STRONGER ME, STRONGER WE

The Patterson Foundation is investing in our community to provide increased knowledge and personal development, which, in turn, will make our community stronger. **Stronger Me, Stronger We** provides opportunities for personal growth and connection at no cost as a gift from The Patterson Foundation.

Embracing Our Differences Family Engagement Night with Cedric Hameed

Join **THIS BOOK IS COOL!** host Beth Duda and artist Cedric Hameed for an interactive family activity sponsored by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and Embracing Our Differences. Participating families will receive a copy of *Salt in His Shoes: Michael Jordan in Pursuit of a Dream* for their home library.

During this 1-hour workshop, families will explore thoughts and feelings through spoken word poetry and share ideas to create a collaborative work of art. Guests will need to have paper, a pencil, pen, or crayon, and their imagination handy!

This family-engagement activity is designed for adults and children Pre-K through Grade 3. Please invite families in your network who may be interested.

Click here to register for the virtual event on Tuesday, March 2 from 6:30pm-7:30pm.

This event is made possible thanks to the generosity of United Way Suncoast, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, The Patterson Foundation, and Embracing Our Differences.

CDP: A DECADE OF IMPACT

Center for Disaster Philanthropy’s expertise and tangible impact on communities worldwide have helped it evolve into a trusted resource for both major philanthropists and grassroots donors in its first decade of work.

Here’s to the next ten years and beyond!

For a decade, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP) has strengthened communities worldwide recovering from natural disasters, humanitarian crises, and other complex emergencies. In celebration of this impressive milestone and its life-changing work, The Patterson Foundation has contributed a $100,000 gift to CDP.

Each time a hurricane ravages a region or a wildfire scorches homes and businesses, people all over the world immediately and generously donate money to a variety of relief organizations. While this quick wave of funds can help organizations handle the urgent needs of a community, the medium- and long-term disaster recovery efforts are often left without the necessary funding. As the only full-time national resource committed to maximizing donors’ impact, CDP leverages the power of philanthropy to utilize resources that strengthen communities recovering from disasters, preparing them for challenges that are months and years away.

"When disaster strikes, there are givers the world over who want to help but may not know how to best apply their funds," said Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation. "Thankfully, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy works hand-in-hand with funders and nonprofits, distributing resources to organizations that have proven their ability to restore communities and help protect them from future calamities. The Patterson Foundation is proud to give $100,000 to the Center for Disaster Philanthropy's 10th anniversary."
During a surprise virtual event, The Patterson Foundation awarded a one-time honorarium of more than $450,000 to dozens of nonprofit agencies in attendance for all their hard work in the Season of Sharing campaign. The gift is part of Honoring & Onward, a celebration of The Patterson Foundation’s decade of impact through people, organizations, and communities while continuing to connect, learn, share, evolve and strengthen its efforts to realize shared aspirations.

Since its inception, the success of Season of Sharing has been ensured by fiscal agents and community agencies throughout Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties. With no overhead allocation, these organizations arrange and send payments where needed on behalf of families and individuals in our region who are struggling to make ends meet. These funds help cover essential needs like utility bills, child care, transportation, or food vouchers.

"The Patterson Foundation is proud to celebrate ten years of helping our neighbors in need through the Season of Sharing campaign," said Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation. "Without the many partners and agencies donating their time and resources, Season of Sharing would not be able to strengthen the thousands of people it serves in our community. Their efforts are more important than ever during the pandemic, as many in our region find themselves facing significant financial hardship for the first time in their lives."

CDP has evolved into a trusted resource for major philanthropists and grassroots donors due to its expertise and proven impact on communities. The organization is successful because it can educate the philanthropic community and provide it with opportunities to maximize donor impact toward sustained recovery efforts for the months and years following a disaster. CDP also meets with foundations and large corporations to discuss how they can best align their disaster-related giving strategies. In a testament to its success and far-reaching impact, CDP was honored among seven other nonprofits for the 14th Annual CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute ceremony in 2020.

"Donors of all shapes and sizes can truly make a tangible difference in the lives of people affected by COVID-19, wildfires, or other disasters on their long road to recovery," said Patricia McIlreavy, president and CEO of the Center for Disaster Philanthropy. "We are grateful to The Patterson Foundation for its unwavering commitment to equitable recovery. Their gift and invitation to other donors to take the long view in their disaster giving bring vital resources to organizations worldwide that help people, families, and communities rebuild stronger after a disaster."

When Hurricane Sandy wreaked havoc across the Caribbean, United States, and Canada in 2013, The Patterson Foundation quickly started a $200,000 dollar-for-dollar matching challenge toward CDP's response efforts. Since then, The Patterson Foundation is honored to have contributed nearly $5 million to CDP for operational and disaster-recovery efforts.

To donate or learn more about CDP, please visit disasterphilanthropy.org.

To help more local families and individuals achieve the dream of homeownership, The Patterson Foundation, in collaboration with Northern Trust, is buying $1 million in Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity mortgages to provide liquidity to boost affordable homes for people in our region. This one-time purchase will give Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity the capacity to build 70 homes over the next two years.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant financial...
This year, Season of Sharing has shattered a 21-year fundraising record. In a short period of time, more than $2 million has generously been raised by members of the community, with weeks remaining in the campaign. As a result, The Patterson Foundation has given $400,000 via four individual $100,000 gifts, which were triggered each time the community gave $500,000. Until Jan. 31, The Patterson Foundation will continue to contribute $100,000 for each additional $500,000 raised.

Season of Sharing was created over two decades ago through a unique partnership between the Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Herald-Tribune Media Group. Season of Sharing is a trusted way for neighbors to help neighbors following an unexpected crisis.

Since 2010, The Patterson Foundation has given $5.9 million to Season of Sharing.

To donate or learn more about Season of Sharing, please visit CFSarasota.org. Join the conversation on social media using #SeasonOfSharing.

The COVID-19 pandemic has created significant financial trauma for many in our region, impeding their ability to provide their family with a safe, dignified place to live. This has dramatically increased demand for Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity’s ongoing work to construct, rehabilitate, and preserve homes for families and individuals in need.

"Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity has a proven track record of building safe, comfortable places for people in our region to call home," said Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation. "This one-time purchase leverages our current market conditions to provide the liquidity necessary for Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity to secure land and construct more much-needed affordable housing."

The Patterson Foundation and Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity have previously collaborated on several successful initiatives in our region, including the Legacy of Valor campaign, which honored our region’s veterans and military families, and Margin & Mission Ignition, which helps nonprofits explore new ways to build thriving organizations with diverse revenue sources.

"Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity is extremely grateful to The Patterson Foundation and Northern Trust for investing in the Habitat mission during these challenging and unprecedented times," said Mike Mansfield, CEO of the Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity. "The affordable housing crisis continues to grow in our community, and this partnership allows us to meet the needs of more families by providing them with safe, decent, affordable homes. What a blessing!"

Northern Trust has engaged with Habitat for Humanity in communities nationwide over many years through its commitment to sustainable, affordable homeownership. Northern Trust and The Patterson Foundation will make no profit on this purchase.

"Northern Trust is pleased to collaborate with The Patterson Foundation and support Habitat for Humanity in their mission to support the Charlotte County community during these challenging times," said John Fumagalli, Florida President at Northern Trust Wealth Management.

Visit charlottecountyhfh.org to learn more about Charlotte County Habitat for Humanity.

We welcome your thoughts. Contact us at info@GradeLevelReadingSuncoast.net.