifelong Benefits

**10 PROFILE:
TOM & NANCY
FLANAGAN**
'The Sky's the Limit'

**12 NEWS AND
UPDATES**
What's New at CFSC

Roxie Jerde and
Marilyn Thompson



PHOTO BY JOHN REVISKY

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

Dear Friends:

Florida may not bear the telltale signs of fall—the weather turning chilly and leaves changing to a palette of brilliant russet and gold—but change is in the air.

For our Community Foundation, one big change has been moving our operations to Main Street while our Gompertz Building headquarters undergoes extensive renovations. You can read all about it on page 12 (What's New at the Community Foundation), along with other welcome changes in our operations.

Last year at this time, our region was in the infancy of rebounding from the devastation of Hurricane Ian, and we'd just activated the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, aimed at long-term recovery. What a difference a year makes! Since then, our Foundation has committed more than half of the \$5 million raised to go toward ongoing recovery efforts. Details about funding allocation can be found in the What's New section (page 12) as well.

Philanthropy itself is rooted in the notion of positive change, and in this issue, you can meet Tom and Nancy Flanagan, whose generosity and compassion are changing the trajectories for bright area youth who want to pursue college but are unable to without scholarship assistance (page 10). Along the lines of building new pathways toward successful futures, we're excited to share updates on our Strauss Literacy Initiative, which is generating exciting progress for young readers. See what's happening with this initiative on page 4.

For many in our community, each day presents the chance to explore new skills and ideas in a pursuit of learning that perpetuates self-development. Fortunately, we live in an area ripe with learning opportunities that allow for growth in intellectual, physical, and cultural knowledge. Read about some of the fantastic opportunities provided by our nonprofit partners on page 8.

Of course, some things don't change: the new year is just around the corner, and as we approach the finish line of 2023, year-end giving is upon us. Learn about those important dates on page 13.

During the holiday season, we are reminded of traditions like exchanging gifts and sharing with those we love. Friends of the foundation are reminded also of Season of Sharing, our opportunity to help brighten the lives of those who head into the holidays vulnerable to a crisis that threatens to unravel their lives.

This holiday season and always, we are grateful for your philanthropic partnership and commitment to our community.

Together, we can create a stronger community and brighter tomorrows. That's one thing that doesn't change.

With gratitude,



Marilyn Thompson, Board Chair



Roxanne G. Jerde, President and CEO

EMPOWERING STUDENTS, ONE PHONEME AT A TIME

In 2018, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County was provided a worthwhile opportunity with the establishment of the Strauss Literacy Initiative: to provide a pathway for learners with dyslexia to strengthen reading comprehension.

But in order to fund an initiative that would be able to help students of all ages for years to come, foundation leaders wanted to support partners in developing programs that go beyond screening individual students for dyslexia. Instead, we decided to target professional development for teachers, giving them the tools to empower all students year after year in a series of pilot programs that would eventually lead to systemic change in literacy instruction.

For all the progress made, Strauss is still in its early stages. Preliminary data points are encouraging, both at the quantitative and qualitative level.

“Part of ensuring a child continues to improve is ensuring that they actually enjoy what they’re learning,” said Kirsten Russell, Vice President of Community Impact at the Community Foundation. “To have students who struggle with reading come away from a lesson smiling is no small feat—and it’s something the Strauss Literacy Initiative can count as one of its accomplishments.”

Encouraging early data

Some of the most inspiring results come from Sarasota County Schools’ elementary classrooms. Last year, the district embarked on a pilot effort to implement a small-group instructional framework with phonics-based instruction at four elementary schools, with training conducted by the University of Florida’s Lastinger Center for Learning. At the same time,

nine district program specialists received specialized dyslexia training wherein they earned Orton-Gillingham certification. The program was so successful in its first year that it is underway for a second.

Program head Kari Johnson, a literacy elementary program specialist, said teachers are now divided into two groups—those who went through the program last year and those starting from scratch. Fifteen returning teachers will go through extended professional development and participate in a literacy institute in February with the Lastinger Center. At the same time, a cohort of 17 new teachers and seven literacy coaches will begin training on small-group literacy instruction and bring this to their classrooms.

