Welcome to the latest edition of the Community Report from the Collier Community Foundation. Yes, you read that right, we have rebranded! We have diligently served our donors, nonprofits, and Collier County as the Community Foundation of Collier County for 37 years. Even so, we decided the time was right for a new, more concise name, an eye-catching new logo, and a well-defined focus.

One of our challenges in this endeavor was summarizing everything we do at the Community Foundation in a few words. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Those four dynamic words in our new tagline convey our role in the community as the trusted leader in identifying critical needs, educating our donors on the vital issues we face, and responding to those needs to make the most impact.

Speaking of powerful results, we awarded a record amount of $43.1 million* in our fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to nonprofit agencies for community programs and scholarships for post-secondary education and specialized training in Collier County and beyond. This extraordinary amount—the highest in our history—emphasizes how philanthropic our community is and how receptive they are when asked to help regardless of the continued threat of COVID, record inflation, dramatic stock market losses, and the recent devastation of Hurricane Ian. We cannot thank our donors and partners enough for their continued trust and support, allowing us to meet the opportunities, and challenges, of this past year.

At CCF, we work with other organizations and local government to address our community’s issues through collective resources and initiatives. In this issue of the Community Report, you will read about projects and collaborations, such as how CCF-funded Mental Health Navigators embedded in Collier County Public Schools are improving the lives of children with serious emotional disturbances. You will also read about funding that provides a home and a sense of community for senior veterans and workforce training in electronic systems integration and robotic arms that offer our students a lucrative future and stimulate our local economy.

While we have a new look, we are proud to continue our long-established tradition of improving our community by engaging donors, nonprofits, and local leaders in the causes they care about. We continue to optimize charitable giving through our community knowledge, grant oversight, and personalized service. We invite you to be a positive force in the future of Collier County by learning more and getting involved with the Collier Community Foundation.

With our sincere gratitude,

Jim Morey, CCF Board Chair
Eileen Connolly-Keesler, CCF President and CEO

Our Board of Trustees:
The Collier Community Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees and committees comprised of local community leaders and philanthropy enthusiasts. The Community Foundation is administered by a full-time professional staff. Operating expenses are paid from management fees, through grants and partnerships with local and national foundations and organizations, and from gifts designated by donors to cover Foundation operating costs.

**2021-2022 Board of Trustees**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>James F. Morey, Chair</td>
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<td>R. Robert Funderburg, Chair-Elect</td>
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<td>Myra Williams</td>
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*Amount includes $5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds distributed to our local food pantries.

Our Mission:

Working with donors, we inspire ideas, ignite action, and mobilize resources to address community needs in Collier County. Informed giving. Powerful results.™

For a complete listing of our Trustees Emeriti, Professional Advisor Council, Sustaining Society, and Legacy Society members, please visit colliercf.org.
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Bravo! House

Collier Community Foundation and generous donors are helping Wounded Warriors of Collier County keep veterans from being homeless

Collier County is facing a housing crisis. Rental rates have skyrocketed by 48 percent between March 2020 and March 2022, with apartment rents averaging $2,264. Veterans, young and old, are increasingly priced out of their apartments, mobile homes, and even rented rooms. It is even more grim for people dependent on a fixed income that does not rise to meet housing cost fluctuations.

Senior veterans have been paying well over 30 percent of their income, a benchmark for housing costs. The typical veteran Social Security benefit is around $738, which will barely cover the cost of food and medication, let alone come close to making a dent in monthly rent expenses in Collier County.

The Collier Community Foundation and its donors have worked on housing issues for the past three years. That work has included rallying behind Wounded Warriors of Collier County and its efforts to keep veterans from homelessness.

It is essential to note the homelessness crisis began long before the recent spike in housing costs. Before 2019, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) did not provide funding for rapid rehousing and case management in Collier County because our homeless veterans population was undercounted. After the Hunger & Homeless Coalition of Collier County and Wounded Warriors’ volunteers accurately documented the homeless veteran population, the VA began providing more funding to address
the issue. These organizations conduct annual “point in time” homeless surveys, which estimated in 2020, approximately 90 homeless veterans were identified in Collier County.

