

45

YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Sarasota County

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 2 2024



Manasota Key - photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images

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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:

This is a season of transformation. Now is the time for our most dearly held annual traditions, a time when we come together with loved ones to celebrate the ties that bind us and prepare, together, for what will arise in the new year.

It's against this backdrop of change and stability that the Community Foundation of Sarasota County celebrates its 45th anniversary. For 45 years, our Community Foundation has served the community to support innovation that brings progress, and yet it has also been a stalwart institution—trusted, reliable, and committed to our core values. Learn about the milestones of our foundation, including how we're cultivating and using data to inform our future, on page 12.

In our region, the end of the year marks the departure from hurricane season, and this year that means healing from a deluge of storms that have shaken our community. In the aftermath of devastation, our community has come together to cling to some of our most dearly held values, namely that helping our neighbors in need is paramount. The word "philanthropy" means love of humanity, and it's clear to see philanthropy is alive and well in this community of caring, compassionate givers. Season of Sharing celebrates its 25th anniversary, and this year's campaign has seen heroic giving to respond to challenges (page 8).

While Season of Sharing is helping individuals and families upended by these storms, as well as those rocked by personal economic circumstances, our community as a whole faces a long road back to normalcy. This year marks the second anniversary of the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, activated in response to Hurricane Ian in 2022 to embark on ongoing sustained, strategic recovery efforts. On page four you'll read about what we've learned about long-term recovery's important place in helping our

community get to a point of recovery, reconstruction, preparedness, and resilience planning, and how that will be important once again as we aim to recover from Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton.

Through the many changes and challenges our community faces, one essential thing has remained constant—the generosity of those who live here. We are grateful to our donors, who have entrusted us to help fulfill their visions of a stronger, more equitable, and more secure community. One donor who is as clever as she is compassionate, Kathleen Cellura, pursues a brighter future through thoughtful charitable giving (page 10).

As we settle into the season of togetherness and transition, the time-honored tradition of giving is taking place in big ways and small throughout our community. We're showing up for each other and working together to create a future of resilience and unity. We live in a highly complex world, and we are deeply grateful for the passion and caring of our donors—these qualities that drive good people to help others. We are honored to be your partner in charitable giving and hope this close to the year brings the gift of hope for all in our community.



Marilyn Thompson, Board Chair



Roxanne G. Jerde, President and CEO

HURRICANE RECOVERY: A SUSTAINED VIEW

In a world that prizes instant gratification, a strategic long game can feel a bit out of line with the current reality. In truth, though, strengthening our ability to thoughtfully respond well after a momentous event can wield greater power to adapt to emerging realities.

After the spate of summer and fall storms that has unleashed unprecedented impact on our region, the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, which focuses on long-term recovery in the months and even years after a disaster strikes, is a prescient example of how that strategic view comes into play long after a crisis has—in theory—abated.

The past two years of recovery from Hurricane Ian, which made landfall on Florida's gulf coast in September 2022, have offered lessons about disaster recovery that have provided experience and wisdom to draw from now as we embark on recovery from Debby, Helene and Milton. With the proof of concept that recovery from Ian has provided, we have a track record of effective grantmaking and collaboration, along with the assurance experience provides for new recovery efforts that is recognized for its thoughtful planning among the philanthropic field.

Our Community Foundation and partners at The Patterson Foundation activated the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund in 2022. This approach, which was new for us, focused on a strategic rebuilding response after Ian's catastrophic damage. According to the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, recovery considers the complete life cycle of a disaster, anticipating that from a shaky post-storm foundation, rebuilding requires a thoughtful, concerted effort to minimize unequal outcomes that exacerbate existing disparities.

This approach necessarily takes the long view, as much of what is repaired in a long-term recovery effort isn't even evident for months, or even years, after an event.



A firefighter carries a child out of her flood-damaged neighborhood.

