



GRAND HARBOR
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PROGRAM, INC.

SHARINGS

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

Our Mission

Addressing the unmet needs of groups and individuals in the area of health, education and human services in Indian River County.

Our Goals

- * Transform Lives
- * Strengthen Families
- * Improve the Indian River County Community

www.ghcop.org

Your resource for news, events, and descriptions of the many possibilities to donate. Now with secure direct billing to your credit card from the website.

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GRAND HARBOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM REPORT



Agencies receiving grants from Grand Harbor Community Outreach Program gather at Awards Breakfast at the Club House on April 17.

A blockbuster year of need... and a blockbuster year of giving!

This issue of Sharings is being published with heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed – both in time and money – to this banner year of grants! And, what a year it is – the highest dollar contribution Grand Harbor Community Outreach has bestowed on our non-profit community in its 20-year history.

Illustrated in this issue is the compilation of non-profit agencies, the amount awarded to each, and the programs we are funding this year. We hosted representatives from the agencies at our Annual Award Breakfast on April 17th here at Grand Harbor where we presented the checks.

We especially thank all our volunteers for helping us cross this milestone of the finish line. Dedication, commitment, and camaraderie were key to our success!

See photo below of GHCOP Volunteers who participated in team site visits, financial analysts who vetted agencies' budgets, and GHCOP Board Members who work tirelessly to achieve our financial and corporate fundraising goals.



GHCOP Site Team Volunteers and members of the Board of Directors display check representing the total of grant awards this banner year

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANNUAL APPEAL



Did you know 32967 is the poorest zip code in Florida and the fourth poorest in the United States? Startling statistics!

- The living wage needed for a family of four in our county is \$63,145 while the average annual income in Gifford is just \$22,000.
- At last count, there were 256 homeless adults and 423 homeless students! 7% of children under 18 live below the poverty level.

- Death from suicide is increasing among children and adults.
- Over half of our seniors over 65 have limited access to healthy food and half of our renters are cost burdened.

Grand Harbor Community Outreach exists because caring residents like you wanted to find a way to help our struggling neighbors. This year \$486,470 has been allocated to grantees, and you have provided countless volunteer hours to put these dollars to work.

This issue of Sharings is about you and the work you are doing.

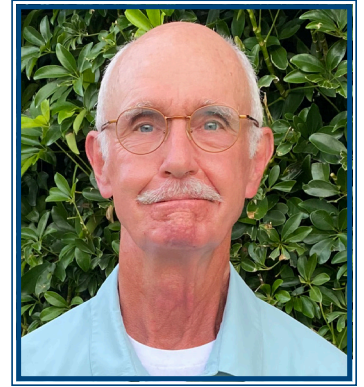
It is such a privilege for me to represent you among other funders in our community. Our work is far from finished and we know some of you want to be more involved.

Please contact any of our Board members and we will help you make a difference!

Thank you, thank you,

Liz Crowther
GHCOP, President

Spring has sprung and 30 worthwhile organizations have received \$486,000 in GHCOP Grants. Our donors' generosity fueled this 23% increase over last year, but we certainly can't rest on our laurels.



Indian River County residents face hardships that don't take a summer break while many of us return to other parts of the country to "escape." The people we try to reach don't have that luxury.

A new initiative - STRATEGIC FUNDING PROGRAM - will provide dollars to organizations with immediate shortfalls or unexpected needs throughout the year and will utilize our regular vetting process.

Because our fiscal year runs from September 1 to August 31, there is still time to provide support for this new initiative as well as bolster our overall goal for next year of granting over \$500,000.

For the 210 supporters who have already contributed, we are deeply appreciative. For the many of you who have not given, we hope you will consider supporting these incredibly dedicated organizations.

Since our modest administrative and board expenses are underwritten by our corporate sponsors, 100% of your contribution goes to grant recipients. Please take the time to go to our website—www.ghcop.org—to learn about grantees and to make your tax-deductible donation. Or simply write a check to GHCOP and mail it to P.O. Box 644017, Vero Beach, FL 32964.

Thank you in advance for supporting our mission with a gift.

Michael Spence, VP Chair, Annual Fund

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD - LIZ MELNICK



Grand Harbor Community Outreach owes a big debt to **Liz Melnick**, who has recently moved to the Tampa area. She, along with Peg Keller, was a founding member of GHCOP in 2000, serving first as Vice-President and then President 2002-2004.

