

STARBRIGHTS



GRAND HARBOR
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
PROGRAM, INC.

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.

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

GRAND HARBOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH
PRESENTS

REACH FOR THE STARS

ANNUAL GALA DINNER & AUCTION

THURSDAY,
FEBRUARY 1ST | 6PM



AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION



LIVE AUCTION HIGHLIGHTS

EPITOME OF LUXURY



11.30.2024 - 12.7.2024
(Date is firm)

\$20,000 Value

Week long stay at Vidanta's Grand Luxxe Resort
in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico

Includes:

Two Bedroom Suite, Plunge Pool, 16 Rounds of Golf at the Nayar Course and 2 Massages.

For more information visit: vidanta.com/en/grand-luxxe-en

Made possible through the generosity of Mary & Ken Potter

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN



\$12,000 Value

Week long stay in Tuscany, Italy
within the Cortona hillside

Includes:

One of five carefully curated homes with private pool and courtyard for 8 guests over 7 nights, Private winery tour and tasting, A private cooking class featuring traditional Italian cuisine, Dedicated Concierge and trip planning services. Winners have 24 months to use this package.

For more information visit: luxgive.com/experience/timeless-tuscany

2024 EVENT SCHEDULE

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

Golf Classic
February 24, 2024

Emerson Center - "Beatles vs.
Stones Concert for Outreach"
March 21, 2024
7PM

Agency Grant Award
Breakfast
TBD

GHCOP Board of Directors

Liz Crowther,
President

Ken Mindt,
Treasurer

Linda Kruger,
Secretary

Maryann Braden
Tim Cutler
Al Gallo
John Groves

Janine Nebons
Barbara Reis
Barbara Rice
Mark Rice

Michael Spence
Kathy Tonkel, **Past President**
Bonnie Walker
Tina Wilcox

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year Everyone!!

Thank you for your dedicated support to Grand Harbor Community Outreach. You made the holidays extra special with your gifts for Evening of Giving and we hope this will continue with support for the Annual Fund, the upcoming Gala, and the Golf Classic event that supply the Grant funds for over 30 agencies in our community.



Much of this goes to what the United Way refers to as our A.L.I.C.E. population, an acronym for our neighbors that go to work every day, but still don't earn enough to pay for necessities such as groceries, rent, transportation, childcare and healthcare.

\$600,000 in requests is a huge bucket for us to fill, but with our generous community, I know we can do it! "The greatest gift you give yourself is giving back to your community". The Board and I are so grateful for your kind and generous hearts.

With love for a happy and healthy 2024,

Liz Crowther
GHCOP, President

CRITICAL ISSUES

in Indian River County

Veterans in Need:

- 6,000 living in or close to poverty.
- Over 4,000 disabled, dozens homeless.
- 220 in case management with a wait list of 17 for critical home repairs, dire dental needs, and health treatments.

Mental Health:

- 1120 youths have been hospitalized for mood and depression disorders.
- IRC County has only one mental health provider for every 640 residents.

At-Risk Children:

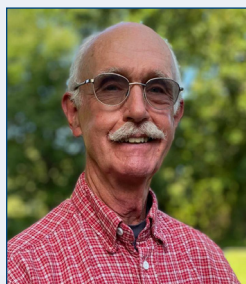
- 22% live in poverty, 76% are in single-parent homes.
- Only 45% are ready for kindergarten.

The Homeless:

- 925 homeless individuals in IRC
- 736 adults and 189 children.

Your gift can make a difference!

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE



Michael Spence
VP & Chair,
Annual Fund

The needs in our Indian River County are ENORMOUS. Our next-door neighbor, Gifford, has the highest poverty rate (60%) in all of Florida—6 times the average. Some of the more profound stressors for the people we support are:

- The demands on single-parent families
- Lack of food security
- Inadequate shelter
- Deficient access to early educational opportunities

Outreach volunteers have identified, researched, visited, and vetted over 30 agencies focusing on the underserved in our greater community.