Most live in the woods, camps, or in cars. Government funding is not enough, and donors of the Collier Community Foundation have helped close the gap. The solution has been to purchase houses to create homes for our veterans. One of these homes is Bravo House, which joins two other single-family homes in Naples; Alpha House for vets struggling with mental health or addiction issues and Charlie House for senior vets.

Wounded Warriors of Collier County purchased Bravo House for vets in 2021, and the Collier Community Foundation’s donors were instrumental in completing the purchase by granting $247,500. It was a vital step in eradicating the problem of local homeless veterans.

**FACT:**

_Veterans come home to our community, not government. Only through collaboration and the veterans’ system of care can we serve our local veterans._

– Wounded Warriors of Collier County
“We would not have been able to buy Bravo House without the Community Foundation’s support. It was also an infusion of energy for our supporters and our board into all the work we do,” Dale Mullin, Wounded Warriors of Collier County president, said.

The Collier Community Foundation has also supported Wounded Warriors with operational dollars, allowing them to hire an administrator necessary to manage the four veteran home locations and their other programs and events.

Meet Bruce Kennedy and his roommate, Thomas Keller, who were the first veterans to live at Bravo House

Bruce’s arthritis makes walking painful. That condition and other complications forced him to quit working. When the 71-year-old U.S. Army veteran began receiving Social Security disability benefits, he quickly discovered those funds would not cover his cost of living and knew he was “in dire straits.”

Thomas is a 69-year-old U.S. Navy veteran evicted from his last residence when the landlord wasn’t receiving the subsidized rental payment on her self-imposed time frame. He landed in temporary housing at St. Matthew’s House.

Bruce and Thomas no longer fear eviction and can finally breathe a sigh of relief now that they call Bravo House home. The residents share duties cooking and cleaning common spaces—and camaraderie. At Bravo House, they pay 30 percent of their income for rent, which also covers internet, cable TV, utilities, and lawn care. Their most considerable expense is groceries, but they can easily walk or bike to nearby stores, eliminating the need for a car. “It looks wonderful and it’s a great location,” Thomas said. “I just feel very blessed to be here.”
State-of-the-Art Students

New high-tech programs at the iTech Center for Manufacturing Excellence and Lorenzo Walker Technical College are dialing up high-paying jobs for students and adults.

The future is bright for recent iTech graduate Joseph Pronovost (center) thanks to the robotics and automation program headed by iTech Assistant Director Aaron Paquette (left) and iTech instructor Ross Porter (right).
The Collier Community Foundation has made a significant investment in our local workforce, enabling a future for local students to gain high-paying, high-skill jobs in Collier County and beyond.

Today’s microchipped tools are everywhere. The technology is more intelligent—computerized, automated, and integrated—and modern residential and commercial maintenance techs need to understand the complex electronic systems running those systems—and how to ensure all systems are go.

This high-tech evolution has also transformed old-fashioned factory production. State-of-the-art machines are now operated by automated robotic arms programmed to perform specific manufacturing tasks to ramp up production.

The Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce and the Collier Community Foundation brainstormed how best to prepare students for these challenging fields. Our solution was to provide Immokalee Technical College (iTech) Center for Manufacturing Excellence in Golden Gate with $225,000 to purchase three robotic arms for the classroom and $150,000 to Lorenzo Walker Technical College for equipment to launch an electronic systems course. The funding for both came from private donors to the field of education and employment within the Community Foundation’s Your Passion. Your Collier. Fund.

The Greater Naples Chamber received a grant from the Collier Community Foundation to promote these expanded programs and help both schools fill these spots. Learners can build on what Greater Naples Chamber President/CEO Michael Dalby calls “stackable credentials,” making job seekers more desirable because of their expanded skill set and knowledge and boosting their future salaries. “Kudos to the private donors who had the vision and already saw the value of this training and understood the impact it would have to Collier County students, both youth and adults, to qualify for higher-wage jobs,” said Dalby.

It’s a win-win for local manufacturing companies such as Arthrex and Loos & Co. seeking skilled employees and students who are entering the workforce or adults switching career gears. More than 50 local manufacturers advise the Center for Manufacturing Excellence and many offer internships.