After her presidency, Liz served as Vice-President Publicity for several years, working with Ironside as we still do today. Liz then became a member of the Evening of Giving committee, serving as the Liaison to the Redlands Christian Migrant Association from 2009-2022, one of the longest-serving EOG members ever! In addition, Liz and her husband, Nick, have been generous major donors and supporters of GHCOP since its beginnings in 2000.

On Monday, April 17, as the moving van was being loaded, Liz Crowther, Al Gallo, Tina Wilcox, and Kathy Tonkel stopped by to inform Liz that the GHCOP Board of Directors was establishing a Volunteer of the Year Award in her name. Liz was extremely touched and grateful.

DONOR PROFILE - JACK WITTPENN

Jack involved himself with GHCOP because he was curious and wanted to see what was going on outside the GH gates. His work for eight years on the Philanthropy Committee has opened his eyes to the working poor and he can affirm that indeed, GHCOP truly “vets” the agencies to ensure the money is spent wisely and strategically.

Jack and his wife were married for 62 years and raised four children in Glen Ridge, NJ. He owned a small agricultural chemicals business until 2006, then moved here as a full-time resident in 2010.

In his volunteer work he sees the growing hardship—example—a 40% increase in food requests at a local pantry. Jack sees first-hand that GHCOP makes an impact on the local community and encourages a more robust response by others to volunteer and assist our surrounding community.

We thank him for his generosity of time, talent, and treasure!



2023-2024 SAVE THE DATE:

Evening of Giving “Friends of Santa”
Thursday, December 7, 2023
6PM-8PM

J.McLaughlin’s Sip & Shop
Saturday, December 9, 2023
NOON-5PM

“Gala” Dinner/Auction
Thursday, February 1, 2024
6PM-9PM

“Golf Classic”
Saturday, February 24, 2024

SALUTE TO 2022-2023 OUTREACH VOLUNTEERS

In celebrating April as “National Volunteers Month”, we would like to extend a shout-out to all those who assisted in raising record-breaking funds for 30 non-profits here in Indian River County.

Without you, we could not complete our mission. We are grateful for whatever contribution of time, effort, analyzing, vetting, and organizing events you have involved yourself in this past year. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

We look forward to your continued support in future years!

Lisa Alcock	Pat Curzio	Jim Hewett	Bill Ludwick	Peter Pattengill	Bruce Stone
Doug Alexander	Penny Cutler	Nance Hoder	Bob Marshall	John Pearse	Curtis Strom
Scott Alexander	Tim Cutler	Maureen Kahrman	Nancy Marshall	Sally Pearse	Kim Strom
Gail Alexander	Jim Dawson	Rick Kahrman	Gail Mellin	Joe Pojanowski	John Sullivan
Gloria Aviotti	Diane DeFrancisci	Karol Kaltenbach	Rich Mellin	Bob Porreca	Phyllis Surma
Liz Barnett	Mike Evans	Dave Kelso	Liz Melnick	Diane Reheis	Doug Sweeny
Kim Begien	Ruth Farrell	Theresa Kelso	Andy Michaels	Catherine Reichert	Susanne Sweeny
Arnie Bell	Marianne Gallo	Dru King	Sue Michaels	Jerry Reichert	Beth Talmadge
Rosemary Bell	Al Gallo	Brian King	Julie Mindt	Barbara Reis	Gary Talmadge
Donna Bills	Doug Germer	Connie Kirkenmeier	Ken Mindt	Jack Reis	Bob Thomas
Maryann Braden	Liz Germer	Tom Kirkenmeier	Celia Montgomery	Barbara Rice	Kathy Tonkel
Cindi Brunner	Joe Goodwin	Lin Kruger	Carolina Montgomery	Mark Rice	Rose Virgin
Mary Ellen	Barry Grennan	Maureen Landry	Steve Mooney	Carey Rochester	Ron Virgin
Cappuccio	Georgene Grennan	Patty Larson	Tracy Mooney	Wendy Rochester	Bonnie Walker
Janis Case	John Groves	Tom Lauda	Patsy Moynihan	Chris Rud	Nancy Walsh
Carole Casey	Ginny Hall	Pat Lauda	Janine Nebons	Don Rudolph	Tina Wilcox
Amy Caso	Pat Hamilton	Debbie Lindsey	Carolyn Norris	Joan Rudolph	Jack WittPenn
Ed Churney	Jan Harrell	John Lindsey	Jack Norris	Peter Saunders	Marc Zanger
Liz Crowther	Lisa Hewett	Thea Lucarelli	Gail Norris	Pat Simm	Rick Zimmer
		Theresa Ludwick	Barbara Panagy	Michael Spence	Mary Jane Zimmer



JOIN THE GHCOP TEAM!
This all-volunteer group welcomes committed, creative, and caring individuals.

