COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Sarasota County

A RESOURCE FOR

CHARITABLE GIVING

COMMUNITY IMPACT
POWERED BY PHILANTHROPY

About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County

For nearly half a century, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has helped unlock possibilities for those who call our area home. As your partner in charitable giving, we strive to create long-term, generational change and to build a community where everyone thrives.

Since our founding in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council, we have demonstrated that individual and family philanthropy can transform communities. We actively listen to the desires and needs of our donors and share our deep community knowledge to build solutions-oriented partnerships that last.

With more than $500 million in assets and nearly 1,600 charitable funds, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County disburses up to $60 million in grants and scholarships each year, and provides the expertise needed to ensure that our donors' gifts create meaningful and sustainable change.

Community Foundation of Sarasota County
2635 Fruitville Road | Sarasota, FL 34237
941.955.3000 | donorservices@cfsarasota.org | cfsarasota.org

Let's Work Together to Make Our Region Strong and Vibrant

Imagine you want to make a difference, but don't know where to begin. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is here to help you learn about our community and discover organizations doing work in your areas of interest. We can arrange site visits, provide background information about nonprofits and on community needs, and identify experts in fields that capture your passion. Our staff works with you, your family, and your team of professional advisors to ensure your giving achieves maximum impact and remains true to your desires.

We are guided by a commitment to:

Stewardship
Providing quality service is our top priority. We oversee many funds in perpetuity, ensuring they are managed exactly as intended.

Collaboration and Connection
Together, we identify ways to enhance individual, family, and group philanthropy.

Community Solutions
Through local, regional, and national networks, we advise donors about charities, share best practices, and provide the latest in legal guidelines surrounding charitable giving.

Research and Knowledge
We gather in-depth information about regional needs and nonprofits using innovative data tools and share our findings with donors and the public.

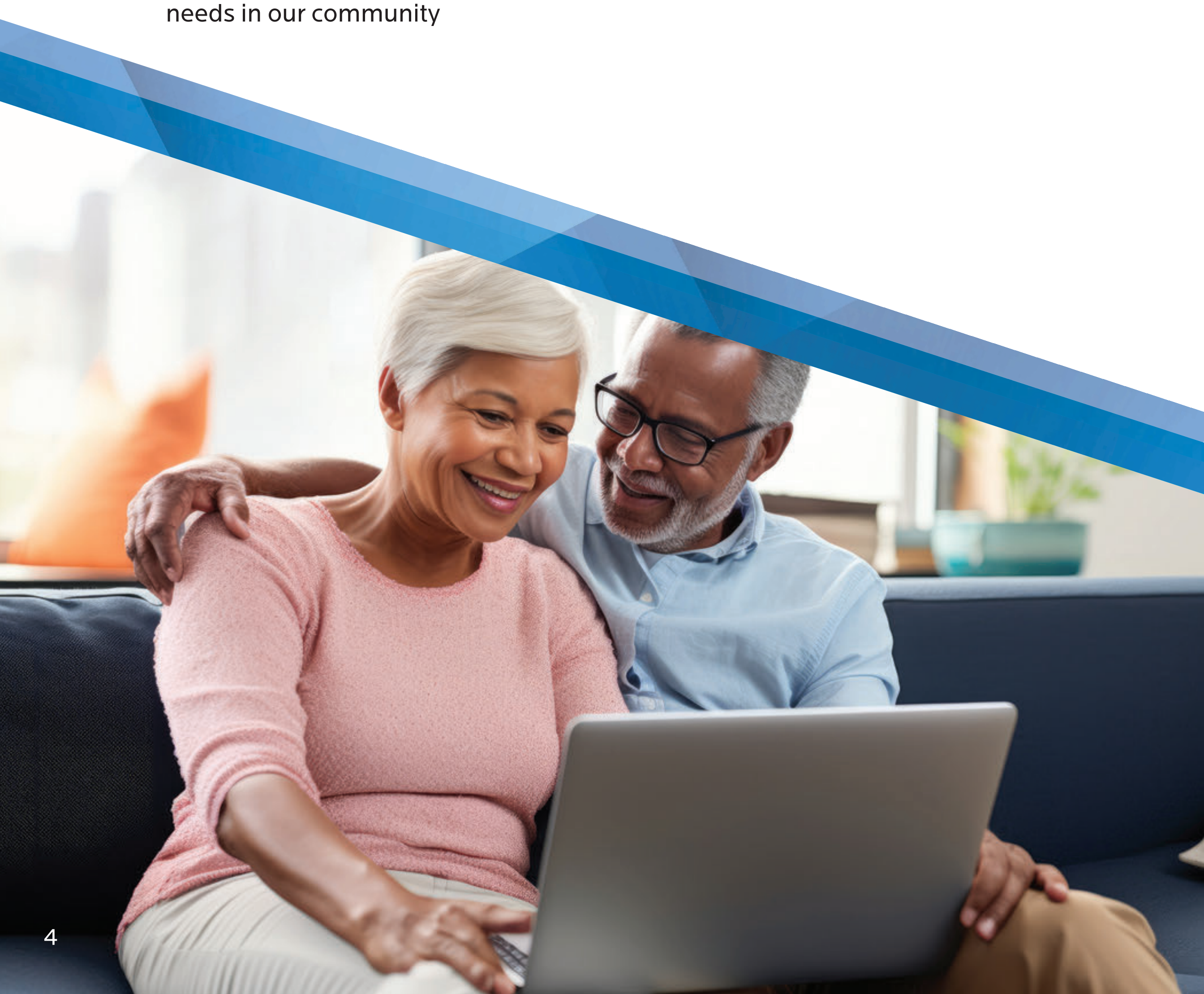
Our motto — **"Be the One"**—reflects our deeply held belief that **anyone can be a philanthropist** and **give back, regardless of means.**

