



GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



years, better together. That is the heart of Gulf Coast Community Foundation's relationship with our donors, our nonprofit partners, and the communities we serve. Since our foundation was created in 1995, we have transformed our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. We identify emerging issues and rally the right resources to tackle them. We lead with strategic intention, whether prominently out in front or quietly from behind. We seed innovation and invest in scalable solutions. We target systems, not symptoms. Whatever it takes to

change the status quo is a given with Gulf Coast. Above all, we empower philanthropists to accomplish more than they ever knew they could. We transform, together. While a quarter century of community philanthropy could never be captured in a single report, the pages that follow share select snapshots and emblematic stories. They aim to honor and inspire everyone who powers our ever-evolving work. Anything we achieve is possible only through the generous vision of our donors and purposeful drive of our community partners. **"Together" isn't just a word in our mission; it's how we get things done. At Gulf Coast, that job is never finished.**

OUR WORK





Saving Land, Forever

We took a big bet in 2004 with a nearly \$1-million grant to help a fledgling land trust grow. Today, Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast is the leader in our region for protecting special natural places for people and for wildlife.



Community Connection

Gulf Coast leadership and funding has been key to building and connecting trails like the Venetian Waterway Park and Sarasota County's Legacy Trail, as well as extending their benefits to all citizens.

Our enviable reputation and quality of life here on the Gulf Coast will last only as long as the integrity of the coastal resources that make this place special. That’s why Gulf Coast Community Foundation is investing in actionable research to protect and restore our region’s natural waterways.

COMMITMENT

to our waters and our wellness

This year and beyond

Gulf Coast is committed to improving our region’s environmental quality and stewarding its unique natural places. By creating a “clean water playbook” for our community and helping to catalyze a sustainability movement among our nonprofit partners, we will make Sarasota County a leader and model for coastal conservation and resilience. We will also continue connecting our donors to transformational projects like The Bay Park on Sarasota’s Bayfront and VABI’s Urban Forest along the Intracoastal Waterway in Venice. Their environmental, health, and civic benefits will be a legacy for generations of residents and visitors.




Appreciating the Arts

The arts matter to our economy as well as our cultural life. That's why we created Arts Appreciation grants. This flexible funding has given cornerstone cultural groups like Embracing Our Differences the freedom to focus on their artistic missions and inspire our next generation.



From Broadway to the Beach

Early gifts from Gulf Coast and our donors helped transform the Hermitage Artist Retreat from inspired idea into Gulf-side reality. Today, the Hermitage welcomes a rotating cast of accomplished artists to Manasota Key, where creativity comes alive and often finds its first audience.



Operating a world-class arts organization like The Sarasota Ballet requires business acumen and organizational excellence along with artistic vision. Our Invest in Incredible initiative is a resource like no other, giving non-profits like the Ballet access to an ensemble of technical tools and professional consulting services unrivaled in our region.

COLLABORATING

to create a more robust region

This year and beyond

We will ensure that a competitive strength like our celebrated arts and cultural community never loses its footing. We know that the arts set our region apart. They draw vital dollars from far beyond our communities and enrich lives of all ages within them. Gulf Coast Community Foundation donors have long been leaders in lifting the arts here to brilliant new heights. We will continue to collaborate with them to help Gulf Coast arts groups reach even higher.

Fresh Approach to Hunger

Guided by a Hunger Design Team of Gulf Coast donors, we partnered with All Faiths Food Bank to bring data-driven solutions to hunger relief. Our Feeding Hungry Families initiative transformed the food bank's focus to providing more fresh, nutritious food and meeting neighbors in need where they are.



A Place of Their Own

The Harvest House Youth Center is the first place of its kind in Sarasota—a safe gathering space for homeless teens and young adults to get help and just be themselves. Gulf Coast donors helped create and furnish the center through our Unaccompanied Homeless Youth initiative.





Mental health issues block access to opportunity for a growing number of young people. We launched Here4YOUth with the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation to create the coordinated system of care that will ensure our youth and their families receive the support they deserve. With its “wellness through work” approach, the Academy at Glengary is among dozens of dedicated partners striving with us to secure mental well-being for our entire community.

RESPONSIBILITY

for thriving communities with opportunities for all

This year and beyond

Our donors know that caring doesn’t begin until someone is being cared for. They also see that just treating symptoms won’t change systems that fail to help all of our residents thrive and succeed. Our regional priorities at Gulf Coast include affordable housing, mental health support, substance-abuse recovery, and criminal justice reform. Those are big challenges with no guarantee of success. But we ask ourselves, “If not Gulf Coast and our donors, then who...?”



