



Photo courtesy of:
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County

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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

Dear Friends:

The human spirit thrives on connection. We have all found renewed appreciation for the everyday exchanges with next-door neighbors walking their dog, the morning barista dishing out your go-to brew, or the colleagues, friends, and family that add such richness and gratitude to our lives. Over these last few months we each have reimagined ways to keep these moments going, albeit behind the covering of a face mask and without the usual hugs and handshakes, but still fueled by our personal longing to return to this rhythm of interaction.

This search has encouraged us to learn, innovate, and adapt to new opportunities that bring us all closer together. Just as previously unheard of terms like “social distancing” have become part of our vernacular, so too have online platforms — Zoom, social media, and the like — that gift us much needed time with those we care about and afford us opportunities to connect virtually.

While our comfort levels may still be evolving facing new behaviors, know that our hearts are deeply encouraged by our community’s willingness to embrace change and continue connecting with others — virtual or otherwise — with no shortage of courage and hope.

In this time of recovery, philanthropy shows us that our connection to community is strengthened by our service to others. At the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, we are privileged to steward this caring spirit through the generous individuals who entrust us with their hopes, dreams, and visions for a better future.

For months, we have seen donors rise to this crisis with generosity: giving from donor advised funds increased 35% in the immediate months of the pandemic,

reflecting a larger national trend that we expect to continue. Because when called upon, you, our donors — past, present, and future — are here to react and improve lives with the Community Foundation as your trusted partner. As these efforts show, our recovery is only as strong as the voices that come together to create it.

As you read these stories about the resiliency of our students and education sector (page 4), the innovative approaches behind social charitable investments (page 8), the empowering “fillosophy” of author Carol McCloud (page 10), and the personal reflections of a *Season of Sharing* reporter (page 12), we hope you are inspired to reimagine how you too can connect with others.

While each one of us has a role to play in this recovery, it will be our shared aspirations and the connectivity between them that will guide our philanthropic response to build the community we all want to live in. After all, our path to recovery is wide enough for all of us, and we invite you to join us in paving the way forward.

There is hope because there is you.

With heartfelt gratitude,



Nelle S. Miller, Board Chair



Roxanne G. Jerde, President and CEO

THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF EDUCATION: ADAPTING AND INNOVATING DURING A CRISIS

Editor's Note: This piece was inspired by insights shared and learned during the inaugural session of "Community Voices," a series of virtual panel discussions that was created by our foundation to bring together experts from nonprofit and community organizations to discuss our community's evolving needs. This conversation was held virtually on July 27, 2020.

The challenges facing our education sector in the immediate months of the coronavirus pandemic are revealing. From overcoming technology barriers to fulfilling the basic needs of our families, the students, parents, teachers, and providers within our community are working hard to create a constant learning environment for our children. With all this effort, the question remains: how can we adapt and innovate to transform these challenges into lasting opportunities that reflect our genuine care and value for education?

Alongside nonprofit and community organizations, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has been a trusted partner in ensuring children and their adults have the resources and opportunities necessary to reach their full potential, especially through education. In a school year that continues to be disrupted by social distancing and virtual learning, this focus has taken on a newfound importance as our community explores innovative ways to engage students of all ages, mitigate learning loss, and build the proper foundations for a lifetime of success.

In the inaugural *Community Voices* virtual panel discussion, four community partners alongside

the Community Foundation's Kirsten Russell, Vice President, Community Impact, and Nicole Light, Education Officer, shared valuable insights and lessons learned on how our community can respond and thrive as we navigate the 2020-2021 school year. In the wake of prolonged school closures, summer programs held by these partners discovered and offered creative solutions to create a space for students to feel safe, connected with their peers, and involved in their learning. All the programs were designed to meet students where they are and help sustain learning gains, and each has set forth criteria to measure success and share results.

"As the Sarasota County lead for the Suncoast Campaign for Grade Level Reading, the Community Foundation invests in results-oriented programs that focus on a whole family, two-generation approach and help close the achievement gap," says Light. "Research suggests that mental health support, family visitation and parent engagement lead to student success, and the programs offered by these organizations are making strides in these areas and more for our children, their families, and ultimately our community."



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– Nicole Light, Education Officer, Community Foundation of Sarasota County



Students and mentors connect and build mentoring relationships over Zoom thanks to the Booker High School E-Tutoring Program, which served more than 50 students this summer.