Joseph Pronovost, 24, was hired by Loos after graduating from an iTech machining program in spring 2022. He is working on a mill with a robotic...
Collier Community Foundation | colliercf.org

“We’re extremely grateful and thankful to the Community Foundation and their donors for the opportunity to purchase these robotic arms. This provides our students with a cutting edge.”

— iTech Assistant Director Aaron Paquette

Instructor Jack Izbicki teaches his students about electronic systems integration through hands-on experience.

Serving our community’s expanding technological needs

Loos is an 80-year-old company that is the largest producer of flight-control cable hardware and makes 5,000 different parts for terminating ropes of cable or wire, according to Loos Director of Operations David Perron. Loos relocated to Naples in 1977 and today has 65 employees—40 in manufacturing. Perron said the company doesn’t have to recruit from out of the region or state. “Everybody we have is from the local talent pool,” he said.

Perron serves on iTech’s advisory board, which gives “industry input on what the needs are for us, what we see as a trend, and how we can train people to meet these needs,” he said. Loos pays employees their hourly wage to take night classes at iTech to advance their skills.

In the past few years, Loos has grown 10 to 20 percent annually, and “we are continually growing,” Perron said, adding that his company pays “well above minimum wage, and it’s gone up quite substantially. This is a skilled field.”
At Lorenzo Walker Technical College, Computer Systems and Information Technology Instructor Jack Izbicki’s course trains students for a wide range of careers in audio, video, alarm, intercom and security systems, fiber-optic telecommunications, computer networking, and wireless systems.

Lorenzo Walker’s Electronic Systems Integration and Automation Program “is new to the area,” he said. Florida leads the nation in smart homes—residences with internet-connected devices that enable the remote monitoring and management of appliances and heating, cooling, and lighting systems—and Collier County is at the top for new construction in the state, Izbicki said.

“I’m really grateful that we got the funding and the equipment,” he added. “There was such positive feedback from the students.”

Ivan Boatwright, one of Izbicki’s Electronic Systems Integration and Automation Program students, is a 47-year-old software engineer who decided to go into setting up and evaluating security systems. Boatwright was thrilled to get hands-on experience at Lorenzo Walker with certain types of equipment he worked with 20 years ago while in the U.S. Navy. He is in awe of how much technology has changed since then. “I walked away with a lot of experience and education from this course.”

Eileen Connolly-Keesler, Collier Community Foundation President/CEO, is thrilled to be helping create new industry certificates leading to high-paying jobs, enabling students to stay in our community, and stimulating our local economy. “There’s nothing better than that. These programs are building our workforce, and that’s really exciting.”

Joseph Pronovost and Ross Porter demonstrate the process to engrave a coin, pass inspection, and progress to the next stage in the production line with a robotic arm purchased with a Collier Community Foundation grant.
Mental health has reached a crisis point for American youth, with 44 percent of high school students nationwide reporting feelings of persistent sadness and hopelessness in 2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control. In Collier County, an alarming amount of our youth, almost one-third aged 11 to 17, report those despondent feelings, and 12 percent say they engage in self-harm.

Since 2018, suicide has been the second-leading cause of death for adolescents and young adults aged 10-24, prompting three leading national organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, to declare youth mental health a national emergency in 2021. In 2020, seven children per 100,000 under 18 committed suicide in Collier County—more than double the state’s average of three per 100,000.

Substantial relief has come to desperate Collier County families struggling with mental health challenges through the expansion of Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida’s regional Mental Health Navigator program. Recent growth in the navigator program increased the number of navigators from five to six, thanks to a $95,000 grant from Collier Community Foundation and its donors to fund a Collier County navigator for two years.

Mental Health Navigators provide a lifeline to families who have children with disorders such as disruptive impulse control, specific depression, attention-deficit hyperactivity, oppositional defiance, pervasive developmental disorders, or undetected autism. The kids range from pre-kindergartners to high school seniors to the age of 21, and the goal is to set them on a course toward stability and improved
A Family Guided
Here’s an example of how families receive a continuum of care

L, a fourth-grade student, was referred to the Mental Health Navigator program due to behavioral issues at school, two suicide assessments, and involuntary admission to David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health. L's behavioral incidents at school led to an in-school suspension and two out-of-school suspensions. Even though L has several depressive and behavioral disorder diagnoses and problems related to other psychosocial circumstances, her mother wouldn't give L the medication prescribed for her diagnosed attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder.