Establishing a Vision for Your Giving

Our team of charitable planning experts works with you and your professional advisors to understand your values and goals to develop customized long-term giving plans that can last for generations.

Some examples of multigenerational planned giving approaches include:

- Naming successor advisors to continue making grants in the community
- Creating a transition plan from a Donor Advised Fund to an Endowed Legacy Fund that may include funds for family beneficiaries to advise grants individually
- Drafting oversight contingencies for attorneys, financial planners, certified public accountants, and other professional advisors
- Providing a sustaining gift to the Community Foundation to benefit unforeseen needs in our community



A Legacy of Love

Dr. Gertrude Hight (left) and Muriel O'Neil

Sisters **Muriel O'Neil** and **Dr. Gertrude Hight** first fell in love with the Sarasota arts community years ago, when the pair moved to the area after retiring. Born in Chicago, they had both begun their careers as writers in New York City. While Muriel enjoyed a distinguished publishing career, working at *American Heritage*, *The New York Times*, and a number of magazines, Gertrude returned to school later in life to study psychology and finished her career as Dr. Hight, a psychologist.

When the sisters retired, they purchased separate condos in the same building overlooking Sarasota Bay and spent their golden years as fixtures of the local arts and culture scene, serving as ushers, volunteering behind the scenes, and building deep relationships with the organizations they cherished.

When Muriel passed away in 2013, she left her estate to Dr. Hight, who created the Muriel O'Neil Fund for the Performing Arts at the Community Foundation with guidance from her estate attorney, Susan Hecker, now retired from Williams Parker Attorneys at Law. At Dr. Hight's direction, the fund has supported Florida Studio Theatre, Asolo Rep, Sarasota Ballet, The Players, and WEDU, and has continued to benefit these organizations since Dr. Hight's passing in 2015, creating new spaces and programs that neither of the sisters knew of in their lifetimes.

> "I don't think that either of them ever would have imagined their family names on a billboard on the side of a building. I think they would have focused greatly on all the good things happening inside that building every day."
>
> *–Susan Hecker, retired attorney, Williams Parker*

Charitable Fund Options

Whether you want to make a donation or establish a permanent charitable legacy, our team will work with you to develop a customized philanthropic plan that benefits your family through your estate plan. The Community Foundation offers an array of different fund types to match your philanthropic goals.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

A personal charitable account that allows donors to make grant recommendations for any 501(c)(3) organization in the United States. (See page 7 to discover five simple steps for effectively managing your charitable giving through a DAF.)

Designated Fund

Benefits a specific nonprofit or nonprofits on a recurring basis.

