As every person and organization works through the challenges of COVID-19, The Patterson Foundation has paused on its in-person engagement efforts, so all can focus on their own well-being, knowing we are all part of a caring community. The Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Herald-Tribune Media Group are activating Season of Sharing's network of agencies to help individuals and families in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic with emergency assistance for immediate basic needs such as payments for utilities, childcare and rent. The Patterson Foundation, a longtime supporter of Season of Sharing, has committed up to $1 million to strengthen this important safety net through the following contributions:

"As countless news articles and commentaries published in the Herald-Tribune and elsewhere have noted, the results of the decennial count are significant. For instance, census data is used to determine the number of representatives each state has in Congress and factors in the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds for vital projects, ranging from building highways to supporting early childhood learning to providing health care.

Future benefits intended to mitigate the health, social and economic impacts of the corona virus could very well be distributed based upon up-to-date census data.

By participating in the census sooner rather than later, Americans can help promote public health and engage in one of the easiest...
An initial $500,000 contribution for immediate needs

An additional dollar-for-dollar match up to $500,000

When this match is fulfilled by the community, there will be $1.5 million total in available funds for people in the four-county region facing financial hardship due to the pandemic.

Read the latest column from Matthew Sauer, executive editor and general manager of the Herald-Tribune, about the effort.

For millions of Americans who are isolated and getting antsy, or even for those who continue to work in public yet need a quick diversion to decompress, what else can provide such a significant return on the investment than spending just a little time on the Census?"

Please take a few minutes to fill out your paper census forms or respond online.

CONTINUE TO THE FULL ARTICLE

STEPPING FORWARD BOOK CIRCLES CONTINUE VIRTUALLY

A message from Hannah Saeger Karnei

During this exceptional time, TPF encourages you to adhere to CDC guidelines to self-isolate, stay 6 feet from each other and wash your hands. Nothing is more important than your health and safety!

With that in mind, please know that TPF has extended the time frame of book circles through December 2020. If your group would like to continue to meet over FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, social media or any other creative method that allows discussion and community, TPF is happy to count that as a meeting.

We hope that you will continue to check on each other, offer support and share with us any positivity that comes from this unusual time. Our team will continue to think about ways we can stay engaged with you while maintaining a physical distance.

Read up on what's happening with Stepping Forward book circles in your community and sign up to lead one today!

To share news or information, contact sssternberg@thepattersonfoundation.org