100% of your contributions go directly to them.

Here is the potential impact of your generous contributions:

\$10,000 - Provides the salary for a Mental Health Counselor at The Source...for 20 clients.

\$5,000 - Supports one child for a full year of GYAC Academic Enrichment; funds 2 students through UAP STEP program or creates home handicap accessibility for disabled Vets.

\$1000 - Feeds 21 families for a week at the Hope for Families Center.

\$500 - Funds a GYAC teacher salary for 2 weeks.

\$100 - Provides school supplies for 1 homeless child at the Hope for Families Center or keeps electricity on for a veteran for a month.

Please reach into your heart and your pocketbook to help us make a difference in the lives of our neighbors!

Visit GHCOP.org for more information on how to give.



Golf Classic Co-Chairs
Penny and Tim Cutler

20TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC – FEBRUARY 24, 2024

The Grand Harbor Community Outreach (GHCO) Golf Classic – Co-Chaired by Penny and Tim Cutler – is offering formats to suit all levels:

- 18-Hole 4-person scramble on both the Harbor and River Courses
- 9-Hole 4-person scramble – *brought back due to popular demand* - Oak Harbor Course

The day’s food offerings and drink libations will include Tito’s Beverage Cart, a Luncheon, 1-hour Open Bar following golf, and Dinner at the Clubhouse. In addition, more entertaining activities will include:

- Putting and Chipping Contests
- “Closest” and “Longest” Contests
- “Beat the Pro” Contest

This is designated as a “Coveted Plaque Event” and is sure to generate a substantial crowd, so register now!

Details regarding costs, prizes, and sign-up were recently emailed and a hard copy is included with this issue of Sharings. Looking forward to seeing you “on the course” for an exciting day as we support GH charities in Indian River County.

SPONSOR PROFILE – ALEX MACWILLIAM REAL ESTATE

Alex MacWilliam is known as “The Trusted Name in Real Estate” and **Buzz MacWilliam** is known for his commitment to GHCO. Leading the company’s success in Grand Harbor and Oak Harbor is the dynamic team of **Diane DeFrancisci** and **Martin Carder**.

Diane has been a top producer for 22 years. Her success stems from being a resident who lives the lifestyle, respects the generosity of the people, and can convey that all to prospective buyers. She believes that GHCO offers the surrounding community a step up and volunteers on the Grant Committee to meet the people, hear their stories, and celebrate their achievements.

Martin arrived in Florida in 1982 with experience in the real estate industry in the UK and Canada. Retiring to Vero Beach in 2004 he raised his hand for various causes in Grand Harbor, but none was more fulfilling than his time as VP of Marketing for Grand Harbor Outreach.

He witnesses the generosity of the donors and corporate sponsor and relishes reading about the agency success stories. In 2018 Martin placed his Broker’s license with Alex MacWilliam Real Estate and frequently joins with Diane to fulfill residents’ needs or introduce new homeowners to the Grand Harbor lifestyle.



Diane
DeFrancisci



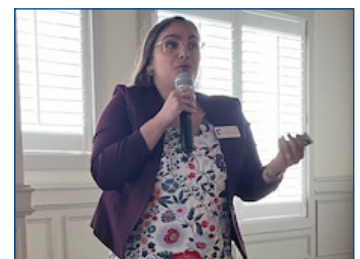
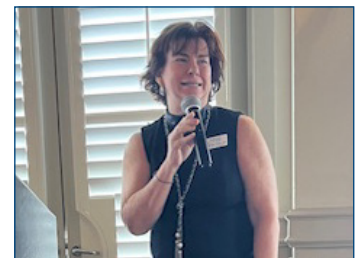
Martin
Carder

AGENCY STORY

Tykes and Teens and the *Guardian ad Litem Program* are two agencies whose clients benefit from the Evening of Giving grants. A representative from each presented their agency’s goals and programs - at a first of its kind session initiated by Janine Nebons - at the Ladies 9-Hole Luncheon.

