More than $34 Million Benefiting 41,000+ Households

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 on the longstanding trust the Community Foundation has cultivated within the communities it serves.

Season of Sharing 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.
Hardship Inspires Heart-Warming Action

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared in SRQ Magazine’s SRQ DAILY Saturday Op-Ed edition.

It’s hard to believe that it’s been more than a month since Hurricane Ian slammed into the Suncoast, upending lives and wreaking havoc on our region. As with most disasters, the catastrophic damage Ian unleashed has inspired the collective will of so many caring people to help restore our community. Whether that looks like volunteering, giving to relief and recovery organizations, or checking in on neighbors impacted, the generous people of this community have stepped up.

As a response to Hurricane Ian, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has activated the Suncoast Disaster Recovery Fund, the result of a conversation between Debra Jacobs, President/CEO of The Patterson Foundation, and me. With The Patterson Foundation’s initial generous gift of $500,000 and matching funds up to $750,000, givers were inspired. We hoped it might become a $2 million fund to help address long-term recovery for our communities, supporting a macro-level approach that would help deliver strategic remedies to challenges that may not be top of mind now, but will reveal themselves in time. Unbelievably, the fund has gained enormous attention and giving, and astonishing generosity has helped us raise nearly $5 million to date.

The Higher Waters: Suncoast Quality of Life initiative explores the realities of this phenomenon by connecting with experts and efforts underway to understand its effects. The Patterson Foundation aspires to share its findings in various ways, including the creation of a repository of science-based, easily accessible data on rising water levels in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.

A WALK TO RESPECT AT THE KENNEDY CENTER 2023

Continue Reading
Do you remember how fun Suncoast Remake Learning Days was last year?!! Well, it’s coming back April 21-April 30, 2023, in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties and preparations are already underway.

Start 2023 with learning opportunities that level up your Suncoast Remake Learning Days event!

Register here to join the Suncoast Campaign for a 1-hour Zoom webversation, and learn more about how you can be involved.

Click here to register for all the upcoming #SuncoastRemakeDays Labinars + earn extra support $dollars$

Presented by the Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and The Patterson Foundation, more than 150 events will be designed for parents and caregivers to learn alongside their kids and offer relevant and engaging educational experiences for youth of all ages (pre-K through high school). All events are free and open to the public.

Social and political polarization. Is that what we want, as escalating, intractable way of life in America? It need not be.

The Patterson Foundation is presenting a staged reading of the one-act play, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Walk to Respect — written by award-winning playwright Beth Duda, with original spoken word poetry by Cedric Hameed, at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on Wednesday, February 22, 2023 at 11:00am and 7:30pm. A panel discussion with the actors and production team will take place immediately following the reading.

As a gift to the community, The Patterson Foundation is pleased to offer tickets to these two performances at no-cost. Tickets are available but must be reserved in advance at the Kennedy Center Box Office, by phone (202) 467-4600 or on their website Kennedy-Center.org.

In this moving production, Frederick Douglass, the black abolitionist leader and former slave, and Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America, clash in their ideologies regarding race, politics, and slavery. Frederick Douglass, a true radical with a fiery spirit, believes in racial equality for everyone. Douglass dedicates his life, writings, and career to abolishing slavery everywhere. Abraham Lincoln, cautious and considered, while opposed to slavery, is first and foremost a patriot intent on
preserving the Union at all costs. These two self-made men, at a time when our divided nation faced annihilation, face their differences with courage and compassion, forging a friendship that helps to end the Civil War and reunite our nation. Through their own words, we explore the walk of these two great American leaders from conflict to understanding.

History provides powerful examples of ordinary men and women with different opinions and agendas coming together to produce positive change. Lincoln and Douglass provide inspiration and hope. Their love of country and their willingness to connect built respect and understanding. They set the example for us who aspire for a better tomorrow.

This event is an external rental presented in coordination with the Kennedy Center Campus Rentals Office and is not produced by the Kennedy Center.

The Patterson Foundation offices will be closed next week. Sending you love, light, and laughter for good memories and a bright and healthy 2023.
We welcome your thoughts. Connect with us at thepattersonfoundation@gmail.com