Field of Interest Fund

Allows donors to support nonprofits in broad areas of interest, such as education, the arts, the environment, or youth services. The Community Foundation evaluates and makes grants to nonprofits that are making a significant impact in the donor's area of interest.

Scholarship Fund

Helps traditional students and adult learners pursue their academic goals. These funds can be established by companies, organizations, families, or individuals.

Unrestricted Fund

Offers the greatest flexibility in responding to our community's ever-evolving needs and allows the Community Foundation to address issues as they emerge. By creating unrestricted funds, donors create a legacy that will grow and change alongside our community.

Endowed vs. Non-Endowed

Endowed funds are those in which the original donation (or "corpus") grows over time through interest and investment returns that can be granted to nonprofits while the corpus remains intact. With non-endowed funds, donors can issue grants from either the fund's investment income or from their original donation.

How a Donor Advised Fund Works

Step 1 Open a Fund

We make it easy to start giving. Our staff identifies potential tax benefits that enhance your philanthropy, manages all the necessary paperwork, and stays up to date on philanthropic trends and legal details. Our expertise allows you to focus on what matters most: giving back.

Step 2 Gift Money or Assets to Your Fund

We help ensure that you make donations when it makes the most financial sense for you and that you receive the greatest tax benefits from your gifts. (See page 10 for examples of different ways to give.)

Step 3 Take Advantage of Our Philanthropic Services

We constantly work to identify our community's greatest challenges and to support the hundreds of local nonprofits that are committed to creating opportunities for those in need. We maintain extensive databases with information about regional charities and collect granular details about the well-being of our community, so you know more about how to support the causes that matter most to you.

Step 4 Grant to a Nonprofit or Community Foundation Initiative

Recommend a grant from your fund to any 501(c)(3) organization—local or national—or support one of our initiatives. (For more information about those, see page 14.) We distribute grants directly to nonprofits on your behalf and ensure that your gift is used in the way it was intended.

Step 5 Make Our Community Stronger

Together, we turn generosity into lasting impact. By partnering with us, your giving supports meaningful change and helps build a more vibrant, resilient community for all.

Why Use a Donor Advised Fund Instead of a Private Foundation?

While giving through a Donor Advised Fund and giving through a private foundation may sound similar, creating a Donor Advised Fund offers several advantages. When it comes to your taxes, Donor Advised Funds allow for more generous income tax deductions when compared to private foundations, and they are also much simpler to establish, since there is no need for incorporation or IRS approval.

Donor Advised Funds also relieve donors of much of the ongoing work of maintaining the fund once it is established. The Community Foundation manages investments, tax filings, and audits, and there are no separate IRS filing requirements or minimum distribution rules. Private foundations, meanwhile, must file detailed annual tax returns, comply with minimum yearly payout rules, and manage or contract their own accounting, auditing, and investment services. Donor Advised Funds also offer greater privacy, whereas private foundations are subject to public disclosure laws.

Why Choose a Community Foundation Donor Advised Fund Over a Commercial Donor Advised Fund?

Donor Advised Funds are the fastest growing charitable vehicle. They are easy to establish, offer flexibility in grantmaking, and enable the donor to receive an immediate income tax deduction. Community foundations, commercial investment firms, banks, colleges, universities, and mission-based organizations all offer Donor Advised Funds—so why choose to work with the Community Foundation? It's simple:

1. **Local Impact and Knowledge**
   Founded by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council nearly 50 years ago, the foundation has worked in collaboration with professional advisors and their clients for decades and offers unrivaled expertise on local needs, nonprofits, and community initiatives.

2. **Personalized Service and Community Connections**
   With extensive networks and partnerships, we work hand in hand with donors to connect them with other philanthropists, nonprofits, and community leaders, facilitating collaboration and collective impact.

3. **Expertise in Philanthropic Investment Planning**
   The foundation partners with donors to hone their philanthropic goals, review the outcomes they wish to see, and define grantmaking priorities to develop effective philanthropic investments during their lifetime, as well as after death via legacy plans.

4. **Grantmaking Expertise**
   We offer a vast range of grant programs and initiatives tailored to address local needs and provide customized assistance in identifying and stewarding grant opportunities that align with your mission. Managing nearly 1,600 funds and more than $500 million in charitable assets, we use our significant knowledge to develop effective grantmaking strategies for local and national organizations.