There are a variety of fun and fulfilling options for you to choose from.

Watch for more news this fall or email katttonkel@comcast.net or wilcox.justinel@gmail.com



Philanthropy Overview



While both local and national news are flooded with troubling socio-economic news and elsewhere in this edition of Sharings, you will hear about the hard times our neighbors are experiencing, this is a different story. We are all about the good news.

On Monday April 17, at a celebration in the Club House, 30 nonprofit agencies operating in our community received \$486,470 from GHCOP!!! This was a banner year for GHCOP grants. More funds were provided than any other time in our 20-year history.

This accomplishment reflects the commitment of our community and its generosity, for which we are exceedingly grateful. It reinforces our view that "WHAT WE DO MATTERS" and "WHAT YOU DO MATTERS". A resounding thanks to our donors and over 115 volunteers who made this possible. As you will see below, we have focused our grants on the areas of greatest need and attention.

STRATEGIC FUNDING PROGRAM!

In addition to the delivery of the awards, we have initiated a new element to GHCOP philanthropy. Our intent is to operate the grant process throughout the "off-season". New agencies and those experiencing shortfalls or hardship anytime during the year can now apply and potentially receive funds in a timely manner. Agencies applying off cycle will still undergo the same rigorous vetting process, including financial analysis and a site visit. We are hopeful that this undertaking will enable us to help our neighbors when the need is there!

SUMMARY OF 2023 GRANTS AWARDED

The 2023 distribution of funds (**\$486,470**) listed below represents a 23% increase over 2022's distribution (made possible by a very generous community).

EDUCATION: \$184,720

Big Brothers, Big Sisters: \$8,500 provides a 1-to-1 reading mentor program for two target populations in Indian River County; at-risk four-year-olds who attend Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) and low-performing Kindergarten-3rd grade students. The purpose of these school and site-based programs is to improve kindergarten readiness for VPK students while enhancing literacy skills.

Childcare Resources: \$31,320 to subsidize high quality childcare for working parents with incomes between 150% and 200% of the federal poverty level. This agency promotes childhood development and

education for economically challenged families.

Crossover Mission: \$30,000 provides funding for key operations expenses including administration (financial oversight, insurance) and costs to execute year-round, evidence-based programming for local youth, ages 9-18, in three, interrelated areas: one-to-one academic support, athletics training, and competition and life mentoring that supports and stabilizes student athletes' social and emotional health.

Economics Opportunity Council: \$10,000 to support the Early-Bird pre-school

program for children aged 2 to 3 conducted in Gifford.

Gifford Youth Achievement Center: \$32,900 to support the After-School Education Program. This program provides homework assistance, tutoring, educational enrichment activities and cultural, social, and recreational opportunities to children of all ages during the school year.

Healthy Start of IRC: \$13,000 to fund the purchase of books and teaching materials for the Language Nutrition Programs: Parents as Teachers and Healthy Families-The mission is to develop and maintain



a support system of care to optimize the health of babies and families.

Literacy Services of the Treasure Coast: \$10,000 to support literacy programs for local adults 16 and older. Literacy Services is the safety net for adults to improve their literacy skills and help them get jobs or better jobs, engage in their children's education, and become active participants in the community.

The Learning Alliance: \$29,000 to support the Gifford community through providing families with children ages 0-5 years the necessary tools to be their child's first teacher and build the literacy, social, and emotional skills of their children so that they are ready for kindergarten. This grant empowers K-2 educators to be able to support building the early literacy skills of students through effective coaching and professional development. There are two distinct programs: 1) \$12,500 for the Moonshot Families work in Gifford and 2) \$13,750 for a K-2 Literacy Coach at Dodgertown Elementary.



Youth Guidance Donation Fund: \$20,000 to fund the mentoring program for youth ages 5-24 from low income and often single parent homes. The programs are conducted after school and during the summer in the mornings and focus on academic enrichment, life skills and vocational training.