Future Ready

When Gulf Coast created STEMsmart, even we didn't imagine the transformation it would have—on students, their teachers, and our donors. Thanks to bold education partners and visionary philanthropists who joined us, Sarasota's middle schools are now a model for 21st-century learning.



Reading to Learn

The launch and expansion of Reading Recovery in Sarasota County Schools has literally changed hundreds of children's lives for the better. Its unique ability to help struggling readers catch up to their classmates is a never-ending success story, with philanthropy driving the plot.



Gulf Coast partnered with the Barancik Foundation and Ringling College of Art and Design to reinvent another classroom last year—intensive language arts classes in three high schools. Equal parts inspiring, flexible, and fun, these stunning spaces are enhanced by technology tools and learning incentives also funded by philanthropy. Students in the new classrooms have gained a fresh view of possible futures and a path to achieve them.

LEADING

the way for innovative learning

This year and beyond

Sarasota County has long boasted top-rated schools that outperform state and national averages. But closing achievement gaps and improving educational outcomes for all students is critical. From early childhood education through college access and workforce training, Gulf Coast will collaborate to sustain innovative initiatives and foster creative approaches to learning. We also will continue to build on the trusted partnership we have forged with our school district to benefit those who matter most—our students and teachers.

25 (MORE) TRANSFORMATIONS

A Foundation Is Born

Created in 1995 with proceeds from the sale of Venice Hospital, The Venice Foundation—now Gulf Coast Community Foundation—immediately became Florida’s largest community foundation.

First Grants

In just over its first year of operation, the foundation granted \$4.7 million to more than 130 organizations from Boca Grande to Sarasota.



Building Social Capital

Gulf Coast funded our region’s participation in a landmark Harvard study of “social capital” in 2003. What we learned about the value of social networks continues to inform our work today.

Sharing Our Stories

Exclusively sponsored by Gulf Coast, WEDU’s “A Gulf Coast Journal” set a new standard for locally produced public TV. Its unique, Jack Perkins-voiced stories over nine seasons still resonate today.

Good Governance

Our Building Better Boards initiative put good governance on the map for our nonprofit community. Its successor, Invest in Incredible, extends expert support to nonprofit operations and individual community leaders.

Matching Students and Dreams

Our Board created our scholarship program in 1997, and matching funds incentivized donors to create their own scholarship funds. To date, we have awarded over \$8 million in scholarships for deserving students.

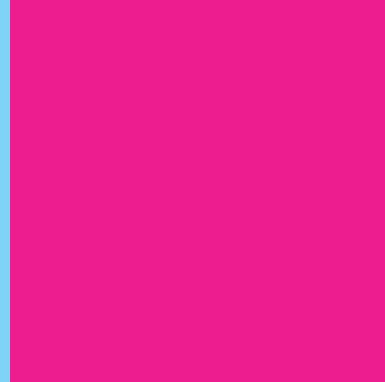


Disaster Response

The day Hurricane Charley hit in 2004, Gulf Coast began accepting online donations for relief and recovery. We raised over \$525,000 in two weeks to help rebuild Charlotte and DeSoto counties in the months that followed.

Quality Early Education

The Gold Seal Project dramatically improved the quality of early childhood education in Sarasota County, helping dozens of providers earn state accreditation.



Improving Community Health

Spearheaded by Gulf Coast, the Community Health Improvement Partnership engaged citizens, health providers, and funders in improving health for all across three counties.



A Linear Park for All

The foundation invested over \$1 million in grants to help Venice Area Beautification, Inc. make the Venetian Waterway Park a reality.



Sense of Place

Our Board added the environment to our funding focus areas in 2004, recognizing that choices made now will affect our community landscape for generations.



Developing Leaders

Created in 2006 initially to help North Port residents better engage in their rapidly growing community, our Gulf Coast Leadership Institute expanded region-wide and has graduated 350 skilled community leaders.



Civility Matters

Over 100 volunteers shaped our inaugural civility initiative, Because It Matters, in 2007. Reimagined as The Civility Squad in 2017, the campaign now nurtures positive behavior in Sarasota County Schools.

Power of Endowment

A quiet donor from North Port left a \$1.5-million endowment at Gulf Coast to improve the city she called home in perpetuity. The first of its kind for North Port, her gift set an example for an entire community.



911 Reform

Spurred by the murder of a local mother, Gulf Coast funded a study of Florida's 911 system. The results led to statewide public-safety reform and helped put the Denise Amber Lee Foundation on a path to national influence.



Operating Grants

Amid the Great Recession, we revamped our grant-making to focus on general operating support for our nonprofit partners. The shift was significant, keeping viable agencies strong when our region needed them most.