“Despite being largely remote, schools feel more connected to families than ever before as lessons are more personalized, meaningful, and relevant to students.

– Chris Renouf, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Sarasota County Schools

Summer 2020 BOOST Program

Chris Renouf, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Sarasota County Schools

Evolving from months of remote learning experiences, BOOST is an all-virtual learning program serving 1,500 students in grades 2-5 throughout all 23 Sarasota County elementary schools. During the month of June, students received personalized lessons five times a week led by a certified Sarasota County teacher, with technology provided by the district. Participation in the program was based on predictive scores and school recommendations, and student progress and success were shared with their assigned teachers.

Though adapting to the virtual environment continues to be a challenge, Renouf shared several silver linings that arose from these virtual experiences.

“In more ways than one, everyone – from teachers to school administrators – all modeling life-long learning, taking in and acting on information right alongside students,” said Renouf. “Despite being largely remote, schools feel more connected to families than ever before as lessons are more personalized, meaningful, and relevant to students.” The biggest lesson learned? Serving and supporting students and families in a responsive manner, as everyone’s needs are going to differ.

Booker High School E-Tutoring & Mentoring Program

Khea Davis, At Risk Specialist, Booker High School

With an emphasis on enrichment and engagement, Booker High School’s E-Tutoring Program connects high school mentors with



“For the high school mentors, the experience was an ‘eye-opener,’ as many could relate to the younger students’ experiences while also realizing that every student learns differently. – Khea Davis, At Risk Specialist, Booker High School

elementary school students through 1:1 sessions that build meaningful relationships and create “lightbulb moments” for all participants. Initially a collaboration between Booker High School and Emma E. Booker Elementary School, this collaborative program expanded to three more Title I schools – Alta Vista, Gocio, and Tuttle elementary schools – serving more than 50 students through two summer sessions, each lasting four weeks.

As students became more engaged, so did their families. “Parents have become more responsive and active in connecting to their students’ learning, especially in elementary school,” says Davis. “For the high school mentors, the experience was an ‘eye-opener,’ as many could relate to the younger students’ experiences while also realizing that every student learns differently. This mentor-mentee relationship is key to sustaining engagement and ultimately enriches lives.”

Great Futures Academy

**Dawn Page, Vice President of Operations,
Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County**

The Great Futures Academy at Boys & Girls Club of Sarasota County provides learning support and extracurricular activities for more than 660 students who either attend a Title I school or are a child of a local first responder. During two summer sessions, students received three hours of academics in small groups led by certified teachers, covering subjects such as math, journaling, and technology, before diving into enrichment activities. Families also remained engaged, whether with social workers to identify needs or with community partners to appropriately connect them to resources.

Although Great Futures Academy normally serves around 2,000 students through its summer program, Page found that the smaller group size gave her team the ability to address individual needs and more closely bond with their kids. What she also discovered should not come as a surprise: children need their social time and friendships to feel whole. Yet more than anything, Page remarked, “Our students are unbelievably resilient, and everyone should feel encouraged that the future of our community is in good hands.”

This Book is Cool!

**Beth Duda, Director, Suncoast Campaign for
Grade Level Reading, The Patterson Foundation**

Designed to foster a love of reading and learning for children Pre-K through 3rd grade, *This Book is Cool!* is a weekly web series highlighting exciting books, new vocabulary words, fun activities, and special community guests. Over 10 weeks this last summer, the web series had more than 1,000 students in our four-county region enroll, each receiving copies of the featured books to help build their own home libraries. In just over two months the series had garnered an astounding 19,564 views.

While these numbers are remarkable, Duda believes the true impact of *This Book is Cool!* lies in its connectivity. With each episode, the program reinforces the idea that students truly want to learn, with their families robustly participating as one collective whole, and that there is strong interest in experiential learning across generations and disciplines. The importance of helping families overcome hard and true obstacles such as technology barriers, transportation, and a general feeling of being overwhelmed was not lost on Duda’s team, and these

efforts provided valuable opportunities for people to reach out to people and engage in relationship building.

What Comes Next: Collaborate, Personalize, Anticipate

Despite the uniqueness of each one of these programs, all partners shared a core belief in the power of collaboration and personalization. In a time when families may feel isolated, community partnerships can be a reassuring force, reminding them that support is beyond just one entity. Moving forward, these partnerships will need to *anticipate* and remain nimble, especially in the realm of social and emotional support.

