



HCCF NEWS

Spring 2023

Our Mission

Our official mission statement:
"To support qualified charitable organizations that serve the citizens of North Port and improve the quality of life within the local community."
This is our only agenda - raising funds and distributing them to organizations that positively impact the lives of our neighbors in need.

How Can I Join?

It's so easy! Membership is just a \$100 per household tax-deductible donation per year. You can get more information from your friendly neighborhood director (listed on Page 2), or visit the official Foundation website at heroncreekfoundation.org. Stay tuned for all-new member benefit announcements, coming soon!

Did You Know?

Nine of the twelve current directors came on board after January 1, 2022!

It's A Brand New Team!

At the 2023 annual meeting, the Heron Creek Community Foundation (HCCF) members elected a new Board of Directors and Executive Management team, and the first order of business was to evaluate feedback from current and former members. During this review, it was brought to the Board's attention that a significant number of former members have left the organization because they were dissatisfied with the grant allocation process in recent years. While all of the grants have been issued within the established guidelines, we certainly understand and appreciate the concerns many had expressed about some of the grant recipients over the years. As a result, the newly elected HCCF Board of Directors will be revising the grant program to give every member of the foundation an opportunity to participate in the vetting process and offer feedback on the final candidates before any grants are awarded.

The new Board of Directors is committed to making the foundation one of the best community service organizations in southwest Florida, and we are extremely excited about the plans for 2023 and beyond. We anticipate approval from the IRS to operate as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which will clear the way for major solicitation efforts at large corporations throughout the region, such as Walmart, Publix, McDonalds, Applebee's, etc. In addition, **we plan to offer incentives to join the foundation**, which we hope will increase our membership significantly. Stay tuned for details on our website at www.heroncreekfoundation.org.

In closing, the Board has heard the concerns of our membership and pledge to implement meaningful change that will make all of our members proud to be part of the Heron Creek Community Foundation. We hope you will join us in our journey to become one of the finest community service organizations in southwest Florida. Simply visit the website and click one of the membership options.

HCCF Announces 2022 Grants

2022 was a rough year for many in our area, and the Foundation was no exception. When Ian necessitated cancellation of our golf tournament, we lost our major source of funds for the year. Even so, the Board made the easy decision to dip into our endowment, and we were able to award \$25,000 in grants to the following amazing charities:

North Port Meals on Wheels: \$10,000. Meals on Wheels is a nonprofit that cooks and home-delivers one nutritious meal a day to Seniors and other residents of North Port who are unable to prepare a meal for themselves. Our funds will be used to pay for groceries and trays for clients who qualify for free meals under Federal guidelines.

Good Samaritan Pharmacy & Health Services, Inc.: \$2,450. Good Sam offers free prescriptions and doctor visits to people in our community who lack the ability to pay for quality health care. Our funds will be invaluable in continuing their mission of mercy and love.

North Port Senior Center: \$5,050. The North Port Senior Center provides opportunities to enhance the lives of the senior citizens of North Port and its environs by offering a friendly gathering place, special programs, and services. Foundation funds will allow the purchase of needed items, including new computer and monitor, 12 – 3'x3' tables, 48 new chairs, plastic ware, Microsoft program and installation, and property insurance for 1 year, as well as miscellaneous items for luncheons.



Salvation Army of Sarasota County: \$2,500. Our donation will help fund the Pathway of Hope Program for the clients of North Port. This program is geared towards mobilizing families from crisis to stability. It focuses on the core causes of poverty rather than treating the symptoms, helping families overcome challenges like unemployment, underemployment, lack of education, and unstable housing.

Take Stock in Children: \$5,000. Each year, the Foundation sponsors two incoming students from North Port. This includes academic and life mentoring, as well as a 2-year college plan scholarships through the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

Your 2023 Executive Board

Did you know that each year four new members join the board of directors? This year is a banner year – we are excited to welcome five new members.

- Thomas Coyne • Sharon Matthews • Ron Rardin • Kevin Smith • Patty Wegener

Continuing members and officers are

- Roy Munnelly, President • Deanne Siddall, Vice President • Nick Cipolla, Treasurer • Dave Sobecki, Secretary
- Bill Bay • Maria Rinaldo • Ona Lee Swain