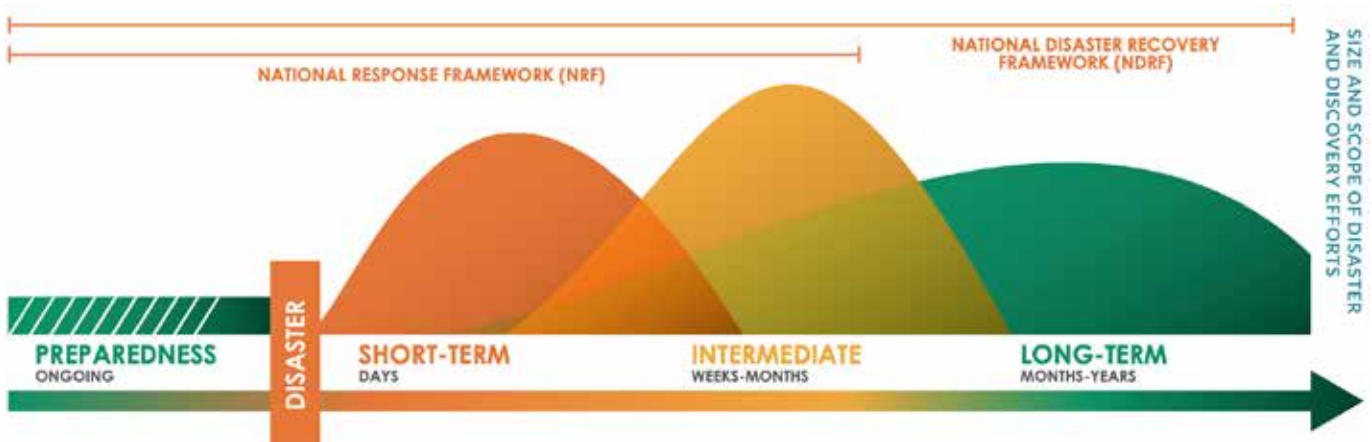
For the Community Foundation, while guidance was plentiful, a recovery approach required venturing into unfamiliar territory, with many unknowns in front of us.

New life to an important lifeline

According to data from FEMA in 2023, our four-county service area ranks well above the national average in the Environmental Hazard National Risk Index, which considers vulnerability, expected annual loss, and resilience. This made meteorologists' prediction of a hyperactive hurricane season even more anxiety producing for many living here. After Tropical Storm Debby dumped historic rain that flooded entire neighborhoods, The Patterson Foundation seeded the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund with a \$100,000 gift, expanding recovery funding beyond a single hurricane or weather event.

As our region was battered by successive storms, The Patterson Foundation continued to invest more in the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, gifts that have a combined total of \$1.2 million with an additional \$1 million available in match funding for gifts up to and including \$50,000.

DISASTER RESPONSE LIFE CYCLE



More gifts—a \$500,000 matching gift from the Brian and Sheila Jellison Family Foundation and funding from Comcast NBCUniversal—indicate confidence that this approach is necessary to community resilience.

According to the Center for Disaster Philanthropy, 82 percent of all charitable giving for hurricane response is directed toward immediate relief efforts. Only five percent are currently allocated to recovery and reconstruction. This is concerning, said Kirsten Russell, Vice President of Community Impact at the foundation.

“Hurricane relief is a vital component, of course, but disasters also bring complex and lasting consequences on people’s well-being overall,” Russell said. “What we strive to do with these grants is help make people whole again. We want them to continue to have opportunities for financial, emotional, and social stability, which is vital to an individual, and to our overall community resilience.”

Tending to the unseen

Initial disaster relief is important; it’s the work of providing immediate needs like food, water, and shelter to hard-hit areas, restoring power, repairing buildings, and clearing debris. This work is important to get communities up and running after a weather-related event. It is visceral and visual—we all know it because we’ve seen it.

In contrast, long-term recovery begins once the important work of initial relief has concluded, recognizing that vulnerable communities typically lack the resources to bounce back with resilience or at all. For those most in need, the long-term effects of a hurricane can take a toll on their financial, mental, physical, spiritual and social well-being that is never remedied.

While recovery looks different depending on the storm, lan recovery efforts put processes in place that have already proved paramount in responding to the most recent storms, according to Michelle Croft, Director of Community Impact at the foundation. Key among these is the convening of Long Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) and Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs), comprising nonprofits, county emergency operations personnel, and funders. These groups have been meeting regularly in the 24-plus months since lan, identifying areas of need and working together to create solutions.

“Communities don’t focus on disaster response in blue skies because of competing priorities,” Croft said. “But we’ve been meeting for two years now because of lan, and we hit the ground running to come back after Debby, Helene, and Milton. Being good at surviving disasters isn’t at the top of most people’s list of aspirations, but our community is getting better at it.”