L's mother also struggles with mental health issues but wouldn't receive mental health treatment. Her mother states she was over-medicated as a child and fears her child will also be over-medicated. Her mother lost trust in the school system and David Lawrence Center when L was involuntarily admitted. She believes there are inconsistencies in L's diagnosis and medication, and fears her child isn't receiving the proper treatment.

Now, with the help of the Mental Health Navigator who has worked to build a rapport and trust with the family, the mother is less apprehensive about strengthening her relationship with the school system. She is more receptive to mental health treatment for L and is now even interested in mental health treatment for herself. Thanks to the Mental Health Navigator program, the whole family is on their way to healing and a healthier and happier future.

academic performance, which is bearing fruition. On average, participants see academic improvement by two letter grades and by 50 percent in attendance, with significantly improved behaviors at school and home.

Professional guidance is also provided to parents and siblings so they can address their own psychiatric, substance abuse, medical, or financial stressors exacerbating the family's struggles. Mental Health Navigators help the whole family deconstruct barriers every step of the way, whether it is financial assistance for necessary items such as transportation and technology or assisting families in applying for benefits or finding new housing.

The intensive care coordination “is the highest level of wrap-around care you will find in the community,” says Richard Keelan, who oversees the program as the Golisano Child Advocacy Manager. “These kids are at risk for residential placement. This isn’t a program for every kid.”

While struggling youth are typically identified through Collier County Public Schools or partner agencies, such as the David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health and Golisano’s emergency department, this program is also available to other youth in need. Through its funding, the Collier Community Foundation added more flexibility by expanding the program to school-age children who attend virtual or charter schools.

Keelan noted: “We work with the child and the whole family so everyone is working on that plan. The family must buy into the plan, or we don’t meet with the family.”

This compassionate care for vulnerable families living on an economic edge is supported 100 percent by the community’s generosity. Keelan said the Collier Community Foundation “researched us incredibly thoroughly, our evidence-based research, and interviewed community partners. I want to thank them for giving us the flexibility in Collier County to service kids who aren't in the school district so we can reach more kids.”
The Collier Community Foundation granted more than $43.1 million in our 2022 fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to nonprofit agencies and scholarships for post-secondary education and specialized training—the most ever awarded in our 37-year history.

The Collier Community Foundation adheres to the highest standards to operate in the public view and public interest. Our financials are updated quarterly and available for review upon request. You may also review the last five years of our Financial Statements, tax documents, including Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and Form 990-T (if applicable), our Articles of Incorporation and Amendments and Bylaws at colliercf.org. You may also visit GuideStar at guidestar.org for more information about the Collier Community Foundation.
We are fortunate to live in one of the most desirable places in the U.S. due to our great selection of restaurants, shopping, cultural events, beautiful beaches, year-round warm temperatures, and lack of state taxes. But do you ever wonder what those taxes would fund if they existed? In other counties, taxes support local human services programs. In November 2020, the Collier County government budget allocated only 1.7 percent for human services compared to the 8.4 percent average allocated throughout Florida.

Because of this lack of funding, our nonprofits rely on philanthropy to survive. Two hundred thirty-two nonprofits with the broadest impact to whom the most donors are giving reported that cumulatively they must raise $402 million annually to sustain their operations. So how can we help these impactful organizations meet local needs that can be easy to overlook in the wealthy areas of our community?

The new transfer of wealth study commissioned by the Florida Philanthropic Network estimates that $35 billion will change hands from local baby boomers to their children, grandchildren, and loved ones by 2032. Can you imagine what this “Great Wealth Transfer” could mean in transforming Collier County’s most pressing needs and other causes that enrich our local quality of life?

Our solution is to take this opportunity to meet critical needs in our community for the next generations. If we captured just 3 percent of the local transfer of wealth through estate planning, we could have an endowment of $1 billion. This $1 billion endowment could generate more than $50 million in grantmaking each year, supporting the programs that benefit our local youth, families, seniors and veterans, our environment, and other community needs—forever!