HEALTH AND SPECIAL NEEDS: \$168,000

Alzheimer & Parkinson Association IRC: \$20,000 to help support the Gifford Community Program that offers caregiver support, memory and movement programs and dementia education to Gifford residents free of charge. Activities focus on participant engagement which emphasizes social interaction and validation.

Mental Health Association in Indian River County \$9,000 to assist the Walk-in & Counseling Center which focuses on preventing harm from untreated mental health issues including suicidal ideation. Services include walk-in mental health screening and crisis intervention, information/referral, support groups, wellness classes, psychiatric care and individual, family/group psychotherapy.

Special Equestrians of the Treasure Coast: \$8,000 to provide Horse Powered Reading with Equine Assisted Learning to first graders with learning challenges at Dodgertown Elementary School in Gifford.

Substance Awareness: \$12,000 supports housing and peer-based recovery support services primarily through a peer outreach program, Recovery Assistance Program (RAP) for substance users (RAP). These participants are often homeless or inmates who are re-entering society. The RAP homes provide a safe and structured alternative to life on the "street" or life in neighborhoods rampant with drug users.



Sunshine Rehabilitation Center of IRC: \$13,000 to support free multi-disciplinary services (physical, occupational and speech therapy) for disabled and autistic children regardless of insurance status. Many of the patients are Medicaid clients and services are not otherwise available in IRC.

The ARC of IRC \$18,000 to help fund the acquisition of a wheelchair accessible van and costs associated with maintenance of their vehicle fleet. The ARC operates day facilities and residential group homes, provides employment training and job services, counseling, and transportation to over 230 adults with a variety of disabilities.

The Source: \$12,000 to support a new full-service program, "Dignity Wellness" (DW). The Dignity Wellness program will provide mental health and wellness services daily with its outreach, education and training for members, staff, and our community.

Treasure Coast Community Health: \$12,000 to provide behavioral health services to students at Dodgertown Elementary School. A counselor will conduct services at the school during the school day.

Tykes & Teens: \$20,000 to support programs that use evidence-based interventions to mitigate the effects of trauma in young children, aged 0-5, and build the capacity of childcare staff and families to respond appropriately to young children exposed to trauma. This is the only facility in IRC focusing on this age group.

United Against Poverty: \$25,000 to support the Success Training for Employment Program (STEP). STEP services unemployed adults with barriers to employment. Through a three-phase program, participants are motivated and trained to find and keep a job

Veterans Council of Indian River County: \$12,000 to support the Upward American Veterans Program (UAV) by providing routine and emergency living expenses for military veterans and their families to assist them with short-term needs.

VNA of IRC: \$7,000 to assist in providing health care through the Medicaid -Eligible Patient Care Program. This is a critical safety net for those patients.



Philanthropy

FOOD INSECURITY, HOMELESSNESS AND FINANCIAL STABILITY: \$133,750

Camp Haven: \$15,000 to support professional counseling for clients in the Pathways to Purposeful Life, Financial Stability Program. Camp Haven provides a residential setting for homeless men to regain financial independence and self-esteem leading to full time employment. The counseling program is structured to focus on social and relationship skills, vocational and educational opportunities, and reconnecting with their communities in a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

Catholic Charities/Samaritan Center: \$14,250 to help support this residential facility for homeless families with program focusing on “Life Skills Development” (parenting, budgeting, and education). Through a professional Mental Health Counselor, the residents are guided in the promotion and development of healthy family values and issues likely to be encountered in the re-entry of homeless families into mainstream society.

Children’s Home Society: \$10,000 to support the Transitional Living Center in Vero Beach. The Center is a residential site for homeless youth ages 18-23 who have aged out of foster care. The program provides a safe environment to complete

high school or a GED, receive training in life skills and assistance in finding employment opportunities.

Habitat for Humanity of IRC: \$12,000 to sponsor (in part) the construction of a new Grand Harbor Habitat home.



Hibiscus Children’s Center: \$21,500 to support the Career Pathways to Independence Program at the Hibiscus Village in Vero Beach. This education program provides individualized assistance to children whose traumatic experiences have arrested their educational process. The program helps increase attendance and engagement in school, supports academic progress and increases exposure to skills and ability to pursue post-secondary school options or careers.

Hope for Families: \$25,000 for operating needs of this family homeless shelter.

The mission of Hope for Families is to provide safe shelter, food and assistance in financial literacy and the goal is to build the foundation for long term independence and to break the cycle of homelessness for families.