While much of the funding has been allocated toward critical home repairs and replacing appliances and furnishings for low-income and underinsured households, Croft notes that some of the most impactful investments were in areas that are often not considered when it comes to disaster response.

Services for youth

Disruptions in youth services create serious ripple effects throughout communities, causing economic distress through parents' missed work, emotional anguish to parents and children from the stress of financial instability, and inadequate preparedness for children entering kindergarten. Nearly eight percent of Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund investments have been made in this area.

One investment—supporting the Stars Academy in Port Charlotte—addressed the loss of eight childcare centers to Ian, which caused serious economic fallout, as evidenced by an alarming uptick of students qualifying for free- and reduced-price lunch (FRL). In the 2021-2022 school year, 73 percent of students qualified for FRL; two years later, in 2023-2024, this

number has risen to 86 percent. More than 90 percent of the children served by the new center will be homeless, in foster care, or living in poverty.

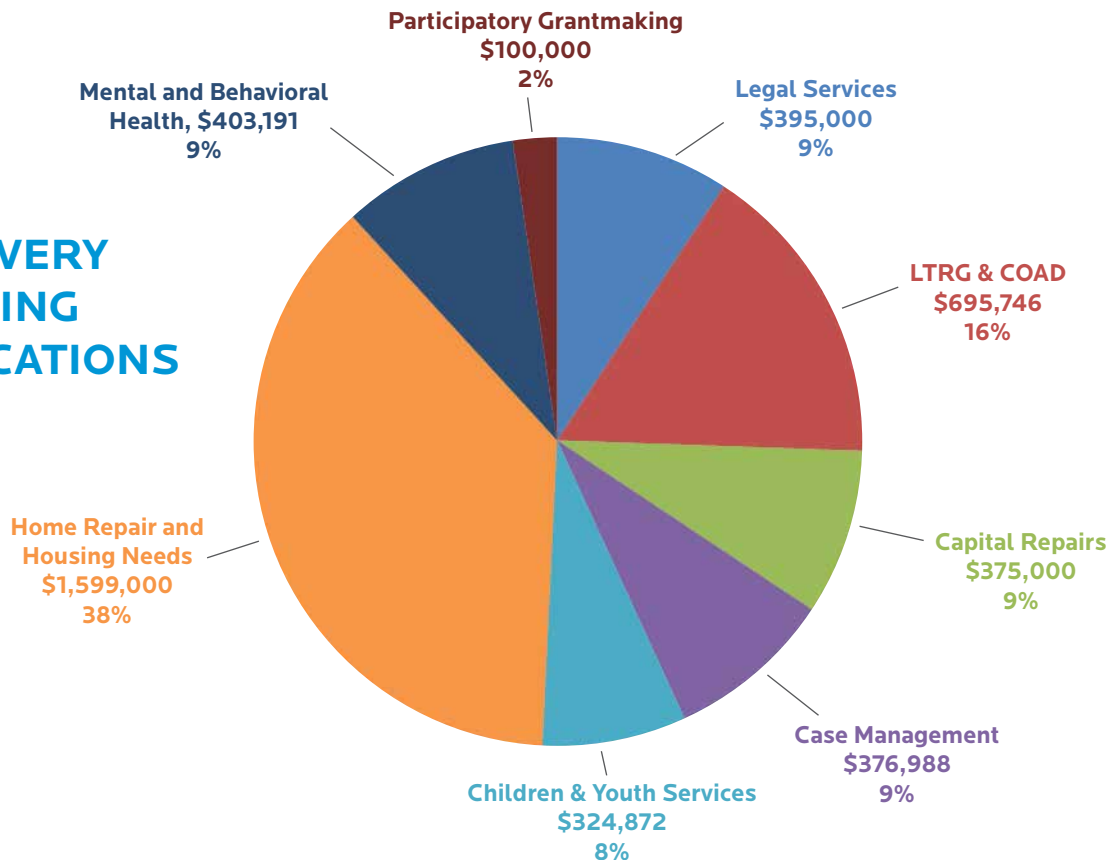
Two years ago, the true costs of addressing childcare in hard-hit Charlotte County were unknown. While the area was pummeled by Ian, it did not qualify for Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) grant funds—Congressional funding used to help low-income areas recover from disasters and move towards economic revitalization, a revelation that took time.