Data from last year’s program at Sarasota County Schools makes it clear that this is a strategy that works. Roughly 68% of participating second-grade students had met or exceeded grade-level expectations in reading by the school year’s halfway point. Second-grade reading assessment scores improved from 15th percentile at the first measure to 46th percentile by the third.

That first year also provided lessons of implementation. Last year, principals at participating elementary schools chose the teachers who would go through the training. This year, a wider range of schools was enlisted, and teachers were able to self-select into the training. The hope is that this will lead to more buy-in from teachers themselves.

“Literacy is a tough nut to crack,” Russell said. “There are teachers that are seeing the results in their classroom and that is motivating them to continue to go on this vulnerable journey in front of a variety of different stakeholders to better serve their students.”



Wilkinson Elementary School first grade teacher Isabella Magro utilizes strategies learned from UF's Lastinger Center as she conducts a small-group lesson.

The need is there

When Russell and her team first began researching, they ran into an immediate obstacle: awareness. Public school districts weren't talking about dyslexia because they didn't have the tools to address it; dyslexia is in a group of specific learning disabilities and is rarely identified or diagnosed. In some cases, teachers were still utilizing a balanced literacy method that incorporates a combination of phonics—or sounding out words to understand their meaning—and using pictures, context, sentence structure and other cues to make sense of a reading.

The problem, according to research, is that the latter half of this method can harm students more than it helps. If students use outside cues to help inform their reading without understanding the words themselves and the sounds that make them, they're not so much reading as they are trying to piece together a puzzle with insufficient information. As an alternative to this method, structured literacy offers a systematic approach that teaches students through sounding out words how to read on their own with pleasure.

The Strauss Literacy Initiative's work in this field comes amidst a broader legislative push from state governments across the United States to enact science of reading instruction in the classroom. An *Education Week* analysis from July 2023 found that roughly 32 states, including Florida, had "passed laws or implemented new policies related to evidence-based reading instruction" since 2013. This year, Florida passed legislation effectively banning the balanced literacy approach and instituting "evidence-based professional development activities" for teachers "grounded in the science of reading," which is in line with the professional development that is being implemented at Sarasota County Schools.

"The great thing about the science of reading is it helps all readers," Russell said. "We want to help all students read proficiently, and as we're doing that, we want to identify all students with dyslexia and put them on a path to success."

Patti's story

Ira and Patti Strauss came to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County in 2014 with a goal in mind: to ensure no child endured what Patti had.

That meant close to a lifetime of struggling with reading and writing with no clear understanding as to why. The Strausses didn't want another child to spend most of their life not knowing how their brain worked and not knowing they could be given resources to improve reading comprehension. They earmarked a \$23 million endowment—the largest endowed fund in the Community Foundation's history—toward some specific goals.

First, the fund would help children “of all ages obtain the skills and support needed to read proficiently for their age, with a primary focus on assisting those children challenged with dyslexia or any other obstacle to the development of their reading proficiency.” That sentence established an important mindset for what would become the Strauss Literacy Initiative: the goal wasn't just to help students with dyslexia or

reading challenges. The aim was to help all students through quality literacy instruction, which would in turn help those who were already struggling. While the Science of Reading pedagogical approach is critical for students with dyslexia, it benefits all students.

There were also specifics as to how the instruction would be carried out. At least one or more of the programs supported by the fund should centralize “a phonics component,” which essentially means supporting the science of reading.

And while the fund would certainly support early diagnosis of reading challenges, the initiative would also ensure that children “from birth through college age” could benefit, focusing in large part on the local and regional community. Each program would be monitored over time to ensure positive results.

The Strauss Literacy Initiative effectively began its on-the-ground work in 2021, with three pilot programs at Visible Men Academy, St. Mary Academy, and State



Teachers convene for a day of learning at Wilkinson Elementary School in Fall 2022 to explore teaching the science of reading.