You have the opportunity to transfer and transform our community for the next generations. Together we can help you invest in the community you love and support the causes you care about most to benefit your children and grandchildren. Call us at the Collier Community Foundation at 239-649-5000 to learn more.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Area</th>
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CORPORATE PARTNERS

BMO WEALTH MANAGEMENT

AMY L. HALE, CFP, Regional President–Southeast
801 Laurel Oak Drive, Suite 600, Naples, FL 34108
239-592-2470
bmowealthmanagement.com

BOND, SCHOENECK & KING, PLLC

JIM MOREY, Office Managing Member
4001 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 105, Naples, FL 34103
239-659-3800
bsk.com

CICCARELLI ADVISORY SERVICES, INC.

KIM CICCARELLI KANTOR, President & Co-Founder
9601 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34108
239-262-6577
casmoneymatters.com

FIFTH THIRD PRIVATE BANK

JIM WEISS, Regional President
999 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Naples, FL 34108
239-591-6356
53.com
FIRST FOUNDATION

GARRETT S. RICHTER, Market President
3450 Kraft Road, Naples, FL 34105
239-325-5700
ff-inc.com

NAPLES ILLUSTRATED

MEEGAN WYATT, Publisher
3066 Tamiami Trail N., Suite 102, Naples, FL 34103
239-434-6966
naplesillustrated.com

GULFSHORE INSURANCE

BRAD HAVEMEIER, President
4100 Goodlette Road, Naples, FL 34103
239-261-3646
gulfshoreinsurance.com

NORTHERN TRUST

THOMAS R. OLIVERI, West Florida President
LINDA C. FLEWELLING, Market Executive, Southwest Florida
MOKEY E. SHEA, Senior Managing Director, Naples
4001 Tamiami Trail N., Naples, FL 34103
405 Eighth Street S., Naples, FL 34102
239-262-8800 | northerntrust.com
CORPORATE PARTNERS

VARNUM

TOM FORSTER, Partner
999 Vanderbilt Beach Road, Suite 300, Naples, FL 34108
239-241-7380
varnumlaw.com

WOLLMAN, GEHRKE & ASSOCIATES

EDWARD E. WOLLMAN, JD, LLM, CAP, Founding Partner
2235 Venetian Court, Suite 5, Naples, FL 34109
239-435-1533
wga-law.com

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The Collier Community Foundation's dedicated, experienced, and professional staff can help you make the most of your charitable giving through our community knowledge, grant oversight, and personalized service. Informed giving. Powerful results™.

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Vice President of Community Engagement

Julie Van Tongeren
Vice President of Development

Cindi Withorn
Senior Director of Marketing and PR

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Design, Printing and Distribution
Naples Illustrated

Publisher
Kathy Beuttel

Editor/Story Author
Cathy Chestnut

Art Director
Heather Botto

Cover, Board, and Story Photography
Nick Shirghio Photography

Additional Photography
Reagan Rule Photography

Project Director/Content Author
Cindi Withorn
For the past 37 years, the Collier Community Foundation has been the trusted leader in identifying and responding to critical needs. We optimize charitable giving through our community knowledge, grant oversight, and personalized service.

We partner with donors or their professional advisors to help them reach their charitable goals. We share our expertise, facilitate connections, and provide education on area nonprofits and the logistics of giving.

We fund and support local nonprofits through financial grants and assistance with establishing and maintaining endowment funds.

We serve as a collaborator, convener, and catalyst to address community issues. We invest in a long-term vision and bring diverse people and organizations together to address local issues and needs.

We can help you invest in the community you love and support the causes you care about. Call us to learn more about including the Collier Community Foundation in your estate plan.

The Collier Comes Together Fund has granted over $5 million in the past five years for Hurricane Irma, red tide, Golden Gate wildfires, COVID-19 relief, and most recently, Hurricane Ian. Donations to the Crisis & Disaster Relief Fund ensure we can respond immediately to disasters. To donate to our Crisis & Disaster Relief Fund, visit colliercf.org or call 239-649-5000.