“Adaptability and innovation are essential to our nonprofit and community partners as they face evolving needs and challenges presented by this school year,” says Russell. “While philanthropy is one part of the overall solution, foundations and donors will continue to support innovative approaches that build resiliency and lead to recovery. We should be encouraged by what we see from these grantees and many others as they pivot to address the needs of our students, parents, teachers, providers – everyone who brings life to the education sector – even in the face of ongoing uncertainty.”

Education is about so much more than academics. It touches social-emotional learning, creates spaces for real connection, and most importantly, supports children and families where they are so they feel empowered to succeed. We’ve all heard “It takes a village to raise a child,” but perhaps over the course of this crisis, as panelist Davis noted, our villages are expanding beyond the schoolyard fence to become a robust network of interconnected communities, embracing adaptability and innovation to enrich the lives of all students. 🏡

Discover more conversations with cause leaders by visiting CFSarasota.org/Community-Voices.

Donors Rethinking Education for the Next Generation

Education is a passion for many donors who work with the Community Foundation. Here are three examples of how personal philanthropy is empowering local students and their families by supporting learning in very distinct ways.

Carl Caruso | Bridges to Success Program

With the goal of making postsecondary education a reality for every child and supporting teachers in the early learning community, Carl’s “Bridges to Success” program subsidizes child care for children age 2-5 year while also building 529 college savings plans with participating families. To date, 14 children have graduated from the “Bridges to Success” early childhood program and 12 are currently enrolled, with each child who started the program at age two entering kindergarten with nearly \$6,000 set aside for postsecondary education.

David Rubin | Youth Learning at SOAR Learning Center

As a former educator and local business owner, Rubin has collaborated significantly with SOAR (Seeds of Academic Resource), a community-based after school education program for 50 students in grades K-3 in north Sarasota. Recently, Rubin has helped construct a new learning center for SOAR, which broke ground in 2018. The new facility – run by certified teachers – provides classrooms for each grade along with all the learning tools necessary to succeed and thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Lela D. Jackson Foundation Scholarship

Established to honor Jackson’s legacy of supporting higher education and educational causes, the Lela D. Jackson Foundation Scholarship is a 4-year, \$50,000 scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors in Sarasota County. Since 2014, 36 students from area high schools have received a renewable Lela D. Jackson Scholarship, totaling more than \$1.5 million.

EVOLVING PHILANTHROPY

For more than 40 years the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has developed relationships to help build and enhance our community through charitable giving. Along the way, we have had the great privilege to work with donors who continue to dream about opportunities for this great area we call home and all who live here. How those opportunities come together is constantly evolving, but our reason for all our work holds constant: we are guided by the belief that by coming together, our collective generosity can support causes that create the community where everyone feels respected, engaged, motivated, and valued.

New Fund Investment Opportunities

Like all future-focused organizations, the Community Foundation's financial strength has been guided by achieving long-term sustainability. In addition to donors choosing to have their charitable funds invested within a mix of long-term investment pools (see sidebar), the Community Foundation's investment committee recently approved a new option for donor fund holders.

This new option, called the **Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG)** pool, is a long-term investment strategy that focuses on a portfolio of funds consisting of equities and bonds that consider additional ESG factors in their investment decision-making process. This is a growing investment category known by various names that attempt to align personal values with investments.

The Community Foundation's ESG pool currently is comprised of a Northern Trust Global Sustainability Index Fund, a TIAA-CREF Social Choice Bond Fund and a TIAA-CREF Social Choice Equity Fund. The fund is managed by Northern Trust and the Investment Fee is approximately 0.14% (14 basis points).



Laura Spencer

"This option is recommended for endowed funds or funds with seven or more years of investment time horizon," said Laura Spencer, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer with the Community Foundation. "At the same time, it provides donors an opportunity to align their investments with their values."

Innovative Approaches to Social Investments

Charitable giving in our community is ever progressing as each donor has their own experiences that set their visions of personal or family philanthropy philosophies.

"Getting to know individuals and families and learn about the results they hope to see from their philanthropic investments and personal legacies is particularly rewarding," said Betsy Pennewill, Corporate Counsel for the Community Foundation. Pennewill, with experiences in corporate banking,



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– Betsy Pennewill, Corporate Counsel for the Community Foundation

real estate, and estate planning, works with donors and professional advisors to develop results-focused charitable giving plans and agreements.