College of Florida. These encompassed, respectively, funding an assessment to screen children for dyslexia, providing teachers with Orton-Gillingham training in instruction for struggling readers, and arming college-age students with the tools to better understand and live with their reading disability.

Just as these pilot programs have been fine-tuned over the years, so too has the management of the initiative itself. After consulting with a variety of experts to learn about best practices over time, the Community Foundation narrowed the field down to three experts and created an advisory council.

“That small advisory council of experts really changed the game for us,” Russell said. “Every time something significant happens, we have the opportunity to say, ‘Let’s find best practices first.’ Let’s look at what other people are doing. Let’s not reinvent the wheel.”

Expanding reach

But to reach even more students, it was clear that, by 2022, Strauss would have to work with Sarasota and Manatee County public schools. While it was daunting to fund a program that would serve such a large number of students, it was a logical next step in ensuring all students have access to quality reading instruction.

“We wanted to serve the greatest number of students possible, which meant finding a way into the public-school systems,” Russell said.

That led to connecting with the school districts so each district could determine how it wanted to delve into the work, resulting in pilot programs at both Sarasota and Manatee County Schools, as well as the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County. After investigating approaches that would best suit their district, Sarasota County Schools connected with UF’s Lastinger Center, opting to offer teacher training facilitated among a select group of K-2 teachers who participated in small-group learning, phonics-based reading instruction that they could then bring to their students. Manatee County Schools chose to instead focus on early detection, working with EarlyBird’s literacy screener, which helps to assess students for early signs of dyslexia. At the ELC of Sarasota County, educators received coaching in increasing

conversational turns and vocabulary for all students, a practice that correlates with stronger literacy outcomes in a child’s future.

Now, with the results of those first pilot programs in hand, the Community Foundation has expanded the programs in Sarasota and continues to work on Manatee’s.

“We took exploratory pilot programs last year and strengthened them this year,” Russell said.


Help for today and hope for the future

And for students on the other age of the learning spectrum, the Community Foundation’s program at the State College of Florida serves to support students who already grapple with reading difficulties. The funding provides students a consultation with a psychologist to undergo a formal evaluation, as well as technology to ease any difficulties and equalize the classroom for students who struggle with reading, but still want to learn.

“If this didn’t exist, these students would basically just kind of have to muddle their way through college,” said Patricia Lakey, the head of SCF’s Disability Resource Center. “They come to us with very old documentation. They’ve struggled in reading their whole life, but they’ve never had a clear understanding of exactly why and what accommodations can help mitigate that.”

When Lakey meets with students to explain how the grant works, they often get emotional, overwhelmed by the gesture of receiving additional help. The basis of college, and most educational instruction, is reading, Lakey says. Struggling with an essential life skill touches almost everything these students do.

Eventually, Strauss leaders want to fully understand the impact of a dyslexia diagnosis and how that process can be improved. But, for now, the focus is on what is working at the school level—and that’s a lot.

“Right now, we’re testing it and we’re proving that it’s empowering teachers and students,” Russell said, “and changing those trajectories in terms of literacy and what that looks like long-term.” 

COMMUNITY: LIFELONG LEARNING, LIFELONG BENEFITS

For many, learning tends to be an objective-oriented endeavor, first with grades and test scores indicating progress, and later in life linked to professional achievements.

While learning can be a pursuit of purpose, it can also be one of pleasure. Our community abounds with opportunities to learn, many of which are offered by nonprofits, led by people whose passion for lifelong examination and education make for memorable, meaningful lessons that extend far beyond the framework of earning grades or credentials earlier in life.

We know acquiring skills increases knowledge and boosts cognitive health and offers other advantages in emotional and even physical wellbeing. Situated on 53 acres of pristine Sarasota coastline, **The Bay Park Conservancy** maintains a calendar full of events and classes available to the public, free of charge. With regular fitness and yoga classes, there are plenty of opportunities to master a new physical skill. The Bay, which just celebrated its first anniversary, also hosts regular paddleboard and kayak guided tours that familiarize participants with the local flora and fauna of our coastal habitats. Our Community Foundation's commitment to this park, which began in its planning stages, is rooted in its accessibility: The Bay was conceived as "one park for all," and the range of programs and experiences it offers—with no barrier to entry—is at the core of our foundation's belief that every person who calls our community home should have access to an plentiful quality of life.

