

Another Seabreeze Publication

Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation Tops \$1 Million In Donations

Thanks to a late fundraising surge, the Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation (SWCF) exceeded \$1 million in contributions in the fiscal year 2021 ending March 31.

It marked the first time the Shadow Wood and Shadow Wood Preserve communities have given more than \$1 million in a single year since the foundation's founding in 2012 (see chart below). In 2020, donations totaled \$937,000.

SWCF funds nine local charities (see list below) that annually serve more than 30,000 low-income residents. In addition, SWCF has a highly successful scholarship program for Shadow Wood employees and their families (see sidebar on page 4) and awards educational grants for Estero and Bonita Springs high school graduates interested in pursuing vocational training. The foundation also provides emergency relief services.

- 2021 Grant Recipients**
- Habitat for Humanity Lee and Hendry Counties
 - New Horizons of Southwest Florida
 - Interfaith Charities of South Lee
 - Feeding the 5000 Thanksgiving Outreach
 - Café of Life
 - Friends of the Salvation Army
 - Guardian Ad Litem Foundation/Voices for Kids
 - Literacy Council Gulf Coast
 - Hearts & Homes for Veterans

Some 96 cents of every \$1 donated goes directly to the charities and scholarship programs. Since its founding in 2012, the foundation has awarded nearly \$4 million in grants, \$450,000 in scholarships and \$50,000 in disaster relief. SWCF also has sponsored construction of 20 Habitat for Humanity new homes, has provided funding for the acquisition and development of the new neighborhood at Partnership Place in Bonita Springs, and coordinates thousands of volunteer hours offered by Shadow Wood residents.

"Our vision is for all Southwest Florida residents to have a decent place to live, adequate provisions to sustain them and an opportunity to fulfill their life goals," said SWCF President Tod Wilcock. "The pandemic and economic challenges have made our work even more important."

Last year, the foundation awarded its charities supplemental operational support on top of the almost \$900,000 in grants initially scheduled for payout. In addition, COVID-19 and the resulting public health restrictions prompted SWCF to reinvent its approach to fundraising.

While support from major donors and the annual raffle stayed on course, other traditional events such as live and silent auctions, a dinner dance, a major donors appreciation celebration, a popular golf event and a tennis tournament/clinic featuring top local pro players were scaled back or cancelled because of safety protocols.

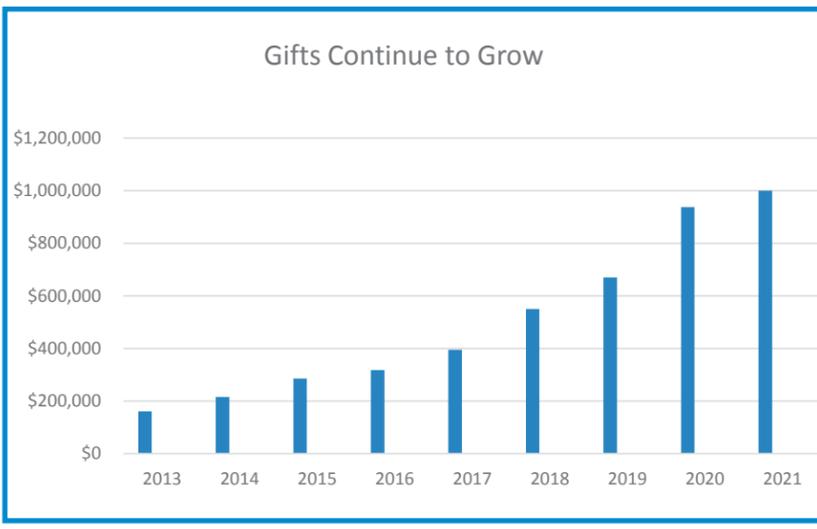
In the end, new events such as a virtual auction, tennis member/bocce team fundraiser and sale of tee markers on the Shadow Wood golf courses pushed the fiscal 2021 donation level across the \$1 million threshold.

With this pandemic causing such hardships for so many, we were hoping to at least reach last year's donation level," Wilcock said. "But this year in particular, our residents really showed how much they care."

New Board members for fiscal 2022, which began April 1, include Norm Wells and Doug Timmel. Founding Board members who resigned due to term limits were Bill Lentz, Susan Nicoletti and Larry Acorn. Later this month, the Board will begin reviewing letters of inquiry from nonprofits seeking support. Annual fundraising activities will begin in earnest this fall with a revamped website and a vendors that care program for commercial organizations interested in supporting the foundation.