Pennewill says she is currently seeing more donors with expectations of a return on their charitable investments. For example, in fall 2019, an anonymous donor granted \$200,000 to fund a pilot program for solar investments. The program offers low-interest funds to Sarasota County-based nonprofit organizations to improve energy sustainability at their facilities. As the low-interest funding is paid back, this anonymous donor will use it to fund community-wide education projects about energy efficiency.

“Through this pilot, the donor’s goal is to reach new, measurable milestones in local sustainability,” Pennewill said.

The Community Foundation’s board of directors is also supporting Program Related Investments (PRI) made through charitable funds. This past summer the board approved a capstone investment loan of \$2 million in a \$33 million real estate development in Sarasota’s Rosemary District supporting affordable and workforce housing. Led by the Sarasota Housing Authority, this project, which is known as Lofts on Lemon, aligns with the foundation’s two-generation approach to investing in families to generate social returns in housing, career development, and education. The funds committed to the project will be repaid after 15 – 18 years at below-market interest rates.

“There are tremendous opportunities to use the Community Foundation’s capital beyond grantmaking to achieve a social and financial return,” said Roxie Jerde, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. “Our board is guided by our values, and through innovative means is funding projects today that will have long-term impacts in our community. Lofts on Lemon will ensure its residents will be able to reprioritize family budgets thanks to limitations on rent-to-income calculations, allowing families to improve their financial stability.” 

Investment Options

In addition to our new ESG pool, donors have several choices in how their funds are invested:

- **Cash:** Funds held in cash are not subject to investment risk and have no investment fee and will not earn interest. Recommended if a fund will make grants in two years or less.
- **Long-Term Pool:** This option offers a broadly diversified fund of domestic and international equities, fixed income, and alternatives invested for long-term returns. This option is recommended for endowed funds or funds with an investment time horizon of seven or more years.
- **Conservative Pool:** This option is invested with an approximate allocation of 30% equities and 70% fixed income. This option is recommended for less volatility, or if funds will make grants in two to seven years.
- **Individually Managed Account:** Donors with funds meeting set balances may request for the funds to be managed by their professional advisor, meeting certain terms.

If you would like to continue to receive our annual financial report via postal mail, please let us know by emailing communications@cfsarasota.org or calling 941-955-3000. Previous and future annual summaries are available at www.cfsarasota.org.

Profile: Carol McCloud

A BUCKET “FILLOSOPHY” TO GIVING

Carol McCloud learned at an early age from the vinyl-lined booth of a diner about the power of giving. Whenever young Carol would visit her Uncle Frank in Chicago, they would go out to eat at a local diner. Following a meal, they would select someone who appeared sad or lonely and secretly buy their breakfast. Afterward, Carol recalls being overcome with happiness and laughter from the experience of caring for another person. Those diner meals with Uncle Frank were the beginnings of a charitable habit that Carol has continued throughout her life.

“There is always an opportunity to fill someone else’s bucket,” says McCloud.

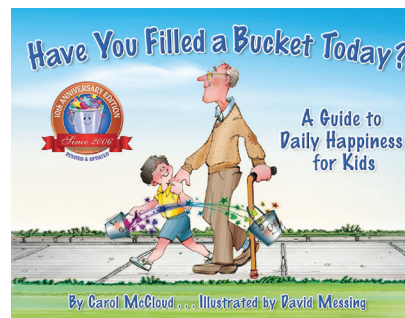
As an early childhood educator and best-selling authoring, McCloud has empowered people of all ages to learn and develop key social-emotional skills. Her so-called “happiness skills” – kindness, self-control, resilience, and forgiveness – lead to happier lives, healthier relationships, and ultimately a better world, says McCloud.

“It’s all about what you can do, even on a small level,” says McCloud. “You would be surprised by all you get back when you give. Giving is for each of us; we just have to tap into the caring behind it because that is what adds such a richness to your life. I think anyone can experience this.”

It was at an early childhood conference in the 1990s that McCloud first came across the concept of “bucket filling,” along with burgeoning mental, emotional, and social development research that children were happier when they learned to be kind to others and themselves. Inspired by the simplicity and effectiveness behind this idea, McCloud put pen to paper and wrote her first book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids* in 2006.

Before long, her conversations with parents, grandparents, and teachers about “bucket filling” at farmer’s markets transformed into nationwide

dialogues with school assemblies and staff workshops as the publication sold more than 10,000 first-edition copies within its first year, and more than 100,000 copies per year since then. McCloud’s “Bucket Fillosophy” has expanded far beyond the realm of publishing children’s books through her organization, Bucket Fillers, Inc. Today a movement, “Bucket Fillanthropy” inspires people of all ages to live happier lives through their own acts of kindness and generosity.



Cover of McCloud’s first Bucket Filler book, *Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids*, published in 2006.

From its very beginnings, Bucket Fillers has held philanthropy close to its heart. After moving from Michigan to Florida in 2014, McCloud found her way to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, which McCloud felt a connection to because of the foundation’s position that everyone has the potential to be a philanthropist. It wasn’t long before she decided that the Community Foundation would receive and distribute her royalties, distributing Bucket Fillers’ funds four times a year with a portion to help numerous local nonprofit organizations. McCloud said that knowing her funds would be carefully stewarded and entrusted to trusted causes within the community met her ultimate charitable goals.

“Since our first book was published in 2006, we have donated a portion of every book’s proceeds,” says McCloud. “By the end of 2019, we were surprised to learn that our donations had totaled more than \$500,000 and we hope to reach the \$1 million within the next 10 years. Today, 50 percent of company



Carol McCloud, back row, right, meets with young learners at Southside Elementary School to share her “Happiness Skills” – kindness, self-control, resilience, and forgiveness – and inspire “Bucket Filling” for all ages.

proceeds is donated annually to selected nonprofit organizations and causes that not only reflect the ideals and values behind Bucket Fillers, but also make a difference and inspire others to give, too.”

Locally, McCloud has supported the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County, recently making a \$50,000 gift to help build its new facility in Arcadia, and SOLVE Maternity Homes, with whom she is discussing plans to help with construction efforts for a new maternity home.

In the 14 years since its release, 3,000 Bucket Fillers presentations have been given by a small team of certified trainers in more than 1,200 primary schools around the world, with plans to expand outreach even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Responding to school closures and virtual learning, Bucket Fillers donated 1,200 copies of her chapter book, *Growing Up with a Bucket Full of Happiness: Three Rules for a Happier Life*, to young learners as a way to develop skills and cultivate empathy. Some 400 of those books

went to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County and another 800 to educators in Texas. McCloud intends on giving another 5,000 books to a handful of schools and nonprofit organizations in the coming months.

Additionally, Bucket Fillers’ COVID-19 pandemic response encompassed support for local and nationwide funds, including All Faiths Food Bank, Gleaners Food Bank, and Samaritan’s Purse. As McCloud put it, “When a disaster strikes, Bucket Fillers helps.”

As our community navigates a safe and thoughtful path to recovery, McCloud believes her Bucket “Filosophy” can shine a light of hope for people and organizations alike and offer a friendly reminder that keeping your own bucket filled is just as important as filling another’s.

“While we each have choices every day, why not do something if you can and see the fruits of that effort blossom? After all, it’s really not giving – it’s adding.” 🌟



After sharing the stories of Mary Strader (left) and Diana Lefan (right), journalist Angie DiMichele (center) found herself with an outpouring of calls, emails, and text messages from readers across our community asking how they could extend a helping hand to their fellow neighbors in need. *Photos courtesy of the Herald-Tribune Media Group.*

Initiative: Season of Sharing

DRAFTING OUR STORY OF RECOVERY WITH SEASON OF SHARING

As the story of our community's response and recovery unfolds, a dedicated Herald-Tribune reporter – Angie DiMichele – will spend the next year developing data-supported articles that give voice to families and individuals supported through Season of Sharing, the 20-year strong initiative supporting individuals and families facing emergencies. In this story, we have invited DiMichele to share her reflections and impressions of this community-wide partnership and impressions on our community. A version of this story was published in the Herald-Tribune on September 20, 2020.

For the last month, I've gotten to meet people in our community who have been affected by the coronavirus pandemic. My typical day involves sitting down with people and asking them to open up about some of their most difficult days, financially, and emotionally. That's how I met Diana Lefan.

She has been a housekeeper in Sarasota since the early 2000s. She worked two to three cleaning jobs each day up until March, with most of her business stemming from elderly clients and vacation rentals

in Siesta Key. Her business dropped off once the world began to wake up to the seriousness of the coronavirus.

Lefan was able to receive rent assistance in June through Season of Sharing. I shared her story – a story of her not knowing whether she could make next month's rent, one of her hoping that business will return. We talked for over two hours on her front porch. I pulled out of her driveway last week feeling grateful that she let me – a complete stranger – into her home

and her life to talk about how she has been financially devastated during the pandemic. I left thinking of how lucky I am to share a slice of peoples' lives each day, real stories about the lives around us that we may never otherwise encounter.

On Monday morning, my phone started to ping with emails from readers. I received one email before 7 a.m. Another before 9 a.m. A handful more by noon. Each reader who emailed after reading Lefan's story wanted to hire her for weekly or monthly cleanings. That could mean over a dozen potential new jobs for Lefan, who said she has been lucky to get three or four jobs a month since March.

When Lefan walked into a client's home for her weekly cleaning Monday morning, Lefan said she saw her reading the paper as she drank her coffee. "Diana, you're a celebrity," Lefan recalled the client telling her as she laughed. She could hardly believe the opportunities that have appeared overnight for her. Her story even reached one reader in Canada, Jeannette Proudfoot.

There are many people in the community, who after hearing the stories of people like Lefan, have donated to Season of Sharing in the last two decades. How powerful is it to know the \$5, \$50 or \$500 they donated went toward a rent or utilities payment for people in situations like Lefan's?

This time, she was able to see one story in the mass of thousands who have been helped by Season of Sharing. I enjoy that I get to make someone's donation visible in some small way.

Another Sarasota resident who reached out about hiring Lefan said she has been reading the weekly Season of Sharing stories in the Herald-Tribune. She said they have raised her awareness about the number of people in the community who are in need. This reader also lost her job early on before the pandemic became the news. She knows what it feels like to be afraid and rejected in her search for work during the pandemic.

This reader exhibits what Season of Sharing has long been about. She knows what it is like to be in

Lefan's shoes, so she wanted to give back. Similarly, sometimes those helped by the fund end up donating to Season of Sharing to help others because they have been there before.

I also wrote about Mary Strader, a housekeeper in Bradenton who lost work as a result of the pandemic, and at least one reader reached out looking to give her work, too.

From these stories, the spirit of generosity in this community is clear, even in my short time at the Herald-Tribune. That spirit of generosity is why my job to share these stories exists.

I have also received emails from readers who are in desperate need of help. A few have emailed and said they are on the verge of homelessness. These are a poignant reminder that each time I share a story of someone who has been helped, there are more people out there who need that same small miracle now more than ever.

As a newcomer to Sarasota, I am thrilled to now live in a community where readers like you value the role of local journalism and actively engage in the community to try to make it a better place where and when you can. 🏡

Coming in December

Join a conversation with the Herald-Tribune Media Group and community partners as we discuss the latest impact of Season of Sharing and how this community-wide network is responding to the evolving needs brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEN: 3 p.m., December 1, 2020

WHERE: Zoom Webinar – Link to be emailed upon registration

If you are interested in attending, please let us know by sending an email to events@cfsarasota.org.

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COMMUNITY IMPACT PHILOSOPHY

We believe that each one of us has the potential to impact a person, a cause, a community. It is this idea that powers our community impact philosophy revolving around Community Care, Empowerment and Success, and Belonging and Culture. Through these three impact areas, together we are building the community we all want to live in, one that encourages neighbors to help neighbors while empowering others to succeed and uphold their self-worth through education, and to create lifelong connections.

Philanthropy is a resource to ignite positive change, and also be a trusted partner in difficult times. These examples of recent grant funding exemplify ways planned gifts stewarded by our foundation have been able to address needs brought on by the global pandemic, and support innovative solutions in these evolving times.

COMMUNITY CARE

Mothers Helping Mothers

To supply new cribs and basic necessities to families in need during the COVID-19 pandemic

Edward K. Roberts Fund

Operation Warrior Resolution

To provide rapid resolution therapy and holistic counseling to veterans and their families

James Franklin Warnell & Dorothy J. Warnell Fund

EMPOWERMENT AND SUCCESS

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast

To foster relationships through an online one-to-one mentoring program

Allen Wirtz Nobbe and Jo Bowen Nobbe Fund

SOAR Learning Center

To continue summer instruction in reading and math to 50 Newtown elementary students in grades K-3

Advanced Leadership Initiative Fund

BELONGING AND CULTURE

Choral Artists of Sarasota

To assist in transforming concerts and educational modules into online programming






Martha Leiter and Nancy Streetman Fund II

Laurel Civic Association

To support a website redesign that will improve client access to services

Disaster Relief Fund

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