Transforming Healthcare

State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota used Gulf Coast start-up funding to launch its first four-year degree program, a bachelor of science in nursing, directly addressing a critical shortage of qualified nurses.



Helping Our Heroes

A donor entrusted us to distribute \$5 million across 25 Florida counties to serve unmet needs of military personnel and their families affected by deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.



Climbing SKY High

We've supported SKY Family YMCA from our first grant cycle. It was only fitting to reach our first \$100 million in grants with start-up funding for SKY Academy, the Y's wellness-focused charter school.



Workforce Innovation

Gulf Coast was a founding investor in CareerEdge, which has transformed workforce development in Sarasota and Manatee, helping thousands of workers earn raises and promotions.



Little No More

Funding from Gulf Coast and our donors has helped Venice Theatre renovate and expand, grow its volunteer base, hire its first director of diversity, and bring the world to its stages by hosting international festivals.



Making Homes Come True

We convened service agencies to build a virtual system of care for homeless students and their families. Generous donors joined us to keep expanding and strengthening the safety net.

Lifting Our Blue Economy

A competitive incentive grant and economic-cluster study of our marine science and technology sector catalyzed energy, innovation, and new investment in our region's Blue Economy.



Innovation Station

Gulf Coast helped catalyze UF Innovation Station Sarasota County, the first physical extension of University of Florida's engineering college, which is transforming our local economy and opportunities for area youth.



Art of Our Time

Gulf Coast and our donors enabled The Ringling to vastly expand its role in contemporary art. The move surprised many, but it has proven vital for a museum with a legacy of innovation.



BETTER TOGETHER

Together with our donors, we transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. That is our mission and our mantle at Gulf Coast Community Foundation. We embrace our deep responsibility to our region, to our donors, and to the volunteers who guided Gulf Coast to where it is today.

When this foundation was created 25 years ago with proceeds from the sale of Venice Hospital, the potential was enormous and unprecedented. A healthcare institution transformed into a roughly \$90 million philanthropic endowment, one with flexibility to care for the entire health of its community—social, spiritual, economic, and physical. While the conversion happened overnight, the brilliance in our birth was the assurance that we would last forever.

Our community has grown and changed since 1995. So too has our community foundation. We strive to stay ahead of the curve and welcome more people into our fold. The Venice Foundation became Gulf Coast Community Foundation, reflecting our belief that regional vision and inclusive collaboration can create thriving communities with more opportunities for all.


We increasingly focus on systems instead of symptoms. We invest our philanthropic capital in innovation and scalable solutions that promise lasting change. Most importantly, we invite our donors to partner in those ventures—and even bring us their own ideas for transformation. With collective impact as our lever and philanthropy the fulcrum on which we place it, together we have moved our region time and time again.

At the 25-year mark, it is fitting to think back on the work and the people who have made Gulf Coast Community Foundation what it is today. We honor their gifts and their vision and their leadership, which continue to inspire us today. But we focus forward, relentlessly, at Gulf Coast. We can't help it. The need in our region remains too great. The opportunities, too important. The moment, now. Proaction is our agenda.

We have a choice every day at Gulf Coast: to bear witness to what happens around us, or to bear fruit—to apply our energies to the seed not yet sown, making happen what our hearts say must. We choose the latter. That's what you can count on us for, and what you can join us in too. We hope you will.



Mark S. Pritchett
President | CEO



Judy Cahn
Board Chair

OUR BOARD

Our volunteer Board sets the direction and the standard for everything we do. These remarkable women and men live our values every day: Integrity, by demonstrating an unwavering commitment to trust and transparency, civility and inclusion. Collaboration, by engaging our donors, staff, and community partners because we are better together. Excellence, by passionately delivering exceptional service to our community in everything they do. And leadership, by inspiring the relationships and using the innovative approaches to best address our community’s needs. Ours is not a board full of titles; it is a board of courageous leaders, whose individual talents are bested only by their collective commitment to transforming our region.

Gulf Coast Community Foundation Board of Directors

JUDY CAHN, CHAIR MICHAEL SAUNDERS, VICE CHAIR ANNE ESSNER
DAVID GREEN ROD HERSHBERGER TRACY KNIGHT LISA KROUSE
WILLIAM L. MEHSERLE JR. ANAND PALLEGAR DAVID SESSIONS
PETER SODERBERG SUSAN SOFIA JOE STEPHAN PAULINE WAMSLER
MARK PRITCHETT, PRESIDENT | CEO

Past Board Chairs

The following community members led our Board of Directors from our founding as The Venice Foundation in 1995 through today’s Board. It is on their shoulders that our current leadership stands, uniquely positioned to see what’s possible in the next 25 years and beyond.