The Gifts Keep On Coming

The Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation continues to grow each year thanks to support from residents of Shadow Wood at the Brooks and Shadow Wood Preserve Communities. Here are the amounts invested each year in grants to local charities, scholarships and emergency relief programs:



Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation on page 4

Center For The Arts Exhibitions

Each year the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs presents a dynamic and wide-ranging selection of exhibitions which both appeal to and enlighten our membership and visitors. While some exhibitions feature member, faculty or student artists from our own community, other shows feature traveling exhibitions from national institutions in the U.S. or artworks from around the world.



Our schedule provides events that focus on a particular theme, medium or concept. Summer and fall feature regional artists, and February features our annual members' exhibition.

**Florida Girls And Boys And Their Toys
May 3 Through July 28**

Center For Performing Arts – 10150 Bonita Beach Road

This traveling exhibition from the Museum of Florida History features photographs of Florida children at play, plus a selection of memorable toys and videos that help take you on a journey back through time to recapture the magical way that children have played with their favorite toys throughout history.



**National Identity Exhibition
July 9 Through 29**

Center For Visual Arts – 26100 Old 41 Road

The Fourth of July is all about fireworks, food and freedom. In celebration of this iconic holiday we ask you to consider what your national identity is. Have fun!



**Black And White Exhibition
Aug. 6 Through 26**

Center For Visual Arts – 26100 Old 41 Road

Back by popular demand, this exhibition features works that convey the colors black and white. What can an artist say by removing the impact of color from their process of creation? Emphasis is placed on textures, lines, and composition as the foundation of a powerful image or sculpture.



Center For Performing Arts, 10150 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135, (239) 495-8989, artcenterbonita.org.

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All articles for *The Brooks* are due by the 20th of the month.

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About The Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation

The Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to unite residents of the Shadow Wood community to serve their Southwest Florida neighbors in need and to provide worthy students with an opportunity to fulfill their life goals.

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2021 SWCF Scholarship Award Winners

The Shadow Wood Charitable Foundation recently awarded college scholarships to:

Megan Barry, daughter of Becky Gilmore, dining room manager at the Shadow Wood Preserve. Megan will use the proceeds to fund completion of her master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of South Florida. In 2017, she was awarded a two-year SWCF scholarship to assist with completion of her undergraduate degree in environmental science at Florida State University.



Haiden John Hartmann, son of Peter Hartmann, outside operations supervisor. Haiden will graduate in June from Fort Myers High School. His SWCF scholarship will be used for tuition to attend Florida State University. Dentistry is at the top of Haiden's career aspirations.



Hayley Merie Murphy, who was recently promoted from Shadow Wood Country Club dining room server to food and beverage floor captain. While working, Hayley completed an Associates of Arts degree at Florida SouthWestern State College with a 3.9 grade point average. Hayley's scholarship will help fund her dream of becoming the first one in her immediate family to earn a bachelor's degree.



Each recipient will receive a \$6,000 grant for the upcoming academic year. Winners are then entitled to a renewal of the scholarships for three additional years if they continue their education and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5.

Since the program's 2017 inception, 23 Shadow Wood employees or their family members have received \$437,000 in scholarship awards.

Meanwhile, the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools recently announced the nine winners of \$5,000 scholarships to attend trade or technical schools (Blog –Foundation for Lee County Public Schools (leeschoolfoundation.org)). SWCF provided the scholarship funding for the seven recent graduates of Bonita Springs High School and two from Estero High School.

Guadalupe Center's Tutor Corps Class Of 2021 Sets Record With \$4 Million In College Scholarship Offers, Grants

All 30 high school seniors graduating from Guadalupe Center's Tutor Corps Program will be attending college in the fall and have received a collective \$4 million in scholarship offers and grants, including \$378,400 in scholarship funding by tutoring children in Guadalupe Center's after-school tutoring and summer enrichment program.

Guadalupe Center honored its Tutor Corps Class of 2021, its largest class to date, on May 4 during a private ceremony held at Immokalee High School, where students were joined by family members and mentors to celebrate their achievements. Notable statistics from the Tutor Corps Class of 2021 include:

- Students earned an average weighted GPA of 4.0
- 17 of 30 students earned college credits while in high school (their average was nearly 21 credits each)
- 12 of 30 students are the first in their family to graduate from high school
- 26 of 30 students are first-generation college students

"The Tutor Corps Class of 2021 overcame disruptions in their education caused by the pandemic, *Hurricane Irma* and other life challenges, but emerged stronger and more resilient," said Guadalupe Center President Dawn Montecalvo. "As these young men and women head to college in the fall, I am confident they will continue excelling in the classroom and on campus, like they have done for the past four years during high school."

