Since 2013, Community Foundation of Sarasota County (CFSC) has implemented a two-generational (2Gen) approach to investing in educational programs to benefit low-income children in north Sarasota County, while also providing comprehensive supports for their parents.

These "Parent Success" strategies have centered around assisting them with attaining college degrees or industry-recognized certifications, and/or the foundational skills to pursue such credentials. This is accomplished by leveraging community partnerships, expanding access to scholarships, and embedding a CFSC-funded Parent Education Navigator in the school district.

CFSC’s 2Gen work is based on its long-standing partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute, which developed the model above to explain its recommended strategy of building family well-being by intentionally and simultaneously working with children and the adults in their lives. According to Ascend, a parent’s level of educational attainment is a strong predictor of a child’s success.
2Gen By the Numbers 2020-2021

332 Total Parents Served
- 150 Local 2Gen Parents
- 182 Statewide 2Gen Parents

217 Enrolled in College

115 In Foundational Programs

8 Key 2Gen College & Career Partnership Programs

Parent Demographics

Race/Ethnicity
- Hispanic 31%
- White 35%
- Black 28%
- Other 6%

Gender
- Women 92%
- Men 8%
Eight Key 2Gen Investments 2020-2021

- Parent Advisory Council Launch
- Roberts Community College Fund
- Sarasota County School District Partnership
- SCF Parent Initiative Launch
- Horizon's Preschool Pilot Wrap Up
- Literary Council ESOL Program
- Women's Resource Center Stipend Program
- UnidosNow Parent Leadership Program
Parent Advisory Council

- **Launched** in fall of 2020 to capture 2Gen parents' feedback and inform CFSC's 2Gen investments and program frameworks.
- Parents from the School District Partnership and the Horizon's Preschool Pilot were invited to quarterly Zoom calls.
- Attendees given **$50 gift card** as appreciation for time.
- **15 total participants; 9 average number per meeting.**
- All participants are women; **Two-thirds** are single.
- These mothers shared their **feedback and built their social network.**
- One joined CFSC’s **Equity & Access Grant Committee.**
- Four participated in The Bay Park Conservancy’s Community Focus Group.

**Council Meeting Objectives**

**Parent Focus:**
Goals, Personal Post-Secondary Experiences, Impact of 2Gen Program

**Grant Making Focus:**
Parent Input to Applications, Parent Input to Awards Process

**Children Focus:**
How to Enhance Supports for Children, Key Obstacles to Children’s Academic Success, Tracking Options

**2Gen Investment Focus:**
Gaps in Support, Benefit Cliffs, Key Challenges RE: Transportation & Childcare

**Parent Quote**

*I earned my GED and CNA and then LPN. We had to wake up very early to go to my sister-in-law who took them to school. It was hard, but worth it. My oldest now says he wants to be a doctor. They know that academically we have to try to be better and it takes a lot of work.*
Sarasota County School District Partnership

- **8th year** of CFSC-funded program providing 2Gen scholarships to parents at Tuttle, Alta Vista, Gocio, and Emma E. Booker Title I Elementary Schools.
- **79%** of participants live in the high poverty region of north Sarasota County with the zip codes 34234 or 34237.
- **194** parents enrolled in college since the onset of the program.
- **33** parents enrolled in college this year, 11 in CNA and 22 in other programs such as EMT, RN, LPN, Bachelor’s and Associate’s degrees.
- Of the 33 enrolled, **10 Graduated**, 17 are In-Process, and six Dropped.
- **28 additional parents** received career counseling for a total of **61 parents served** by the CFSC-funded Parent Education Navigator social worker.
- Of the parents supported in 2020-21: **64%** are Black; **23%** are Hispanic/Latinx.

2Gen Impact Stats for the **194 College Enrollees Since 2013**

- **80%** Program Completion Rate
- **85%** Received Wage Increase
- **$7,100/yr.** Avg. Wage Increase
Women's Resource Center
Stipend Program

- Provides **funding support** for 2Gen parents enrolled in college.
- **18 women** served in the Stipend Program this 2020-2021 year.
- A dedicated **Case Manager** works with parents on budgeting and savings plans.
- Funds assist with **college costs** such as background checks, entrance exams, application fees, and fingerprinting.
- **Emergency funds** also available for things like car insurance, utility costs, work uniforms, childcare, court fees, etc.
- The Case Manager also connects parents to **other financial resources** such as Season of Sharing, CARES Act funding, and LIHEAP.
- **Additional services** offered include career coaching, mental health counseling, webinars, support groups, free clothing, etc.
- One parent chosen to be on a national Parent Advisory Panel for a 2Gen initiative at Ascend of the Aspen Institute. Click this [LINK](#) to listen to her podcast as part of Ascend's "1 in 5" series.