The Venice Foundation

C. Robert Miles
Steve Harner
Steve Boone
Tom Slattery
Cord Mellor
Judy Collins

Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice

Jamie Killorin
Dave Dignam
Joe Thro
Richard Conroy
Dorothy Korszen
Tiffany Taylor

Gulf Coast Community Foundation

Jim Gallogly
Tommy Taylor
Ben Hanan
Jay McHargue
Judy Cahn

OUR DONORS



There are as many reasons to donate as there are donors to Gulf Coast Community Foundation. And while every gift is special, and so is every donor, the collective impact we achieve is the true promise of a community foundation. Our donors fulfill that promise every day.

Grandparents who created 13 donor advised funds for their 13 grandchildren. A widow with no heirs who turned her entire estate into a permanent endowment for the community she loved. An anonymous donor who wants to ensure kids are well rested, well fed, and well read. A couple who believe in Gulf Coast's proactive initiatives so much, they asked us to target their gift at the most pressing issues in our region.

Since our first donor fund was established in 1995, nearly 1,000 charitable funds have been created within the foundation. By individuals and by families. By nonprofit organizations and by private businesses. By young professionals and by non-generians. On behalf of a grateful region, we thank each and every one of them. For those who have not yet joined our ever-growing family of donors, we invite you to join us:

If it's broken, **let's fix it.**

If it's beautiful, **let's nurture and preserve it.**

If it's possible, **let's make it happen.**

INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

2019 FISCAL YEAR IN REVIEW

JULY 2018 – JUNE 2019

GRANTS AWARDED

\$40.1M

CONTRIBUTIONS

\$54.9M

INVESTMENT RETURNS

\$15.4M

TOTAL ASSETS

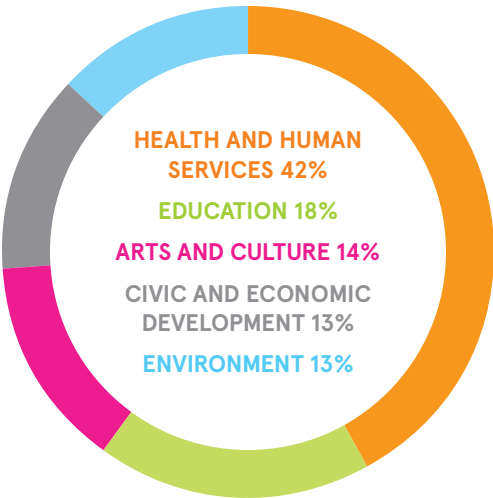
\$357.4M

To build a better future, you need more than vision. You also must believe the vision is possible. Thanks to the financial legacy that created this foundation in 1995 and the many more donors who have joined us since, Gulf Coast Community Foundation has the power to transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. We will always steward the community assets entrusted to us with the principle of perpetuity and the priority of consistent impact ever in mind.

To view Gulf Coast Community Foundation’s audited financial statements, federal tax return, quarterly investment performance, and most recent grants, go online to GulfCoastCF.org/stewardship.

