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## **SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS PARTNER FOR RETURN OF “ON THE TABLE SWFL” INITIATIVE**

*October 12 mealtime conversations unite residents, inspire solutions to strengthen the region.*

**Fort Myers, FL – September 6, 2022** – Charlotte Community Foundation, the Collaboratory, and Collier Community Foundation today jointly announced the return of a major regional civic engagement initiative, [On the Table SWFL](#). On Wednesday, October 12, thousands of neighbors, colleagues, friends, and new acquaintances will gather to share their stories and generate ideas to create a more sustainable and vibrant Southwest Florida.

Anyone across the region can host an *On the Table SWFL* session, and everyone is welcome to join the conversation and have their voices heard. The topics, issues and ideas discussed during each conversation will be completely organic and driven by participants’ interests and perspectives, as well as the opportunities and challenges in their community that are most important to them. Mealtime conversations can take place in homes, backyards, at local restaurants, schools, community centers, places of worship, libraries, offices, retail establishments – literally anywhere a host chooses. They can be sit-down, catered, picnic or potluck – completely up to each host.

The inaugural *On the Table SWFL* initiative, produced by the Collaboratory in October 2019, welcomed more than 1,500 participants. In 2022, the Collaboratory is partnering with Collier Community Foundation and Charlotte Community Foundation to ensure that even more Southwest Florida voices have the opportunity to be heard.



Following the conversations, Florida Gulf Coast University will survey *On the Table SWFL* participants to capture themes and identify region-wide social priorities in an impact report that will be shared broadly. As a follow-up to *On the Table SWFL*, the foundations pledge to work together on issues identified through the conversations to create a more sustainable and vibrant Southwest Florida.

“As Southwest Florida emerges from a COVID-19 pandemic that has levied so many challenges, the act of coming together with our neighbors to find a path forward has never been more important,” explained Terry Mazany, chief collaboration officer at the Collaboratory, speaking on behalf of the tri-foundation team. “It is crucial that we hear from a wide range of community voices. *On the Table SWFL* draws on the collective power of local residents to impact pressing social challenges and transform lives across our region.”

To sign up to host an *On the Table SWFL* conversation, register to attend a community conversation, or learn more, visit [OnTheTableSWFL.com](https://OnTheTableSWFL.com). Join the discussion on social media using #onthetableSWFL.

### **About *On The Table***

*On the Table* is an award-winning model that has engaged over 100,000 residents in more than 35 communities across North America, strengthening their connections to each other and bolstering the vitality of their communities. It also provides a unique opportunity for your outlet to more deeply understand the issues and topics of greatest concern to residents in your community.

### **About The Foundation Partners**

#### Charlotte Community Foundation

As the Center for Philanthropy in Charlotte County, the Foundation focuses exclusively on the needs of Charlotte County. Providing more than \$1.2 million dollars through grant making in 2021 alone, the Foundation provides personalized donor services to assist individuals in establishing tax advantageous charitable funds, which provide distributions, grants and other resources to support nonprofits in Charlotte County. The Foundation’s mission is “Connecting people who care with causes that matter.” For more information or for questions about the Charlotte Community Foundation, please go to [charlottecf.org](https://charlottecf.org) or call 941-637-0077.

#### Collaboratory

Collaboratory is committed to coordinating the solving of all of Southwest Florida’s social problems on an 18-year deadline including homelessness, poverty, mental illness, racism,



illiteracy and more. We plan to do this with the entire community working together including people of all ages, colors, abilities, beliefs, and imaginations across all five counties.

Collaboratory was founded in 1976 as the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. It has made over 96 million in grants since then and is home to more than 650 philanthropic funds. To learn more and get involved, call 239-274-5900 or visit [collaboratory.org](http://collaboratory.org).

### Collier Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Collier County, DBA Collier Community Foundation™, is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the Collier Community Foundation manages more than 850 funds, works with hundreds of nonprofits, holds \$247.4 million in assets, and has granted over \$268 million to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships, \$43.1 million in FY2022. The Collier Community Foundation is one of Florida's fastest-growing community foundations. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Learn more at [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org) or call 239-649-5000.

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### **Assets**

[Downloadable Style Guide](#)

[On The Table SWFL Registration Site](#)

[Press Sheet](#)