Legal aid

For many older adults and families trying to navigate insurance and FEMA claims in the aftermath of a disaster, the complexities can feel overwhelming.

"It's not always top of mind, but legal help is such a huge need," Croft said. "People give up when they don't know help is available or how to access it. You've got families that are still living with a blue tarp in lieu of a roof thinking that's the best they can do. That's not okay."

RECOVERY FUNDING ALLOCATIONS



As of Oct. 21, 2024



A man loads his friend's cat into his car the day before Hurricane Milton's landfall as they prepare to evacuate Anna Maria Island.
Credit: Rebecca Blackwell/AP

Legal services have comprised almost 10 percent of overall funding from Hurricane Ian. Through a couple of legal nonprofits, particularly United Policyholders and Florida Rural Legal Services, individuals and families were able to secure funding that makes their homes livable.

Mental health services

The trauma of living through a devastating storm, particularly for those who lose property that can't be recouped, runs deep. Worse, because hurricane season is an annual event, survivors live in a constant threat of having their lives upended by a new storm.

While both children and adults can be triggered, children lack the ability to distinguish details of meteorological events, so just knowing a new storm is forming can cause symptoms of post-traumatic distress disorder. Aside from existential threat, adults have the emotional toll of financial stress and the exhaustion that trying to rebuild a life can impart.

Mental health services have comprised nearly 10 percent of disaster funding from Ian through grants to organizations specializing in serving unique communities, like Operation Warrior Resolution with a veteran-focused approach, and Child Protection Center, which focuses on mental health wellness for children and families.

The road forward

Lessons from two years of disaster recovery from Ian are still manifesting themselves, but the experience has led to a more agile response now.

When the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund was established, one priority was to help fund capital repairs for human services agencies so they could avert disruptions to the critical work they do with vulnerable populations.

This is a major focus now, with grant applications for capital projects currently under review as of October 2024, just a couple of weeks after Milton, to respond to this need so that these vital services provided by nonprofit partners can continue.

Along with having an effective playbook for recovery as each new weather event makes its distinct mark on our community, another bright spot is having the ability to share what we've learned with other regions.

A recent Center for Disaster Philanthropy national webinar on how climate change is altering traditional approaches to recovery because of frequency and severity of storms included President and CEO Roxie Jerde as one of three expert panelists. The webinar comes at a time when increasingly larger swaths of the globe are vulnerable to climate-related devastation, as evidenced by the unprecedented flooding of inland regions of Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina—a result of Helene that was widely unanticipated.

"Just as we learned from other communities' responses to disaster when we embarked on this journey, we now have the opportunity and responsibility to share our experiences with funders and community foundations across the nation," Jerde said. "Recovering from disaster will be a challenge most of us will face in some form or another, and I'm hopeful that our journey will provide a playbook for others going through recovery, so that they can achieve resilience." 🏡

In the wake of the destruction delivered by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, The Patterson Foundation has provided a \$1 million matching opportunity, matching every gift up to \$50,000 dollar-for-dollar. Here is an incredible opportunity to amplify your impact and help restore our community.



Scan here to support the
Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS IN NEED



As our Community Foundation celebrates the 25th anniversary of Season of Sharing, historic hurricane activity in our region reminds us just how valuable this time-tested and trusted safety net is.

While Season of Sharing is being called upon now to help individuals and families get back on their feet after storm-related upheavals, it is an increasingly essential lifeline even in fair weather for our community, where myriad factors—including an affordable housing and childcare crisis—work in concert to create financial uncertainty.

Season of Sharing was initially created in the year 2000 by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Sarasota Herald-Tribune as a safety net to deter homelessness by helping people facing financial emergencies. It was recognized in those early days that an unanticipated crisis could escalate into rippling crises, resulting in people losing their homes. The fund was set up to make payments toward rent, utilities, childcare, or auto repairs, providing a bridge to stability.

This summer's weather-related emergencies are just the most recent challenges our community has faced together. The past quarter century was punctuated by the global financial crisis and its impact on our real estate market, red tide, the global pandemic, and other weather disasters: Hurricanes Charley, Irma and Ian. Each of these moments created hardships that threatened the security of so many of our neighbors.

While there are difficult moments that are shared communitywide, many are dealing with personal

circumstances that have placed them in a tenuous position, like an unanticipated medical emergency or the loss of wages. Much has changed in our community over 25 years, and many factors of that change have made an increasing proportion of our population economically vulnerable.