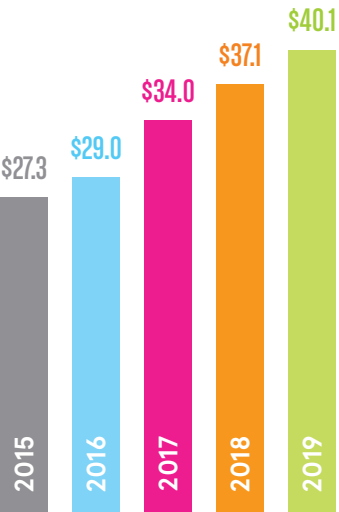
2019 GRANTS \$40.1M

JULY 2018 – JUNE 2019



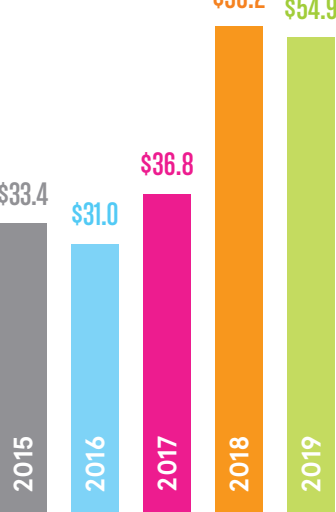
GRANTS BY YEAR

IN MILLIONS



GIFTS BY YEAR

IN MILLIONS

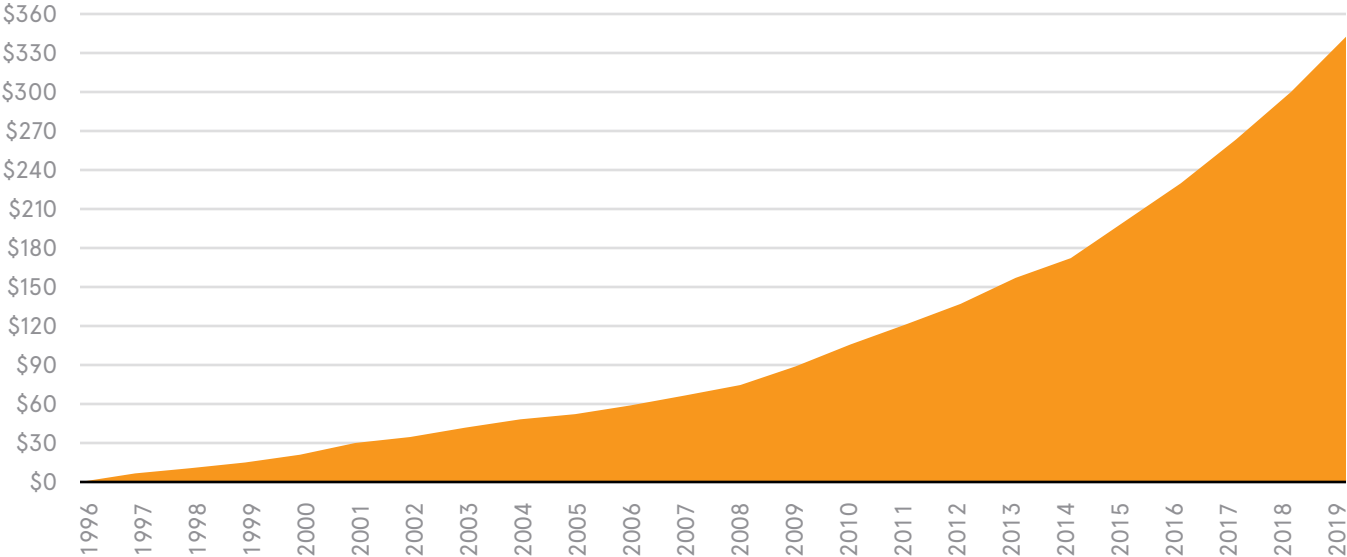


1996 – JUNE 2019

CUMULATIVE GRANTS SINCE INCEPTION

IN MILLIONS

\$340.6M



WHY GULF COAST?

You have glimpsed our track record of impact over 25 years of community philanthropy. You have seen the immense contributions our donors make to the quality of life in our region. You have learned about the leaders who lifted Gulf Coast to where we stand today. And you understand that we continue to look forward at Gulf Coast, to identify future issues and catalyze the critical actions needed to address them. We envision thriving communities with opportunities for all. Together, we can make that vision a reality.

941.486.4600 | GulfCoastCF.org | info@gulfcoastcf.org

Simplify Your Giving

When you create your charitable fund at Gulf Coast, let us handle the details so you can focus on the joy of giving. Reduce paperwork, ensure appropriate legal and financial oversight, and maximize your tax benefits by partnering with us.

Amplify Your Impact

Leverage your desire to make a difference with our expertise on emerging issues and innovative solutions. Whether you co-invest in a Gulf Coast initiative or seek guidance on causes close to you, we can help propel your giving to new levels.

Perpetuate Your Legacy

Establishing a legacy through Gulf Coast will ensure that your charitable goals are fulfilled forever. We steward every permanent endowment created by one of our donors as if caring for the legacy of family—because to us, you are.

Engage With Our Resources

Gulf Coast strives to build the finest community of community organizations anywhere. Through our Invest in Incredible initiative, we invigorate the inner strength of our nonprofit partners and sharpen the skills of community-minded leaders.

Transform Our Region

We collaborate with nonprofit organizations, public agencies, private businesses, and individual donors to find and fund effective solutions to systemic issues. See our latest work and how you can engage at GulfCoastCF.org.

Together with our donors, we transform our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. Gulf Coast Community Foundation is a public charity that was created in 1995 through the sale of Venice Hospital. Since then, we have become the philanthropic home of nearly 1,000 families, individuals, organizations, and businesses that have established charitable funds here. To date, we have invested over \$360 million in grants and initiatives in the areas of health and human services, civic and economic development, education, arts and culture, and the environment.



BETTER TOGETHER



GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

601 Tamiami Trail South, Venice, Florida 34285
941.486.4600 | GulfCoastCF.org



Excellence. Accountability. Impact.™

Confirmed in compliance with National Standards for U.S. Community Foundations