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DeSoto Solutions to Actions

The Patterson Foundation's DeSoto Solutions to Actions Newsletter strives to educate and engage. We each have a role in forging a positive future!

Strengthening the Efforts of People, Organizations, and Communities in DeSoto County

For more than a decade, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) has focused aspirational efforts across Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Through [Aspirations to Actions](#), TPF strengthens the efforts of people, organizations, and communities by focusing on issues that address common aspirations, foster wide participation, and encourage learning and sharing.

A rise in readiness in DeSoto County became evident over several years through the work in various TPF initiatives such as [Digital Access for All](#), [Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#), and [Suncoast Remake Learning Days](#), which resulted in a deeper engagement with the people in the DeSoto community. By engaging the community in aspirational thinking that leads to actions, the community is tackling issues and developing innovative, collaborative partnerships by harnessing the power of collective abundance for meaningful change.

Along with the community activities underway in DeSoto County, TPF recognized the importance of continually sharing information and awareness of opportunities happening throughout the community by publishing a regular newsletter. Published digitally and in print, in both English and Spanish, the newsletter will help people stay

DeSoto Solutions to Actions Newsletter Naming Contest



This initial newsletter issue is called DeSoto Solutions to Actions Newsletter, but that's just a placeholder. Why? Because, we would love your help in naming this newsletter. [Please submit up to three ideas here](#). In gratitude for your time and creativity, for every newsletter idea you submit, your name will be entered into a drawing to win a \$500 Pay-It-Forward to a nonprofit or public school located in or serving DeSoto County. The deadline for submission is March 8, 2024. Thank you in advance.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!
Suncoast Remake Learning Days 2024

informed of the TPF initiatives and the additional collaboration of other partners and stakeholders that hold the DeSoto community dear.

Each issue will provide multiple opportunities for readers to engage in ways that support and amplify the community voice and impact community-led change. We look forward to the opportunity to help share the focus of TPF's work through its initiatives, DeSoto Solutions to Actions' 8 Themes, [The Harwood Institute for Public Innovation](#), and community engagement efforts through various partners and stakeholders.

If you have suggestions for features or information to share, [please email Cheri Coryea](#), Aspirations to Actions initiative manager.

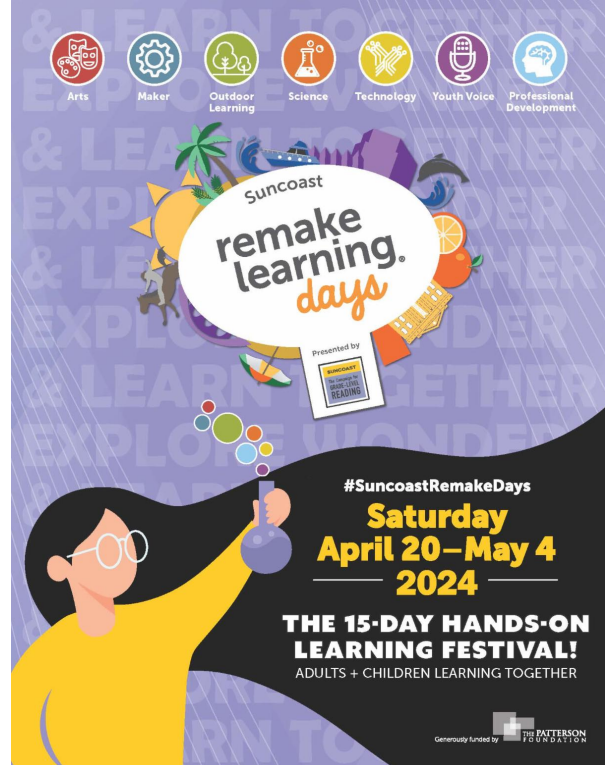
THE POWER OF A COMMUNITY EXISTS IN ITS PEOPLE



What are We Building On?



In January, The Patterson Foundation and [The Harwood Institute](#) hosted eight roundtable discussions in DeSoto County (Healthcare, Education, Foundations/Funders, Faith-Based, Nonprofit, Economic Development, City/County Government, and Catalytic Community Guides) with more than 105 participants in attendance to kick off the Harwood Project. These conversations highlighted DeSoto County residents' love and pride for their community while also remarking upon some shared aspirations moving forward.



[The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading](#) is bringing Remake Learning Days to Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties in the spring of 2024, and we want YOU to be a part of it!

Suncoast Remake Learning Days is a festival of free events for children and families...think of it as the world's largest multi-site open house. From Saturday, April 20, through Saturday, May 4, the Suncoast will dazzle for 15 days during this free hands-on learning festival. Join us and celebrate the joy of adults and children learning side by side, all while embracing curiosity and wonder!

