For more than a decade, The Patterson Foundation (TPF) has focused aspirational efforts across Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, and Sarasota counties. A rise in readiness in DeSoto County became evident over several years through the work in various TPF initiatives, including Aspirations to Actions (A2A). Since April 2022, the A2A team has held community conversations in DeSoto County to create a space for connection and trust to grow and foster. They were uplifting and innovative and solidified that the power of a community exists in its people. Now is the time to reconvene the groups we spoke with to continue catalyzing efforts toward shared aspirations by connecting, learning, sharing, evolving, and strengthening.

On Tuesday, October 10, 2023, from 4:30p–7:30p, the Dive Into Discovery event at the Turner Agri-Civic Center, which will showcase community organizations, valuable resources, and meaningful presentations by various A Dynamic Collaboration: Fueling Dynamic Fundraising and The Fund Raising School Come Together for New Nonprofit Training Offerings

Fueling Dynamic Fundraising drives nonprofits to create and execute a strong fundraising program. Through a continuing partnership with the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy | The Fund Raising School (TFRS), local nonprofits can receive in-person training from TFRS faculty fully funded by The Patterson Foundation. Following the training, consulting support will bolster the implementation of learnings.

The two courses are:
- Principles & Techniques of Fundraising – Monday, November 13 through Thursday, November 16 — Classes are 8am – 5pm each day.
As TPF’s A2A team engages in planning for the Dive Into Discovery event to continue catalyzing efforts toward shared aspirations, **we could use your help before, during, and after the event during the following times:**

**Monday, October 9th:** Pre-event Set up (Turner Center 2250 NE Roan St, Arcadia, FL 34266)
Duration: 10a–2p. Lunch is provided.

**Tuesday, October 10th:** Event Day (Turner Center 2250 NE Roan St, Arcadia, FL 34266)
- Set Up Shift: 12:00p–2:00p. Lunch is provided.
- Set Up Shift: 2:00p–4:00p
- Event Shift: 4:00p–7:30p
- Breakdown Shift: 7:30p–9:00p

Sign up to volunteer [here](#) AND register for the event [here](#).

**Fundraising for Small Nonprofits** – Tuesday, December 12, and Wednesday, December 13 — Classes are 8am – 5pm each day.

If you’re a nonprofit organization in Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee, or Sarasota counties with an active profile on [The Giving Partner](#), click here to learn the full requirements of how your organization can be considered to participate in a course.

Learn more [here](#) or email TPF Fellow Alexa Carr if you have any questions.

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**When You Wonder Book Circle Project**

We welcome you to be a part of an exciting, upcoming [Book Circle Project](#) featuring *When You Wonder, You’re Learning – Mister Rogers’ Enduring Lessons for Raising Creative, Curious, Caring Kids* by Gregg Behr & Ryan Rydzewski — fully funded by [The Patterson Foundation](#). As young people in a digital world grapple with constant reminders that the world isn't always kind, parents and teachers can look to

**On Saturday, September 30,** at the [Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota](#), there will be a live showing of the recorded 2023 performance at the Kennedy Center in D.C. A panel discussion featuring Beth Duda, Cedric Hameed, and Ben Tollefson will follow, as well as refreshments. Welcome is at 6:20p, the screening begins at 6:30p, and the panel at 7:30p. Tickets are free, thanks to the generosity of [The Patterson Foundation](#) (TPF), and must be reserved [by booking your seats via Eventbrite](#) or by email at eventsuucs@gmail.com.
Fred Rogers — an ingenious scientist and legendary caregiver decades ahead of his time.

When You Wonder, You’re Learning reveals this never-before-seen side of America’s favorite neighbor, exploring how Rogers nurtured the "tools for learning" now deemed essential for school, work, and life. The When You Wonder, You’re Learning Book Circle Project kicked off September 13 and 14 with a visit to the Suncoast by co-author Ryan Rydzewski, but it's not too late to host or join a book circle.

Ignite your imagination, fuel your love for learning, and be part of an engaging community united by the power of books. This is your opportunity to wonder, explore, and grow!

In 2020, as part of The Patterson Foundation’s Honoring and Onward initiative, in partnership with Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, TPF announced a staged reading of a new 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.

In 2023, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass: A Walk to Respect went on the road. Two shows were held at the John F. Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., welcoming hundreds of attendees.

This was a moving production where Frederick Douglass, the black abolitionist leader and former slave, and Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America, clashed in their ideologies regarding race, politics, and slavery. Frederick Douglass, a true radical with a fiery spirit, believed in racial equality for everyone. Douglass dedicated his life, writings, and career to abolishing slavery everywhere. Abraham Lincoln, cautious and considered, while opposed to slavery, was 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, faced their differences with courage and compassion, forging a friendship that helped 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.

Saturday, September 30
Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota
3975 Fruitville Rd. Sarasota, FL 34232
6:20p Welcome
6:30p Showing Starts
7:30p Panel Discussion
Refreshments Following

You are most welcome to join us, and please share this opportunity with friends and family.

We welcome your thoughts. Connect with us at thepattersonfoundation@gmail.com