A Sarasota County Commission decision to pause funding to the Early Learning Coalition of Sarasota County (ELC) placed military veterans Victoria Lopez and Lee Lavallee in a pinch as they struggled to afford care for their three children, even with good jobs as a teacher and county worker. ELC turned to Season of Sharing to help this family and dozens like them facing the predicament after the decision.

Photo credit: Mike Lang, Herald-Tribune

Metropolitan metamorphosis

Over the past quarter-century, meteoric growth has transformed our region from a sleepy coastal corridor to a bustling metropolis. As new construction has sprung up, our region is very different from the version of itself that was in 2000, when the first Season of Sharing campaign raised \$121,400.

Since its inception in 2000, Season of Sharing has raised and distributed \$42.5 million to more than 50,000 households facing uncertainty—and these numbers don't factor in the incredible groundswell of support that has ushered in this 25th anniversary year.

Population growth has pushed neighborhoods to the farthest corners of the counties and increased competition for available housing, leading to higher home values and rents. At the same time, while the median household income has risen significantly for homeowners since 2000, renter wages have remained mostly stagnant, with the average median household income for renters lingering at around \$59,000. This has created a housing-cost burden for many that leaves little extra to have on hand for emergencies. It varies by county, but nearly 30 percent of all households in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties combined pay 30 percent—or more—of their income on housing.

Along with housing burdens, the high cost of services like childcare and other consumer goods have made it tough for families regardless of their rent-to-income ratio. In Charlotte, Manatee, and Sarasota counties, roughly 43 percent of all families live at or below the ALICE Threshold, meaning that they are Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, but Employed. For these households, a car breaking down or a trip to the hospital can threaten to undo everything.

Many hands make lighter work: the power of community

The Patterson Foundation, longtime philanthropic partner to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, has been a stalwart collaborator to Season of Sharing, and is once again contributing \$100,000 for every \$500,000 raised by the community. Over time since 2010, The Patterson Foundation's matching gifts have led to a total of \$2.6 million.

This year, in response to Helene and Milton, The Patterson Foundation has gifted \$1 million to Season of Sharing to help our neighbors recover. Others have also been instrumental to Season of Sharing's groundswell this year, including the Brian and Sheila Jellison Family Foundation, which made a \$500,000 matching gift, and Eliza and Hugh Culverhouse Jr., who made a gift of \$500,000. The Bishop-Parker Foundation gave a donation of \$100,000 to be directed to the hard-hit Manatee County, and the Baltimore Orioles also provided a \$250,000 match in addition to an initial gift of \$250,000. These gifts are unlocking an additional \$100,000 from The Patterson Foundation, which contributes that amount to every \$500,000



Facing an eviction notice after unexpected rent hikes, Mary Jackson found stability in help from Season of Sharing.

Photo credit: Angie DiMichele, Herald-Tribune

raised through Jan. 31, 2025. All gifts, no matter their size, are administered without any fees, meaning 100% of donations help neighbors in need.

"These incredible gifts have really shown how our community shines," Jerde said. "There are so many people hurting right now, and to witness this outpouring of support, sparking even more generosity, is truly humbling and inspiring."

Several grassroots fundraisers have also sprung up in the aftermath of Helene and Milton's devastating one-two punch to the region, with local professional organizations and businesses devising community events that affirm our unity and raise money for people experiencing setbacks through the trusted vehicle of Season of Sharing.

The heartbeat of Season of Sharing

Season of Sharing stories provide a snapshot of our community through the lives of those often not highlighted in the media—parents overjoyed that this year, they can provide a holiday at home for their children, elderly people facing the world alone after the death of a spouse, workers who lose it all through a hospitalization, or a broken down car, or identity theft scams. Many roads lead to the need for a financial lifeline.

The many faces of Season of Sharing signify a variety of backgrounds and circumstances, but they are unified by one truth: this community cares for one another and gives generously to provide help to our neighbors in need. 🏡

GUARDIAN ANGEL: THE MANY PURSUITS OF KATHLEEN F. CELLURA

At 87 years, Kathi Cellura has energy that belies her age. She moves around her villa with apparent ease, presenting meticulously arranged collections of angels, cat statues, and stuffed bears, plucking one here or there to share the story of its provenance. A number of these were gifts given to Kathi from the many people whose lives she's touched.