5. **Advisors May Keep Assets Under Management**
   We realize that trusted advisors provide customized investment strategies that extend to their client's charitable assets. Donors who have a minimum account size may request that their advisor continue to manage their funds, allowing assets to stay with the advisor team, with specific investment policies and administrative guidelines from the foundation.

Ways to Give

There are many types of assets that you can use for charitable gifting, whether you wish to make a one-time gift to a Donor Advised Fund or establish a permanent Legacy Fund.

Cash

A check or credit card payment is the easiest way to contribute to a fund and may qualify for the highest level of charitable income tax deduction.

Stocks and Bonds

Gifting appreciated stock that has been held for more than one year allows a donor to deduct the full fair market value on the date of the gift while avoiding paying capital gains tax.

Real Estate

Appreciated, mortgage-free property that has been owned for more than one year may be gifted to a fund. A qualified appraisal will be required to determine the fair market value for your charitable income tax deduction.

Life Insurance

Life insurance policies can be used to create a major gift at a relatively low cost to the donor. If the Community Foundation is named as the owner or beneficiary of a new or existing policy, the donor may receive a charitable income tax deduction.

Closely Held Business Interests

Shares of closely held business interests may be gifted to the foundation and can help minimize the tax implications that come with the sale of a business. Shares must be transferred prior to entering into an agreement with a potential buyer.

Individual Retirement Account Gifts

A donor older than 70.5 years of age may transfer more than $100,000 each year from an IRA to the foundation. The amount transferred does not generate a charitable income tax deduction for the owner, but the gift will count toward the annual required minimum distribution amount, with no taxes owed on the amount of the gift. A donor may establish a Designated Fund, a Scholarship Fund, or an Unrestricted Fund when applying this strategy.

Cryptocurrency

You can make a charitable gift using cryptocurrency, which we convert to cash upon receipt. Donating appreciated crypto assets may also offer potential tax advantages.

Our Expertise

Sarasota is our home, and for nearly half a century, we have engaged in meaningful dialogue and developed trusted relationships with our donors and local nonprofits. Our staff is *the* authority on charitable giving in Southwest Florida.

Philanthropy

Whatever cause moves you, our team of philanthropic advisors can help create a framework for giving that translates your generosity into lasting impact.

Finance

The foundation's finance staff possesses decades of experience in the industry and provides expert oversight of the foundation's investments and grants. We also manage charitable assets to grow over time—ensuring more resources are available to invest back into our community.

Legal

Our in-house legal team helps facilitate complex gift and business transactions, reviews and negotiates contracts, and provides support to donors and other outside organizations.

Community Impact

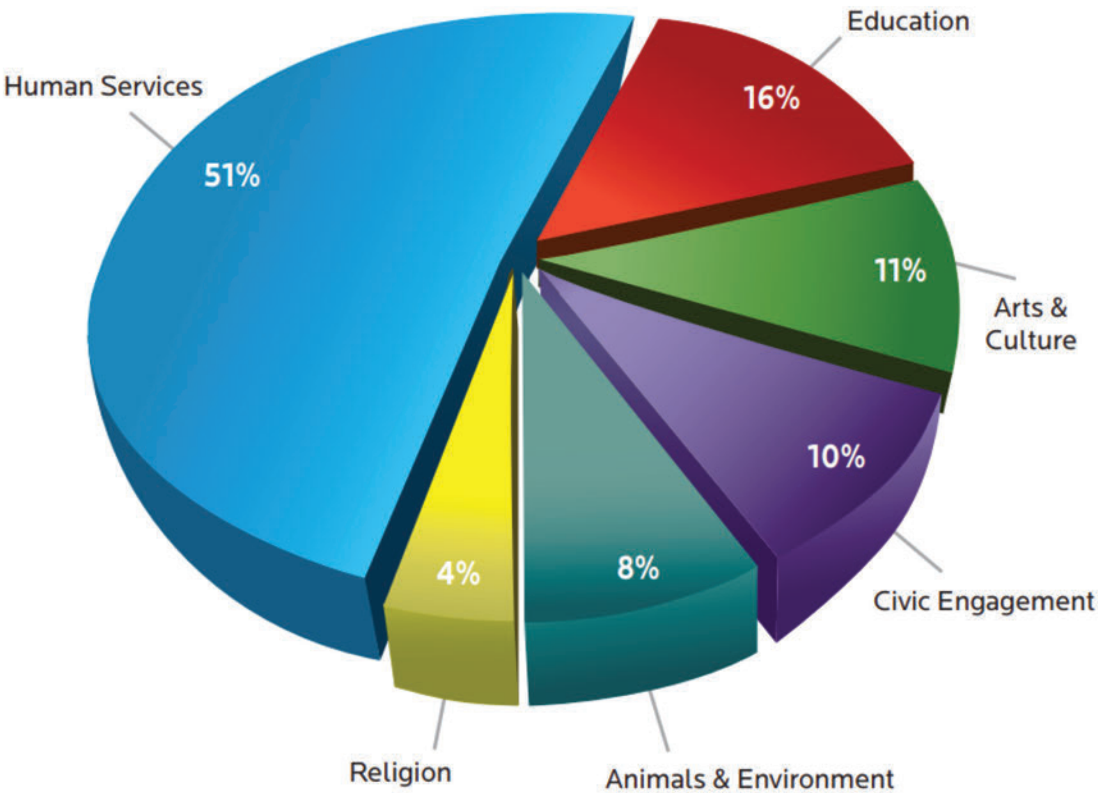
Our community impact team strengthens the region through strategic grantmaking, nonprofit capacity building, and partnerships that address pressing community needs.