Classes that offer exploration of physicality are available through other organizations as well. The **Sarasota Ballet's** Dance for All programs are specially

designed to include all people into the dance artform. For our neighbors 55+ years old, **Silver Swans®** is a series of thoughtfully sequenced classes that provide options for free-standing, supported, or seated participation, sprinkled with ballet history and choreography theory. These classes are offered through organizations that support adult populations like the **Senior Friendship Center**.

Continuing education is one component of a fulfilling life, one that abounds with curiosity, inquiry, and appreciation, according to Forbes Magazine. Celebrating our unique circus history, the **Venice Area Historical Society** has rich offerings—and a newly completed circus car museum. Tours of the train depot and circus railway car and a riveting lecture series examining historical figures of Osprey, Laurel and Venice are all available to and free to the public.

For lovers of art, there is always something to discover at the **Ringling College of Art and Design's** art walks, which offer access to several exhibitions, food trucks, and interactive arts stations. The Ringling College galleries are always free, but these art walks are also an opportunity to enjoy a community of other art lovers. Those who appreciate the arts can also learn a lot through the engaging events hosted by the **Suncoast Black Arts Collaborative**, which hosts community panels on topics of the intersectionality of arts and social justice. The group also hosts an annual exhibition of Black artists each February, which offers insights into the Black experience through visual expression.

Those who continue to learn throughout adulthood adapt better to an ever-changing society, which can diminish feelings of isolation sometimes experienced later in life. The **Boxser Diversity Initiative** is such



The Bay offers fitness classes, including yoga, that are free and accessible to all.

an organization. Promoting diversity and inclusion to encourage a better understanding of the diverse groups in Southwest Florida, the Boxser Diversity Initiative hosts films screenings, art exhibits, and discussion series that examine critical nuances of our diverse society. Another nonprofit that offers enriching programming focusing on history and diversity is **Manasota ASALH**, whose mission is to bring Black history to life as a vital part of American history.

While learning often is seen as an individual act, it can be a family affair as well, and family togetherness programs hosted by organizations like **Asolo Rep** and the **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens** are a fantastic way for adults and caregivers to experience learning through cultural institutions alongside the children they love. Opportunities like these build stronger family bonds while building upon foundations of knowledge.

And of course, to learn new things, one needn't leave their house. There's plenty to explore through quality media programming. One series that we're so proud to support is the "Greater" program that is brought to viewers through **WEDU**. These episodes allow our community to learn about people, trends, and experiences that viewers might not know as much about, while providing more insight into the community that we call home.

We're proud to support these nonprofits that offer such valuable programming that keeps our community learning and growing, on a path to self-development that also has collective impact. These organizations are just a few among many that provide enrichment to all people who live here, showcasing the reach of philanthropic dollars that sustain unique learning opportunities that are available long after many of us have heard our last school bell ring. 🏡

Profile: Tom and Nancy Flanagan

PUTTING THE “FUN” IN FUNDRAISING: THE FLANAGANS AND THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Courtesy *Scene Magazine* • By Kaileia Suvannamaccha



Tom and Nancy Flanagan

The high school sweethearts' love affair with Sarasota began in 1999. Former Chicago and Silicon Valley residents Tom and Nancy Flanagan visited this charming coastal city for vacation and fell in love with its vibrant arts community. They then discovered dedicated philanthropic allies like the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, which propelled them to make Sarasota their new home within just six months.

It all began with a serendipitous encounter with Roxie Jerde, President and CEO of the Community Foundation, during a local event. They were immediately drawn to her enthusiasm and passion for the foundation and the work it does to strengthen our community.