"I'm going to need a bigger villa," she laughs. "Look at all these angels."

For 30 years, Cellura has made a name for herself as a generous philanthropist whose sweeping impact covers an enormous range of causes. Many in the community know her as a fixture at fundraising events, instantly recognizable by the many colorful and stylish hats she wears.

In 1995, she established the Kathleen F. Cellura Foundation at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County to support a variety of organizations—with missions in human services, the arts, animal welfare, education, the environment and more. She has also thoughtfully established a Future Fund at the Community Foundation to ensure that the legacy of her benevolence endures, with nearly two dozen organizations that range in cause areas as beneficiaries of her philanthropy.

While her gifts have been prodigious, she's chosen a life of simplicity. Instead of opting for indulgence, she's spent years researching how to make the most of the money she's earned throughout a long career spanning four decades and encompassing several occupations—as a teacher, real estate broker, and published author.

For the last several decades, she has embraced every opportunity to enhance her community, donating her time, talent and treasure to make the world a better place.



Photo credit: Maggie Martinez

Small Child, Big Heart

Cellura noticed at an early age that she possessed an unusual capacity for compassion. One of her earliest memories, at the popular amusement park at Canandaigua Lake in New York, involves recognizing the plight of those less fortunate.

Noticing a child eyeing a special treat Cellura's father had purchased from a park purveyor, she could sense the child longed for her goodie. Cellura watched as the child pled with her own father to buy a treat, the father sadly shaking his head, making it clear that was a request he couldn't afford.

Cellura's eyes still well with tears when she thinks of it, her natural empathy surfacing any time she considers inequity or injustice.

“Until you walk in the moccasins of another person, stop and think, it could be me,” she says.

Since that day, when she was just 10 years old, she’s used this power of observation and the pursuit of fairness to propel her action. This has been the case whether that was choosing to teach at an inner-city Rochester school in the heated wake of Rochester’s race riots of 1964—a decision she made so that she could have a positive impact on young people of color—or supporting the Women’s Resource Center to empower women experiencing hardship to take control of their lives. In one such move, she has promised her car, a pristine, low-mileage Camry, to the Women’s Resource Center to give to a working mother in need.

Legacy through Letters

While philanthropy and community involvement have played a vital part in Cellura’s community contributions, she also took to another reliable legacy-builder: the written word.

In 2011, after “realizing that the written word is a form of immortality,” she published a novel, “Forever Footprints.” The loosely biographical novel, based on the true story of a dog rescue, emphasizes themes common to Cellura’s life: that doing good for others reaps gifts that are meaningful and lasting. Love, the book suggests, is a gift that lasts forever.

The book is more than a message to the world; its proceeds have gone directly to the Kathleen F. Cellura Foundation. From there, she invested those dollars back into South Sarasota County, where most of her giving is concentrated.

Powering through Difficulty

While Cellura’s spry gait and sharp wit give her an ageless quality, in truth she’s been dealing with autoimmune diseases for decades. An active person with demanding careers, Cellura’s bouts with flare-ups have interfered with her athletic pursuits and created difficulty in her professional life.

“I am always in pain,” she says, remembering years of teaching “in agony,” returning home depleted, only to face another day of similar difficulties brought about by the chronic illness.


To get ahead of the pain, she maintains an elaborate daily routine of exercise—like pedaling through her neighborhood 45 minutes each morning—and palliative care that maintains her quality of life. It keeps her moving, and her commitment is one of many habits Cellura keeps that demonstrate her discipline and the intentional way she moves through life.

“Anyone can be a philanthropist, I want to encourage them. Women, young people—I want to be a model, a woman of substance to show them they can do it.” — Kathleen Cellura

Despite the pain that could have kept her from living life to its fullest, she has persisted forward, finding joy in mentoring, remaining active, and supporting organizations through philanthropy. She hopes to be an example to others who may feel that their health circumstances prevent them from engaging in their community, lamenting that many forego important work because they feel too burdened with health issues to seize upon their potential for creating impact.

In that same vein, she hopes to inspire women to live their passion through pursuing philanthropy.

“Anyone can be a philanthropist,” she says. “I want to encourage them. Women, young people—I want to be a model, a woman of substance to show them they can do it.”