By hearing directly from the non-profits about the meaningful impact and good work they are doing, it is hoped that sessions such as this will increase Grand Harbor members’ awareness and knowledge, as well as encourage participation in Community Outreach events and fundraising pursuits. In-person descriptions of their agencies’ pursuits and successes are often more impactful and informative than a poster, brochure, or written testimonial.

Pictured, above right, is Anne W. Posey, CEO of Tykes and Teens. Pictured, lower right, is Victoria Stream, Volunteer Recruiter, Guardian Ad Litem.



EVENING OF GIVING

Ho! Ho! Ho! And away we go! Grand Harbor Community Outreach kicked off the Holiday Season with over 225 club members at the Evening of Giving's (EOG) Holiday Cocktail Party on December 7.

The event, co-chaired by Janine Nebons and Bonnie Walker, celebrates the generosity of the people of Grand Harbor. The guests were greeted by GH staff with complimentary glasses of champagne and eggnog. Maryanne Bohlinger, on the piano, and the musical group *Seawind* entertained with a mix of holiday music. Santa-inspired favors, with candy kisses from the 1000 recipients of the EOG program, concluded the evening's festivities.

Over \$50,000.00 was raised to benefit fifteen local charities. EOG committee members determine each agency's holiday needs and follow up by purchasing gifts, gift cards or delivering checks which they distribute to their clients. The goal of the EOG is to put a smile on every child, senior, veteran, and homeless person this holiday season.



The success of the campaign is attributable to the people of Grand Harbor - we are deeply gratified and humbled by the outpouring of support.

EOG Committee: L to R: Maryann Braden, Sally Pearse, Pat Curzio, Bonnie Walker, Pat Simm, Janine Nebons, Phyllis Surma, Barb Schwinn, Rose Virgin, Nance Hoder, Susie Stoughton, Patsy Moynihan, Amy Caso.

(Not pictured: Jan Harrell, Dru King, Gloria Quesada, Tina Wilcox)



GH Chef Tim and array of tasty Holiday Desserts



Bonnie Walker and Janine Nebons, Co-Chairs of EOG

EMERSON CENTER

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 | 7PM



The British Invasion brought us the two most popular rock groups of all time, *The Beatles*, and *The Rolling Stones*.

Two rock groups will engage in an on-stage, musical challenge - "which band is the greatest?"

Abbey Road, the top tribute band of the Beatles. *OR is it: Satisfaction*, performing a rendition of the music of Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, and *the bad boys* from Britain.

The concert is presented by MusicWorks, Inc., and Paris Productions, who will donate 25% of the proceeds to GHCOP.

When you purchase your tickets, enter the code "GRAND" in the discount space provided on the website.

Tickets range from \$45-\$95.
For Best Seats...Buy Tickets Now!

Visit the website: www.MusicWorksConcerts.com or call the TIX Customer Service line (800) 595-4849.

We hope to see you there!

Community Outreach Honorees



For the first time, the Gala will honor Outreach volunteers who have made a sustained contribution to GHCOP and our community - Susanne and Doug Sweeny.

Their 20 active years in Grand Harbor have included the following:

- Doug helped run the GHCOP Golf Classic and corporate sponsors.
- Susanne chaired the Evening of Giving for 2 years.
- In 2010 they teamed up to chair and expand the Annual Fund, initiating the "Top Donor" events.
- They served as Co-Chairs of the Philanthropy Committee and were each the President of Outreach.
- Susanne chaired several Galas, initiating the "Angel Auction", wildly successful at warming the hearts of attendees, while Doug served as Auctioneer appealing to the humor and goodwill of all.
- Doug initiated the Emerson Center Concert Series to support Outreach, now in its 5th year of participation.

Join GHCOP at the Gala to honor a couple truly deserving of our thanks: Susanne and Doug Sweeny.