Tutor Corps is a college-preparatory program that offers guidance in college and career readiness, ACT and SAT test prep, mentorships, financial literacy and scholarship assistance. Guadalupe Center's mission is breaking the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee.

The Tutor Corps celebration event featured remarks by Board of Trustees Chairman Joseph Baughman, Montecalvo, Vice President of Programs Bob Spano and Tutor Corps Program Director Sheila Oxx. Three students – Perla Munoz, Jose Reyes and Jean Jocirin – delivered invocations in English, Spanish and Creole, respectively.

Despite missing their junior and senior proms, athletic events, field trips, college visits and many other



opportunities because of COVID-19, Spano noted that all 30 students still reached the finish line. Now, they can focus on what's ahead. "Students, the future is your motivation," Spano told students during his address. "Learn from the past but live in the future."

Graduating senior Lunex Illozier, a self-taught musician and academic scholar who will be majoring in biomedical engineering at Roberts Wesleyan College, delivered the keynote address.

Guadalupe Center's Tutor Corps Class of 2021 includes Mariana Brito, Ricardo Castillo, Lorve Cherilus, Ashley Decius, Marc Dorcin, Kayla Etienne, Diyanara Galvan, Mariela Galvan, Malaya Hollins, Lunex Illozier, Jean Jocirin, Jazmin Leon, Karina Lopez-Ramirez, Daniela Martinez, Pedro Miguel, Laura Morales-Nito, Esteban Moreno, Perla Munoz, Rosaura Munoz-Luna, Geraldine Pierre, Gierdy Pierre-Paul, Daniela Rafael, Jose Reyes Dubon, Gisel Reyes, Benny Reyna, Ethan Rincon, Veronica Sanchez, Noemy Segura Sanchez, Jaime Sifuentes and Maria Tistoj.

About Guadalupe Center

Guadalupe Center is a purpose-driven, nonprofit organization with proven results in creating endless possibilities for the students of Immokalee through education and fostering personal and academic success that leads to economic independence. With a focus on breaking the cycle of poverty through education, Guadalupe Center is proud of the children's accomplishments: 95 percent meet or exceed kindergarten readiness measures, 100 percent of Tutor Corps high school seniors graduate high school and are accepted into college, and more than 94 percent graduate with a post-secondary degree.

Lee County Library System Wins Two Awards

The Lee County Library System has been selected as the 2021 recipient of two Florida Library Association awards: Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations and Outstanding Business or Media Partner.

The Excellence in Marketing and Public Relations award recognizes outstanding strategic marketing, public relations projects or campaigns that show results. The award highlights the work of the Digital Services Team at Lee County Library System for a Halloween-themed video, *Tales from Beyond the Stacks*. The video reached thousands of viewers and showed off the skills and abilities of the team while promoting library services. See the video here: <https://bit.ly/3w1VZP9>.

The Outstanding Business or Media Partner award honors a company, business partner or media agency for their leadership or significant contribution in support of library service to a local, regional or statewide library organization. This year's award recognizes WINK News anchor Lois Thome, who has provided 20 years of continuous support to Lee County Library System's signature event, the Southwest Florida Reading Festival.

"Reading has always been a big part of my life, so to be honored for being part of such an important event in

our community is the cherry on top of the sundae," Thome said. "It's rare to find a free, community event that serves all in such a positive way. I am happy to play a small part in making it the successful event it's become."

As a founding member of the festival's planning committee, Thome has brought expertise and insight to the event, ensuring the best visibility through PSAs, live TV interviews, festival-day story times, arranging onsite author interviews and more. With Lois's help, the festival has been able to positively impact more than 100,000 readers in the community.

"Lois is a strong advocate for libraries and reading," Library Director Mindi Simon said. "It has been a privilege to work with her on the Southwest Florida Reading Festival. Additionally, I am so proud of our digital services team who creatively promote the library and all of the valuable services we provide to our community."

About The Lee County Library System

The Lee County Library System, founded in 1964, has 13 branches with more than 1.5 million items. Currently more than 294,000 Lee County residents are registered users.

For more information, call (239) 479-INFO (4636) or visit www.leelibrary.net.



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