



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 14, 2022

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**Season of Sharing Enters 23<sup>rd</sup> Year Beginning Nov. 13**  
***The longstanding safety net fund expected to be vital helping***  
***individuals and families with immediate needs in the aftermath of***  
***Hurricane Ian.***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—The Community Foundation of Sarasota County will kick off the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Season of Sharing fundraising campaign on Nov. 13, with donations amplified through partnerships with The Patterson Foundation and Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

The Season of Sharing fund is a longstanding, vital safety net for residents of Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota Counties experiencing acute need. The fund offers residents one-time financial assistance for basic living expenses such as rent or mortgage, utilities, transportation, or childcare. Since its inception in 2000, Season of Sharing has raised and distributed more than \$34 million benefiting more than 41,000 households.

“Season of Sharing truly is an opportunity for caring people to help their neighbors in their hour of need,” said Roxie Jerde, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. “It really empowers anyone with a desire to help and our communities’ unique generous spirit has enabled so many people to get through what could otherwise be a major crisis.”

Jerde notes that more than 90 percent of those requesting money do not reapply, suggesting that the incident causing the crisis has been overcome, allowing recipients to resume their lives with less damaging interruption.

While donations are collected for Season of Sharing with an emphasis on the fund drive November through January, money is distributed throughout the year for residents in need. The Community

Foundation works with a network of human service agencies with caseworkers who oversee individual requests and fund disbursement.

Recently, the Season of Sharing fund has been an invaluable resource for individual adults and families displaced by Hurricane Ian. As the ripple effects of the storm become revealed, causing unanticipated expenses and lapses in employment for our residents, the Community Foundation expects a continued uptick in applicants. This is in addition to the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, which is managed by the Community Foundation to identify and support longer-term solutions revealed by Hurricane Ian, such as energy sustainability, healthcare, and other needs currently being evaluated.

The Patterson Foundation is partnering again to support Season of Sharing this year to amplify donations with \$100,000 for every \$500,000 raised by the community through Jan. 31, 2023. The Patterson Foundation's President and CEO, Debra Jacobs, said the commitment to continue the partnership is based in the longstanding trust the Community Foundation has cultivated within the communities it serves.

"Since 2010, The Patterson Foundation has joined donors near and far to provide one-time emergency funding to families," said Jacobs. "Our challenge match is driven by our steadfast faith in this committed and caring community of givers of all abilities who want to help their neighbors in need."

The generosity of the Suncoast has been demonstrated through the number of people giving to the fund, with nearly 55,000 individual gifts given since its inception. It is an immediate and flexible funding source for those in crisis and remains local. With no administrative fees, 100 percent of money raised goes directly to those in need.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune is the Community Foundation's media partner for Season of Sharing, reporting and sharing stories of those whose lives were able to rebound after emergencies thanks to the mitigating impact of the fund.

"Telling the stories of people who have been helped by Season of Sharing illustrates the real-life effects of some of the biggest issues affecting our community, such as affordable housing and lack of transportation," said Jennifer Orsi, Executive Editor of the Herald-Tribune. "Those stories also show that with a simple act of giving we can help our neighbors get back on their feet after a setback."

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***About the Community Foundation of Sarasota County:*** The Community Foundation of Sarasota County is a public charity founded in 1979 by the Southwest Florida Estate Planning Council as a resource for caring individuals and the causes they support, enabling them to make a charitable impact on the community. With assets of \$520 million in more than 1,570 charitable funds, the Community Foundation awarded grants and scholarships totaling \$27.5 million dollars last year in the areas of education, the arts, health and human services, civic engagement, animal welfare and the environment. Since its founding, the Community Foundation has been able to grant more than \$350 million to area nonprofit organizations to our community thanks to the generosity of charitable individuals, families, and businesses. For more information, visit [www.CFSarasota.org](http://www.CFSarasota.org) or call (941) 955-3000.

***About The Patterson Foundation:*** The Patterson Foundation strengthens the efforts of people, organizations and communities. The Foundation focuses on issues that address common aspirations and foster wide participation, along with ways organizations learn and share as they evolve. For more information, please visit [www.thepattersonfoundation.org](http://www.thepattersonfoundation.org) and connect with [@ThePattersonFdn](https://twitter.com/ThePattersonFdn) on Twitter.