To learn more about our entire team and the services we provide, scan this QR code.

Community Impact Powered by Philanthropy

We are a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support. Thanks to generous donors, we have been able to invest more than $500 million into the community through grants and scholarships, primarily in the areas of health and human services, education, arts and culture, animals and the environment, civic engagement, and religion.

GRANTS BY PROGRAM AREA



Data comes from fiscal year 2023-2024 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024).
See our latest financial statements at cfsarasota.org.

Our Strategic Vision

In our grantmaking, we work to cultivate a united community so that everyone can thrive. At the same time, we follow a multigenerational approach that is centered around helping both parents and children so that the whole family can achieve economic stability and social mobility.

In partnership with our donors and community organizations, we focus our giving in the following areas:

Community Care

- Emergency needs and disaster relief
- Safe, stable housing
- Access to health care and food
- Animal welfare

Empowerment and Success

- Literacy support
- Student enrichment
- Scholarships
- Career development

Belonging and Culture

- Family engagement
- Multigenerational experiences
- Multicultural inclusion
- The arts

Community Impact Initiatives

2Gen Approach

For more than a decade, the Community Foundation has embraced the philosophy that families are strengthened when there is an intentional, simultaneous focus on children and the adults in their lives. Programs that embrace the 2Gen (or two-generation) Approach bring together components such as early childhood education, K-12 education, post-secondary and employment pathways, social capital assistance, health and mental health support, and economic asset building.

Giving Challenge

The Giving Challenge is a 24-hour online giving extravaganza that brings together the 700-plus nonprofits listed in The Giving Partner, a database of trusted and verified nonprofits maintained by the Community Foundation. Since 2012, the Giving Challenge has raised more than $92 million in unrestricted funds through hundreds of thousands of donations.

Strauss Literacy Initiative

Established in 2018 with a $23 million endowment, The Ira and Patricia Strauss Fund for Children's Literacy helps struggling readers become proficient by supporting literacy initiatives for children from birth through college. The fund connects children with learning disorders with educational resources and provides professional development for teachers so that they can identify students who need help and implement intervention strategies.

Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund

Launched as Hurricane Ian approached Southwest Florida in 2022, the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund is designed to help residents rebuild and recover in the wake of major disasters like Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton in 2024. The program helps nonprofits do everything from repair damaged homes to provide mental health counseling to survivors.

These are just a few of the innovative programs created by the Community Foundation, and you can support these initiatives with your charitable fund.

Ready to **Be The One** to make a difference in your community?

Call **(941) 955-3000**, email **donorservices@cfsarasota.org**, or visit **cfsarasota.org** to start your philanthropic journey today.


40
MILLION
DOLLAR
GIVEBACK


GIVING
CHALLENGE


MOMUS

Be The One

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