There are currently 40 events planned for Suncoast Remake Learning Days in DeSoto County.

We look forward to your participation in this remarkable learning journey! Questions? [Please email Avery Crews Prado de Lima](#).

A community event with a keynote presentation by Harwood Institute President and Founder Rich Harwood drew together over eighty guests to listen, learn, and share. The atmosphere of enthusiasm, readiness, and ownership was apparent throughout the evening as folks showed up to share their support for this project and the work within their community.

Each of these comments remarks upon the impact of this project and the hope with which community members seek to engage with this work.

If you or someone you know wants to get involved, [please email Avery Crews Prado de Lima to learn more.](#)

Funder Scholarship Spotlight: The Community Foundation of Sarasota County & The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation Selby Scholarship

★ ★ ★
SCHOLARSHIP

The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation Selby Scholarship: Since 1955, the Selby Foundation has awarded scholarships to students from the four-county area (Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties). Today, “Selby Scholars” are undergraduate students who demonstrate maturity, grit, and resilience in the face of adversity. Selby Scholars are resourceful, committed, and academically prepared to succeed in college and the pursuit of their dreams. **The Selby Scholarship application opened on January 1, 2024, and will close on March 1, 2024, at 4:59 pm. [Learn more and apply here.](#)**

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County: Scholarships are available to all students pursuing higher education and are designed to satisfy a wide variety of academic interests and fields. Scholarship applications are



Reflections from The Harwood Institute Team



In late January, The Harwood Institute team traveled to DeSoto County to launch our partnership with The Patterson Foundation on an initiative to deepen and accelerate community-led change and to build on the “Solutions to Actions” work already underway. During his keynote address to the community, Rich Harwood reflected on what he had seen in a series of roundtable discussions with local leaders: “Yes, you face challenges. Yes, there are real divides. But today, as I’ve talked to leaders across your county, I’ve heard a yearning to come together, to find a pathway forward, to make a change in people’s lives.”

We’ve already seen hundreds of leaders seize on this yearning by stepping forward to make their voices heard and affirming they want to find a better path forward for DeSoto County. We’re excited to build on this energy in the next phase of the initiative as we engage more community members about their aspirations. If you or someone you know wants to get involved, please email [Avery Crews](#)

divided between students under 24 years of age and students 24 years of age or older. Scholarships for Students Under 24 Years of Age close on March 1, 2024. [Learn more here.](#)

[Prado de Lima](#) to learn more. Learn more about The Harwood Institute at theharwoodinstitute.org.

Participate in Our DeSoto County Community Communications Survey

Thank you for your views and opinions on how you learn more about what is going on in your community! We appreciate you taking the time to answer just a few questions. Your assistance will help ensure that you receive accurate and relevant information on topics beneficial to you.

[Complete the survey in English here.](#)

[Complete the survey in Spanish here.](#)

Join us in Celebrating Patriot Plaza's
10th Anniversary on Saturday, March 2, 2024



For ten years, [Patriot Plaza](#), a world-class outdoor American military history museum, has stood as a beacon in The Patterson Foundation's initiative history, being in the first nine legacy initiatives undertaken and generously funded by The Patterson Foundation. The plaza continues to shine and welcome visitors from far and wide to its graceful pavers with its symbolic artwork and gripping documentary photography. Please join The Patterson Foundation in celebrating Patriot Plaza during this free community event. [RSVP HERE](#). Share the invite with your family and friends. This is an event for one and all!

Might an Intern Help Your Nonprofit?

The Patterson Foundation's Advancing Philanthropic Leadership Initiative is looking to [offer internships](#) to Lilly Family School of Philanthropy students in the **Summer 2024 (May-August 2024) and Fall 2024 (August-December 2024) semesters**. Students at the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy can bring immense value to your organization through an internship opportunity. We invite you, if you wish, to submit an internship description for the upcoming year. Your organization must be registered with The Giving Partner to submit an internship profile. Of course, we hope your organization's LWRCC is in alignment for you to do so.

Please review sample profiles [HERE](#) and an FAQs [HERE](#) that you can review. This is a fully

funded opportunity offered by The Patterson Foundation for an intern for 150 hrs for one semester. If you have any questions or want to learn more, [email Avery Crews Prado de Lima](#).

Do you have a story or idea to share with the DeSoto County community? Contact AspirationstoActions@thepattersonfoundation.org. Learn more about The Patterson Foundation at thepattersonfoundation.org



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