"Individually we are ordinary. Together we extraordinary.”

Dear Readers,

The Patterson Foundation strives to be a catalyst for good in our world, strengthening the efforts of people, organizations, and communities engaged in shaping our future. Rather than arriving with the answer, we focus on creating opportunities to foster connecting, learning, sharing, evolving, and strengthening — generating long-term impact in ways that foster wider participation. No single entity or program has all of the answers — rather, by working together, we create new realities.

Suncoast Remake Learning Days, a recent endeavor of our Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading initiative, personifies that focus.

Giving Challenge Returns in 2024 with New Wave of TPF Support

Less than one year from now, the Suncoast will come together once more for a celebration of its nonprofit muscle and the citizen philanthropists strengthening it during the 2024 Giving Challenge. Presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the Giving Challenge is a 24-hour giving event that supports more than 700 nonprofit organizations in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. Since the initial Giving Challenge in 2012, more than $75 million of unrestricted funding has been raised for nonprofit organizations serving our region with profiles on The Giving Partner, an online resource helping donors make informed decisions on charitable giving.

Throughout the Giving Challenge’s history, The Patterson Foundation has had the privilege of strengthening generosity and participation before and during the main event. The Patterson Foundation has contributed more than $30 million to the Giving Challenge through matching donations and other donor incentives, including $6 million in matching funds during 2022’s...
TPF invested significant time and resources toward helping our region realize this aspiration, providing a platform for more than 207 nonprofit organizations to create 200+ events with more than 25,000 individuals participating in stimulating our children’s curiosity and wonder.

This edition of Beyond The Blog features live snapshots of the children and families enjoying the fun, memorable educational experiences catalyzed through Suncoast Remake Learning Days, along with the perspectives of the TPFers who dedicated months of spirited effort.

With joy for the learnings sparked to date and the new realities that emerge,

Debra Jacobs, president and CEO

Click here to Join the Journey

The Patterson Foundation Contributes 100,000 Dollars to CDP Tornado Recovery Fund

The 2023 tornado season is already one of the most active seasons ever recorded, with each month exceeding the average for tornado activity. More than 400 tornadoes have been confirmed since January, killing approximately 70 people and damaging thousands of homes across several states. Many of the communities hit by these tornadoes are smaller, rural towns with gaps in resources or infrastructure, creating additional challenges in their recovery.

To strengthen vital medium- and long-term recovery efforts in the communities nationwide that have been and will be hit by these severe tornadoes, The Patterson Foundation has given event alone.

The Patterson Foundation is proud to continue its collaboration with the Community Foundation of Sarasota County by investing in the 2024 Giving Challenge’s excellence. Once more, The Patterson Foundation will provide a 1:1 match for all unique donations, up to $100 per donor, per organization, with no limit on the number of individual matches a nonprofit organization can receive.

Be sure to mark noon April 9 to noon April 10, 2024, on your calendars for the 2024 Giving Challenge. We look forward to watching the momentum build in the months ahead and the many ways it will strengthen our region’s vibrant nonprofit community.

Learn more about the Giving Challenge and ways to get involved.

The Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading Upcoming Programs!

Many of us have heard of the summer slide in which children lose some of the lessons they’ve learned during the previous school year. For children from under-resourced communities, the loss can be significant; these children tend to lose roughly 30 percent of the gains they made in math during the school year and 20 percent of their reading gains – K.C. Compton, Early Learning Nation

THIS BOOK IS COOL! is a series of 100 webisodes to encourage a love of reading. It premiered on June 1, 2020, and since then, thousands of children from across the Suncoast region have qualified to receive free books as a gift.
$100,000 to its longtime partner, the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (CDP), in support of the CDP Tornado Recovery Fund. The CDP Tornado Recovery Fund will focus on recovery needs such as rebuilding homes and livelihoods, mental health services, and other challenges identified in partnership with affected communities as recovery efforts progress.

From The Patterson Foundation. This BOOK IS COOL! designed to engage the minds of incoming students in grades PreK–3 and encourage their continued learning through reading. The Suncoast Summer Reading Challenge is promoted through local summer camps and businesses to encourage children to read, and both programs aim to reduce the summer slide.

For families who did not register in time but still want to participate, we encourage you to check out these books from your local library and follow along here. Activity guides are located in each grade level and are connected to their corresponding webisode.

Preparing for the 2023 Hurricane Season

It's official. We are in Hurricane Season, June 1–November 30, and the peak of the season will begin the first week of September. As part of The Patterson Foundation’s disaster planning and preparedness, Age-Friendly Sarasota has compiled a list of safety precautions that will help our community if we are faced with a dangerous storm.

Start today to make a plan:
Make a plan today. Your family may not be together if a disaster strikes, so it is essential to be ready. Know how you’ll contact one another and reconnect if separated. Establish a family meeting place that’s familiar and easy to find.

Put together a plan by discussing these four questions with your family, friends, or household to start your emergency plan.
1. How will I receive emergency alerts and warnings?
2. What is my shelter plan?
3. What is my evacuation route?
4. What is my family/household communication plan?

If there is a hurricane warning, find safe shelter right away:
- Determine how best to protect yourself from high winds and flooding.
Evacuate if told to do so.
Take refuge in a designated storm shelter or an interior room for high winds.
Listen for emergency information and alerts.
Only use generators outdoors and away from windows.
Turn Around, Don't Drown! Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
2023 Shelter Information for Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties.
Begin restocking your emergency supply kit now.
Plan how to communicate with family members if you lose power. For example, you can call, text, email, or use social media. Remember that during disasters, sending text messages is usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because phone lines are often overloaded.
Review your evacuation zone, evacuation route, and shelter locations. Plan with your family. You may have to leave quickly, so plan ahead.
Keep your car in good working condition, and keep the gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.

Visit FloridaDisaster.org to access information to prepare for the hurricane season.

LOCAL TRAFFIC AND EMERGENCY TWITTER HANDLES

SRQ County Government Emergency services
@scgovEOC

Manatee Public Safety
@MCGPublicSafety

Traffic statewide
@fl511_state

Traffic on I-75
@fl511_i75

Traffic in Tampa
@fl511_tampabay

Traffic on I-4
@fl_511_i4