**2Gen Model of Support**
Literary Council of Sarasota
ESOL Program

- Provides online English Language Learner classes during school year in four 10-week cycles at 2Gen Title I target schools.
- A total of 20 mostly Hispanic/Latinx parents participated in the program from Gocio, Tuttle, and Emma E. Booker elementary schools.
- Two morning and evening 90-minute sessions provided each week.
- Goal is English language proficiency combined with confidence and knowledge of how to navigate a variety of societal systems.
- In addition to instructor, a bilingual/bicultural Family Mentor connects parents to resources and helps with any challenges.
- During the pandemic, many were assisted with accessing Season of Sharing funds.
- 10 families were given Thanksgiving & holiday dinners this year in collaboration with All Faiths Food Bank.
- Free laptops were provided to some of the parents in collaboration with Sarasota County Technical Users Group.
- Additional community partners offered presentations, such as Women’s Resource Center, Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading - This Book is Cool program, and 2-1-1.
UnidosNow Parent Leadership Program

- Empowers and engages immigrant parents to become leaders.
- Provides workshops and support network to help them improve their English, learn life skills, access resources, and understand the U.S. education system.
- 57 parents participated in programming this year.
- Open to any parent. ~90% of are Hispanic/Latinx; others come from countries such Brazil, Jordan, Ukraine, Japan.
- Many sessions are hosted by parents to develop their leadership skills.
- An Ambassador Program was created during COVID-19 with parents going into the community to distribute masks, sanitizers, vaccine information, etc.
- A key goal is to build confidence. Survey results below show a 56% point, or fourfold increase, after a session about school resources.

Parent Quote

I consider myself an empowered woman and thanks to that, I want to teach other mothers that together we can do good things for our children and for our community. We are not only housewives; we can achieve things for ourselves.

Click this link to hear Parent Ambassador Adriana’s testimonial.
Horizons Preschool Pilot

- Finalized 3-Year pilot program with Horizons Unlimited Christian Academy (HUCA) preschool in north Sarasota.
- 2Gen pilot combined high-quality early education for all HUCA students, with targeted family supports for 11 Pre-K families.
- Grant funding supported the preschool through:
  - Summer learning program
  - Facility and curriculum enhancements
  - Teacher professional development
  - Pathways for parents to pursue post-secondary education
- 100% of parents reported feeling more empowered to overcome barriers, and that they had increased motivation to access resources.
- 8 of the 11 parents enrolled in college, with five graduates to date and three still in-process.
- Academic data indicates that HUCA students entered Kindergarten at a higher rate of readiness than the comparative population of all Sarasota County School District students.
- Each of the 11 parents were surprised with $1,000 to establish 529 College Savings Plans for their children.
- To read the full pilot report, called 'Investing in Whole Families," click HERE.

Click this LINK to hear Shauniece's testimonial.
SCF Parent Initiative

- State College of Florida (SCF) launched a Parent Initiative in 2020 to identify strategies to better support students who are parents.
- The Parent Initiative Team is made up of SCF staff with a CFSC representative invited to participate.
- Goal is to identify needs and gaps in services for parents.
- Project is part of the Aspen Institute's "Postsecondary Success for Parents Initiative," which hosts regular peer learnings for a select group of community colleges across the United States.
- SCF President Dr. Carol Probstfeld invited to be on Ascend's inaugural Leadership Circle for Parents, made up of 23 college presidents.
- SCF team developed and administered a parent survey, with 180 respondents from current SCF students who are parents.
- 89% of survey respondents are female.
- Over one-third are single parents; 54% are first-generation students. Click HERE to read the full survey report.
- A key barrier identified is the availability and/or cost of quality childcare.
- Focus Groups are currently being conducted to gather more input.
- Plans are underway to create a Parent Advocate position modeled after CFSC's Parent Education Navigator position at the Sarasota County School District.
- Click the cover below to read more about parent-centered strategies to make college campus's more 2Gen/ family friendly.

Parent Quote

*It took me so long to return to school because of lack of sufficient childcare. But sometimes things come up, so accessibility to a backup childcare or even full time would be extremely helpful.*
Roberts Community College Fund

- Partnership with **seven rural community colleges** in Florida to connect them to **2Gen strategies** and support made possible through CFSC's Edward K. Roberts Fund.
- Project is part of a **national trend** to better understand and support college students with children.
- CFSC provided **182 scholarships** to students who are parents.
- **90%** of recipients are female; half are single mothers.
- The average age of students is **30 years old** and **75%** attend college part-time.
- More than **one-third** are enrolled in nursing programs.

**Parent Quote**

*I am a single mom to my one-year-old son. Studying and raising a baby alone, while working part-time as a student worker has not been easy.... I wasn’t sure I would have the financial means to continue my education, but you have made it possible, and I can’t thank you enough.*

Click this [Link](#) to see a video from North Florida College.
Conclusion

While the pandemic brought numerous challenges to our community this past year, the eight programs summarized on the previous pages all adapted to the COVID-19 restrictions and continued to positively impact the families we serve through our 2Gen investment strategies. They each reflect CFSC’s commitment to a long-term, ‘Whole Family’ philosophy of support that lifts parents up towards educational success and economic security. This 2Gen Parent Success work directly affects community-level outcomes as well, and helps move the needle on core indicators in our region such as:

**Education**
- Post-secondary Retention & Completion Rates
- Enrollment Rates in Adult Basic Education (e.g., ESOL, GED), Workforce Training, and College Programs
- Community College Scholarship Investments

**Workforce**
- Unemployment Rates
- Average Wages
- Median Household Income

**Economic Vitality**
- Federal Poverty Rates, including by households with children, and the number of ALICE Households
- K-12 Free & Reduced Lunch Percentages
- GDP per Capita
This report was developed by Community Foundation of Sarasota Consultant Deborah Chapman