With that, she picks up a wooden carving of an angel, a gift from a woman she refers to as her “daughter of my heart.” This is another woman whose difficult circumstance caught Cellura’s attention, another story that propelled her into action as a mentor. The angel is inscribed with a heartfelt message of gratitude. After sharing its story, Cellura tenderly replaces it on the shelf. Now that the woman and her family have achieved stability, she can repay Cellura in a way that transcends transaction—she gives her love. 

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF COMMUNITY IMPACT

Since it was established in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has been a beacon of hope, helping connect people who want to make a difference in this community and to do so with deep, meaningful impact. Working with generous donors and our incredible nonprofit community to advance the opportunities for all who live here through values we hold most dear: compassion, empowerment, innovation, integrity, quality, stewardship, and inclusiveness.

Over the last 45 years we have grown one step at a time to now be entrusted with the charitable legacies of nearly 1,600 individuals and families who care deeply about our community's future. Since the Great Recession early in this century, our Community Foundation has grown exponentially through collaborative relationships that bring people together in support of many.

With the forthcoming retirement of Roxie Jerde in June 2025, a transition team has convened to identify a new leader—the third CEO in the foundation's history. That leader will step into a Community Foundation that has earned a position of distinction in the community, the product of many significant milestones throughout Jerde's leadership, including:

- Growing assets under management from \$190 million in charitable dollars to over **\$520 million**, with a projection to exceed \$1 billion in the next decade.
- Nearly doubling the number of **funds under management** from 811 to more than 1,580 funds.
- Setting sound fiscal policies guiding the foundation's operating **reserves** and operating **endowment**.



Our staff moved back into the newly renovated headquarters in June 2024, celebrating with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

- Totaling more than **\$500 million in grants and scholarships** throughout the Foundation’s history.
- Launching **“The Giving Partner”** – an online nonprofit database – in 2012 to provide greater transparency around nonprofit operations, management, and impact; More than 700 local nonprofits have extensive profiles on the platform www.TheGivingPartner.com



THE GIVING PARTNER

- Launching the **Community Indicators Dashboard**, an online collection of data illustrating regional well-being that enhances our community’s ability to engage in thoughtful, strategic philanthropy.



Community Indicators Dashboard

- Creating the successful **“Giving Challenge”** online fundraising campaign, which has raised more than \$92 million in unrestricted funds through nine challenges since 2012; The 2024 Giving Challenge raised \$17.2 million for 724 nonprofits.
- Growing the **“Season of Sharing”** community support campaign to more than \$4 million a year in annual contributions that aid with those in crisis by



Burt Bershon presents the foundation’s first CEO Stewart Stearns with a plaque commemorating the founding of the “Sarasota County Community Foundation.”



Community Foundation staff members come together for a photo celebrating a successful Giving Challenge, the ninth challenge in the foundation’s history.

providing immediate assistance with rent/mortgage, utilities, childcare, and transportation expenses so families can remain in their homes.

- Initiating successful **disaster recovery funds** during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Fall 2022’s Hurricane Ian, which have again been deployed to recover from Hurricanes Debby, Helene and Milton.
- Establishing a national partnership with Ascend at the Aspen Institute and embedding a whole family **“2Gen” strategy** into the foundation’s grantmaking philosophy.
- **Renovating** the Community Foundation headquarters to better serve donors and nonprofit partners, along with anticipating growth of the organization through the addition of workspaces.
- Being recognized for maintaining the **highest professional levels**, both through The Community Foundations National Standards, and by the Center of Effective Philanthropy.

CFNS

ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP

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Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

Three Key Insights from our Giving Challenge Report

- 1 Record-Breaking Participation:** A record 724 nonprofits participated in the 2024 Giving Challenge, receiving 90,382 donations from 53,552 donors in a 24-hour period highlights the community's commitment to local causes.
- 2 Growth in New Donors and Broadened Support:** The 2024 Giving Challenge brought in many new donors. This expansion of donors diversifies support and reinforces the long-term sustainability of local nonprofits, allowing the community to rely on those nonprofit programs and services in the future.
- 3 Strong Local Nonprofit Ecosystem Requires Ongoing Support:** Even with strong community support, nonprofits anticipate challenges such as rising operating costs and limited resources. The community's support will be crucial, especially as nonprofits navigate economic uncertainties and increased service demand.

Thank You!

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Read the full report here:



