

Be The One



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

of Sarasota County

NONPROFIT NEWS



Support Season of Sharing | Response to COVID-19

As an initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are relying on the time-tested and trusted Season of Sharing partnership with the Herald-Tribune Media Group and our multiple nonprofit partners to help the most vulnerable individuals and families with immediate basic needs such as payments for utilities, childcare and rent. Even in regular times, Season of Sharing is vital to many in our community, and we are fortunate to have it to help in addition to the government and private measures being developed.

As a response to this crisis and to bolster Season of Sharing funds, our longtime partner, The Patterson Foundation, has committed up to \$1 million to strengthen this important safety net. The commitment includes an immediate \$500,000 contribution, along with an additional dollar-for-dollar match up to \$500,000.

In times like this, philanthropy can truly shine, and we appreciate every gift of any size that can be made at this time to help our friends and neighbors.

[Read Our COVID-19 Response](#)



2020 Giving Challenge: Important Updates & Reminders

While we are monitoring the evolving situation in our community, we'd like to share that the 2020 Giving Challenge is first and foremost an **online** giving event, and remains scheduled for April 28-29. The 2020 Giving Challenge will be one of several grant-funding tools available to help with our community's evolving response to the coronavirus pandemic, as the unrestricted funds raised during the Giving Challenge provide our nonprofit partners flexibility to respond to community needs, especially as those needs evolve or change.

With that being said, there are several important announcements we would like to share regarding prizes, in-person events, and Pop-up Giving Stations.

Prizes

With many in-person gatherings being canceled, at this time the "Best Community Event" Prize has been changed to "Best Online Event." Just as before, there will be 9 prize awards: \$2,000 prizes awarded to three winners per category (small, medium, large) who conduct the best Giving Challenge online event. An online event can encompass a variety of unique mediums: webinars, livestreams, chatrooms, integration with social media and other web platforms. Judges are looking for how well your online event engages the community in your mission and the Giving Challenge; how unique, creative, and flexible your approach is; how did it inspire giving to and engagement with your organization; and how well you incorporated the "Be The One" concept.

Deadline: 5pm on Friday, April 3, 2020. Instructions on how to apply for prizes have been sent to team leaders.

The deadline for all other 2020 Giving Challenge prizes remains the same: 5pm on Friday, March 27, 2020.

In-Person Events & Pop-up Giving Stations

With in-person gatherings canceled, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County does not support or advise nonprofit organizations hold in-person Giving Challenge events this year. This also includes coordinating or participating in a Pop-up Giving Station.

In place of in-person events, we recommend you flex your creative muscles with a variety of online event and social media strategies, including for example: webinars, livestreams, chatrooms, digital trivia or scavenger hunts. While in-person events and connections certainly make the Giving Challenge a gem in our community, online events provide enormous flexibility and potential to creatively connect others to your mission, while accommodating to the evolving situation in our community.

For the latest information regarding the 2020 Giving Challenge, please visit the official website below.

[Visit the 2020 Giving Challenge Website](https://givingpartnerchallenge.org)



Grant Opportunities

To support local nonprofit and other community organizations engaging in short-term response and longer-term recovery, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has several grant funds available.

We anticipate *multiple phases of funding* and are collaborating with other local foundations to learn about different community needs. Together, our organizations will coordinate resources to further support the changing government and private measures that are being developed.

Community Impact Grants

Our Community Impact Grants (up to \$10,000) are designed to help local organizations transform innovative ideas into successful programs or partnerships that address critical needs or improve a nonprofit's ability to fulfill its mission. Rolling grant cycles for requests up to \$10,000 are reviewed regularly with an online, streamlined application.

[Learn More](#)

2020 Health Care Grants

Applications are now open for the 2020 Health Care Grants, which are available through the support of the James Franklin Warnell & Dorothy J. Warnell Fund.

This grant program supports those not-for-profit organizations providing health care services in Sarasota County, Florida to provide direct assistance to individuals. The total amount of grant funds available in this grant cycle is \$100,000.

Application Deadline: Friday, May 1st 2020 by 11:59 PM

[Learn More](#)

School Readiness Grants

The School Readiness Grant is the Community Foundation of Sarasota County's program that focuses on supporting and strengthening programs that help young children and their families prepare for school and succeed in kindergarten in Sarasota County. Grant proposals for one-year or multi-year projects will be considered.

Application Deadline: Monday, April 6th 2020 by 11:59 PM

[Learn More](#)

Athena Progressive Giving Circle Voter Empowerment Grant

Athena Progressive Grant Applications are now available for the 2020 cycle. This grant opportunity will

fund up to \$20,000 for impactful programs by existing non-partisan, 501(c)3 organizations in Sarasota and Manatee counties that will measurably improve voting participation, particularly by traditionally low-turnout women.

The program funded would ideally have a strong voter education component, so that those who rarely vote or have never voted understand the importance of voting in their lives and will pass this knowledge on to future generations.

All proposals must be submitted to Katie Schwabach, Katie@CFSarasota.org, at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County no later than Tuesday, April 14, 2020.

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 14th 2020 by 11:59 PM

Note: if your organization wants to apply but does not think it will have the time or resources due to current working conditions, please email Katie Schwabach, Katie@CFSarasota.org, and let her know of your situation.

[Learn More](#)



Webinars | 2020 Giving Challenge

We regret to inform you that our upcoming March 28th Nonprofit Training – “Documenting the Day” – has been cancelled and, at this time, will not be rescheduled. For those looking for digital resources to use for the 2020 Giving Challenge, visit the [nonprofit toolkit on the Giving Challenge website](#). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

While we understand that many attendees were looking forward to learning how to maximize their campaigns for the 2020 Giving Challenge, there is still an opportunity to learn how to do so. From 2-3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, we will be hosting an online webinar about the “Final Steps to Success for the Giving Challenge.” In this webinar, we’ll go over last-minute tips and best practices to engage with your supporters and be successful during the 24-hours of the Giving Challenge. The Giving Challenge team will also be available to answer any and all of your questions.

The important thing is: there’s still plenty of time to make sure your Giving Challenge campaign is ready to go!

- Watch GiveGab's [Strategies for an Impactful Giving Day During COVID-19](#) webinar.
- [Register for the March 31 Final Steps to Success for the Giving Challenge](#) webinar today. If you cannot watch the live webinar, don’t worry: we will be recording the webinar and posting it on the [Community Foundation](#) and [Giving Challenge](#) websites on April 1.

[Watch Giving Days and COVID-19 Webinar](#)

Register for March 31 Webinar

GuideStar Communication: Not a Requirement

Earlier last week, some nonprofit organizations received a message from Candid (GuideStar) – the technology provider for the former Giving Partner platform – about “claiming your profile” on GuideStar. This profile is not your profile in The Giving Partner, but rather a separate and distinct product (GuideStar). As the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has transitioned The Giving Partner to a new platform, Candid (GuideStar) wanted to take the opportunity to encourage its former users to maintain a profile in GuideStar. **It is not required to maintain a GuideStar profile and it is NOT a factor when updating your current profile in The Giving Partner or participating in the 2020 Giving Challenge.**

With that being said, GuideStar is a trusted tool and resource used by many donors and funders across the United States, and has some interesting features to increase your impact. If you are still interested in maintaining your GuideStar profile, please feel free to do so. Once again, this is not required by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