“Roxie was brand new to the area and already had a firm grasp of the local landscape including the demographics, issues, and needs of our diverse community. We could see the goodness in her, and her vision for Sarasota, and the power of partnerships really resonated with us,” says Nancy. “Knowing Roxie was at the helm attracted us to want to work with them.”

Running Towards A Dream

In 2017, the Flanagans created a scholarship fund to support high school runners, an endeavor inspired by Tom's experience as a former high school cross country coach in Chicago. The scholarship program aids high school runners, prioritizing those with financial need.

The Flanagans' initial goal was to provide a one-time scholarship to college freshmen. However, the Community Foundation provided valuable guidance that led to a more sustainable approach: dividing the scholarships into four parts, disbursing funds each fall to provide ongoing support.

"You know, we never thought of it from that aspect," says Nancy. "Yes, we want to help them get to college, but we also want them to graduate."

They learned that, especially for first-generation college students, getting to college is one accomplishment; staying in through graduation is a different matter. Realizing the impact they could have, not just for the scholarship recipients, but for generations that follow, has been gratifying, made all the sweeter by annual luncheons, arranged by the foundation, that connect the couple with scholarship recipients.

"It's one of the highlights of the year for us," says Tom. "We just love the fact that we can sit down and talk with these young people about their aspirations and their lives. That was one of the things we really liked about the foundation, that we actually get to see the impact we're having."

From two recipients that first year, the number of students who receive the Flanagans' scholarship has grown to eight.

Their scholarships have already borne fruit, with several students graduating and pursuing careers in their chosen fields. One is now in graduate school.

One aspect the Flanagans appreciate about the Community Foundation is the connections they make, both with recipients of their philanthropy and with the staff at the foundation itself. Meetings with the Philanthropy Team have combined shared interests and hobbies with discussions of their vision for their philanthropic impact.

Sharing coffee and conversations with the Community Foundation team has allowed the relationship to develop beyond the transactional. One time, a meeting with an advisor was conducted during a run over the Ringling Causeway.

"It was very fun," Tom says. "It was different, and I think that also bonded us, and continues to tie us to the Community Foundation even more because they are open, willing to be a little flexible, and to do things a little differently."

Opportunity Galore

The Flanagans are working to ensure their assets continue to impact the lives of those in need as a part of their legacy. The couple have recently activated another fund, The Nancy and Tom Flanagan Giving Back Fund, which will support social services within the community and is set up to adapt to the evolving needs of Sarasota over the years.


"The sky's the limit," Nancy says. "We have such great confidence in the Community Foundation and having them be stewards of our legacy is very comforting."

Their engagement with the local community goes beyond their scholarships and donations. Nancy serves on the Board of Trustees at the Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, where her vantage point has enabled her to witness the ways that the Community Foundation partners with local nonprofits. Tom's involvement with Meals on Wheels Sarasota, where he serves on the board, further highlights the couple's dedication to making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Sharing Community Spirit

The Flanagans emphasize that one doesn't need to make large donations to have meaningful impact. "You just have to find the right passion, or find the right cause that you feel passionate about. And the Community Foundation is great at matching people with the right causes," Nancy says.

The Flanagans' story embodies the generosity and community spirit that defines Sarasota. Through partnerships with organizations like the Community Foundation, Tom and Nancy hope to inspire others to join them in building an even more fun and vibrant city, one act of kindness at a time.

Or, to put it as Nancy did: "Sarasota is growing, and the needs are growing as well. If more people can get involved on any level, it can make a huge difference." 

WHAT'S NEW AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Pardon our Dust: Renovations Underway!

After nearly 20 years in our headquarters on Fruitville Road, the Community Foundation is renovating. In the interim, we operate out of Sarasota City Center at 1819 Main Street.

Our headquarters opened in 2004 thanks to a generous \$2 million gift from former board member and board chair Leila Gompertz. Thanks to that gift, we have owned our building debt-free since its opening.

Over the past two decades our Community Foundation has grown from 10 employees and about \$100 million in assets under management to 32 employees and nearly \$500 million in assets under management. This renovation allows us to operate more efficiently and ensure our facilities meet the needs of our team today and into the future.