Our Father’s Table: \$8,000 to help fund meals at their site and to provide delivery of meals to the elderly and homebound in Gifford six days a week.

Safe Families for Children: \$10,000 to assist with the costs associated with connecting families in need with community resources including recruiting and training host families and facilitating family friend arrangements to support the children of families in crisis.

Senior Resource Association: \$18,000 to the Meals on Wheels Program providing a vital daily hot meal and wellness check to low-income homebound seniors. SRA promotes independence and dignity by providing services to older adults, including free countywide transportation.



NEW BOARD MEMBER - JOHN GROVES



John joined GHCOP as Chair of Corporate Donors in 2022. His extensive background and experience in leading billion-dollar businesses for DuPont--in Sales, Marketing, and Corporate Planning--made him a good candidate for leading this program.

His responsibilities include both maintaining the current and recruiting new Corporate Donors. These funds support GHCOP’s administrative costs which allows 100% of GHCOP member donations to support the agencies’ work.

He holds a Chemical Engineer degree from Ohio State and an MBA from Northwestern. John and his wife, Lyn, moved to Vero Beach in 2020. As a member of the Board, “I appreciate the opportunity to pay forward and support the GHCOP mission of giving.”

GHCOP deeply appreciates his hard work and is grateful for his involvement, commitment, and expertise.

CO-CHAIRS OF THE 19TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Penny was a Critical Care Nurse at a regional hospital in Buffalo NY, and Tim was a Senior Executive of an industrial coatings company. Their first exposure to the Treasure Coast was as long-time owners of a beach front condo on North Hutchinson Island. When they were ready to retire, they discovered and became entranced by Grand Harbor and moved here full time in December 2019.

They quickly became very engaged in the GH community and have worked on many committees. Currently Tim serves on the Board of GHCOP and together they Co-Chaired the recent 19th Annual Golf Classic Charity Fundraiser.

Tim and Penny's enthusiasm, energy, and desire to give back are a perfect fit! We welcome them to GHCOP as we collectively look to transform lives, strengthen families while improving our community.



Penny and Tim Cutler, Co-chairs - 19th Annual Golf Classic



Joe Walsh, Tom Kruger, Dave Zanzitis



Ron Virgin, Vinnie West, Catherine & Jerry Reichert

19TH ANNUAL GHCOP GOLF CLASSIC

On a perfect day for a perfect cause over 150 members participated in the 19th Annual Golf Classic. As one of the oldest GH traditions, this popular event raises needed funds for over 30 local charities.

With two newly renovated golf courses, players participated in an 18-hole scramble format with a variety of entertaining contests, including "Beat the Pro!"

The four-member team of **Michael Spence, Marianne Alciati and Bentley & Marilyn Beaver** won the River Course flight and the overall event, while the team of **Richard & Maureen Kahrmann and Sue & Andy Michaels** won Harbor Course honors. After golf, members were treated to a spectacular evening including a Silent Auction, open bar, and delectable dinner.

Co-chaired by Penny and Tim Cutler, the 19th Annual Golf Classic included 46 volunteers and 82 different sponsors. Thank you to everyone for Making a Difference!

We look forward to seeing you at next year's 20th Annual Golf Classic!

Corporate Donor Profile

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At Father and Sons, we know that quality has no substitute. We are the local leader in the flooring industry because of our unmatched performance and dedication to customer service.

We are family-owned and operated and have been serving Indian River County and surrounding

communities for over 32 years. When you shop flooring with Father & Sons you will be shopping with the owners. Ron, Tim, and Tom Jobe have nearly 100 years of combined expertise and are present daily in our beautiful Vero Beach showroom to provide clients with advice and service.

We are proud to support Grand Harbor Community Outreach and their mission to provide funding of Indian River non-profit charities.

“Sip & Shop” at J.McLaughlin - Saturday, April 1, 2023

Once again, J.McLaughlin has very generously supported Grand Harbor Community Outreach by donating 15% of their gross sales during a recent “Sip & Shop” in their Village Shops location.

The company has held these special shopping days for the past 9 years and we are grateful to them for continuing as a Corporate Sponsor.

And importantly, we wish to thank all the Grand Harbor members who visited the store and made purchases that day!



Enjoying a day of shopping with funding for GHCOF in mind: L-R: Kathy Tonkel, David Goodwin, Liz Crowther, Doug Sweeny, and Nugget

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

Platinum & Gold



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Honorable Mention