The project, approved and endorsed by our Board of Directors, is being funded through long-term prudent fiscal management policies guiding operating reserves and administrative endowment. This means that the renovation and costs of temporary operations and moving are included in the budget and require no financing.

Foundation leaders opted to move into a temporary space rather than go fully remote after the lessons learned from the pandemic. While we successfully operated remotely, we learned then the critical value of sharing space to fulfill our foundation's mission. Also considered was occupying the building partially during the renovation but doing so would create interruptions to the work we do, plus lengthen the construction timeline.

The renovations will result in a gain of work and collaboration spaces, expanding our capacity for



The architect's rendering of the lobby showcases the spacious and inviting new look of the building.

future team members, along with more meeting spaces for donors and needed operational updates.

DSDG Architects, led by principal Mark Sultana, is handling architectural services and interior design. Jon Swift Construction is the general contractor, and our interests are being overseen by our agent Jenn Stutler of Stutler Strategies, Inc.

One Year Post-Ian: The Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund

We observed the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian on Sept. 28, thankfully without more catastrophic impact to our region from another storm.

We have committed more than half of the \$5 million raised in the first six weeks of activating our Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund in 2022, dollars that have gone toward funding priorities established through guidance from the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, the Community Foundation's Board-appointed Task Force, and key stakeholders from areas hardest hit. Those priorities include:

- Mental and behavioral health
- Insurance navigation and survivor advocacy
- Services to children, youth and other dependent people
- Critical home repair and housing needs
- Long Term Recovery Group support

For details on programs supported, visit cfsarasota.org/Suncoast-disaster-recovery-fund



Top Honor for Betsy Pennewill

Those who've worked with our General Counsel Betsy Pennewill know well the prodigious expertise and judgment she possesses.

Pennewill's integrity and knowledge have earned statewide recognition: she has been named by Florida Trend-Legal Elite as a Notable General Counsel. Pennewill is one of 11 general counsels from around the state to earn this honor this year.

Year End Gifting Deadlines

- Credit card contributions via our website should be made by Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023.
- Checks sent via U.S. Postal Service must be postmarked on or before Sunday, Dec. 31, 2023. Send to: 2635 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL 34237.
- Checks sent via FedEx must be physically received at our office on or before Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2023.
- IRA rollover checks must be received no later than Tuesday, Dec. 26, 2023.

Gifts related to stock gifts and mutual funds should be coordinated through Erin Jones, Chief Financial Officer, or Julie Avins, Controller (941.955.3000) and other non-cash year-end gifts must be discussed no later than December 5, 2023. 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 non-cash gifts \$5,000 or more.

The General Counsel's role at the foundation is vital. Pennewill is involved in everything from fund agreements to contract reviews to compliance. We manage nearly \$500 million in assets, so we are fortunate to have Pennewill leading our foundation's legal matters.

Appointment of New Vice President, Promotions and Other Staff Recognition

New staffing announcements at our Community Foundation demonstrate our commitment to excellence through our people.



Nicole Coudal has been appointed Vice President of Human Resources, returning after serving as the foundation's first Chief of Staff from 2011 to 2013. Coudal is responsible for talent acquisition, onboarding, retention, employee development and more.



Rina Alvarez has been promoted to Director of Donor and Advisor Engagement, a new position created to empower donors and advisors. Alvarez joined the foundation in 2021.




Julie Avins was promoted to Controller, responsible for maintaining the security of assets and overseeing internal controls. Avins has been at the foundation for eight years.



Casey Grisanti has been named Accounting Manager, with responsibilities in financial statement preparation, control systems implementation, and budget review. Grisanti has been on staff since 2019.



Sarah Firstenberger, Manager of Events, has been selected into the 2024 class of Leadership Sarasota, a program of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. She joined our staff in 2022. 

LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Marilyn Thompson, *Chair, Retired, Johnson & Johnson*
Paul Hudson, *Vice Chair, Senior Managing Director, Northern Trust*
Andrew Stultz, *Treasurer, President & Owner, Atlas Building Company of Florida*
Felice Schulaner, *Secretary, Retired, Coach, Inc.*

Additional Board Members

Daniel DeLeo, *Partner, Shumaker, Loop and Kendrick*
Dr. Karen Hamad, MD, FACP, FAAP, *First Physicians Group of Sarasota*
David Joyner, *President/Owner, Joyner Family Insurance, Inc.*
Patricia A. Mathews, *Human Resources Consultant*
Dr. Laura Mattia, *CEO & Senior Fee-Only Planner, Atlas Fiduciary Financial, LLC*
Mercedes Soler, *Solmart Media*
Janet Taylor, MD, MPH, *Psychiatrist, Self-Care Expert, Culture Shift Educator*
Jeff Troiano, *Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen*
Terri Vitale, *Community Activist*
Judge Charles E. Williams, *Circuit Court Judge, 12th Judicial Circuit*
Mary Lou Winnick, *Volunteer*

Board Ex Officio

Roxanne G. Jerde, *Community Foundation of Sarasota County*

Board Emeritus

J. Ronald Skipper, Esq., *Retired, Fergeson Skipper, P.A.*
David Steves Esq., *Retired, Muirhead, Gaylor, Steves & Waskom, LLP*

Legal Counsel

Chip Gaylor, Esq., *Muirhead, Gaylor, Steves & Waskom, P.A.*

STAFF

Administration

Roxanne G. Jerde, *President and CEO*
Betsy Pennewill, JD, *General Counsel*
Nicole Coudal, *Vice President, Human Resources*
Shaun Rogers, *Executive Assistant*
Barbie Gonzalez, *Coordinator, Administrative Services*
Michael Melendez, *Information Technology and Facilities Specialist*
Lori Schaub, *Receptionist*

Community Impact

Kirsten Russell, *Vice President, Community Impact*
Aude-Eureka Monde, *Manager, Nonprofit Services*
Laura Dykstra, *Coordinator, Community Impact*
Maddi Williams, *Coordinator, Community Impact*

Finance

Erin Jones, *Chief Financial Officer*
Julie Avins, *Controller*
Casey Grisanti, *Accounting Manager*
Derek Oberly, *Staff Accountant*
Kellie Gearon, *Coordinator, Grant Administration*

Philanthropy

Jay Young, *Vice President, Philanthropy*
Heidi Kellman, *Director, Philanthropy Administration*
Rina Alvarez, *Director, Donor & Advisor Engagement*
Laurie Scott, *Philanthropic Advisor*
Heather Strasser, *Coordinator, Philanthropy*
Michelle Gingrich, *Data Coordinator, Philanthropy*

Strategy and Communications

Mischa Kirby, APR, *Vice President, Strategy and Communications*
Rebecca Abrahamson, *Senior Manager, Communications*
Sarah Firstenberger, *Manager, Events*
Amanda Suits, *Coordinator, Marketing and Events*
Sumitra Sankarasubramanian, *Data Analyst*

Newsletter Contributors:

Rebecca Abrahamson
Elizabeth Djinis
Nancy Guth
Lori Liggett
Daniel Perales
Reprint permission from *SCENE Magazine*



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Get Ready to Connect, Collaborate, Come Together

APRIL 9-10, 2024 NOON TO NOON

The Giving Challenge is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects nearly 700 nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.

GIVING STRENGTHENED BY THE PATTERSON FOUNDATION

Visit givingchallenge.org to learn more.

WE ARE ONE COMMUNITY.

Many in our region face challenges they never expected and are one paycheck away from 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 24 years to provide funds to help people living on the economic edge in our community, ensuring they have security when it is most needed.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS.

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!



A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN
THE HERALD-TRIBUNE
MEDIA GROUP AND THE
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF SARASOTA COUNTY





COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

of Sarasota County

2635 Fruitville Road | Sarasota, FL 34237 | 941.955.3000 | cfsarasota.org