



Onward

2024 - 2025 Yearbook

Charting the course

Space exploration, the digital revolution, and artificial intelligence are pushing the boundaries of possibility. Yet the most powerful and transformative innovation humanity has ever created is collaboration — *people working together*.

Since 1981, the Community Foundation has embraced that innovation as the heart and science of philanthropy. Our work is centered on potential, guided by donor passion and intention, and grounded in best practices, data, diligence, and deep relationships.

Following universal values, we believe service shapes who you become, and working together shapes who we become.

Every day, we ask —

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth Shorr". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth O. Shorr
Board Chair

From left: Elizabeth Shorr, Theresa Grimison, & Laura Chiesman



How can we do more?
Who can we be for others and for our world?

The answers always lie in connection and collective impact:
the exponential forces necessary to sustain a healthy, vibrant
community and build a world where everyone has
the chance to thrive.

We invite you to *become with us*.

Theresa Grimison

Theresa H. Grimison
President & CEO

Laura Chiesman

Laura K. Chiesman
Vice Chair

Meet our Board

2026



Elizabeth O. Shorr
Chair



Laura K. Chiesman, CFP®, CDFA®
Vice Chair



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Secretary



Myles H. Wilkinson
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Erik P. Shuman, Esq. • Kurt Weiss, Esq.

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Mildred Prieto, Esq.



Gina Rall, CPA



Scott Sorensen



Mark G. Thompson, CFP®



Amanda R. Wilhelm, Esq.

Potential in motion

Arts & Culture

Art is a vital part of being human. From drawing and movement to design and style, creative expression helps us make sense of the world. It builds a bridge between the artist and the audience — sparking dialogue, deepening understanding, and fueling creativity. When people are empowered to engage and create art, it enriches us all. We embrace this belief by investing in programs that infuse art throughout our community.



Exploration Arts! Fund

Investing in a dynamic arts scene that fosters creativity within the Space Coast



Endowment for the Arts

Enhancing our quality of life through expression, creativity, diversity, and innovation

Access to Education

Everyone should have the opportunity to learn in schools and programs that help to discover and nourish potential. Increasing educational attainment, from birth through post-secondary and beyond, is critical to creating a brighter future for all by encouraging lifelong learning and fostering both success and personal achievement.

10th Anniversary of the Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship



Housing Solutions

Safe, affordable, and accessible housing is more than shelter. It is essential to everyone's health, stability, and financial security. We are dedicated to helping reduce unsheltered homelessness and expanding access to supportive housing across Brevard. Guided by data, we focus our efforts on the most vulnerable populations, including those with serious health conditions or disabilities, as well as children and older adults.

While supporting our engaged philanthropists, the Community Foundation invested key resources to help advance Providence Place, a 120-unit, multi-family housing community now under construction in Melbourne.

Opening mid-2027, the program offers a person-centered, housing-led approach with wrap-around services tailored to each resident's unique path to stability and independence. By prioritizing supportive housing for unsheltered individuals living with disabilities, Providence Place will strengthen lives and our community.

Land Dedication



Providence Place Rendering



Grants

Competitive Grants-Brevard

Strengthening our community through thoughtful grantmaking and related support is central to our mission. Each year, we administer the Competitive Grants-Brevard program to help fulfill our donors' charitable goals and maximize their impact. This program allows eligible nonprofit organizations to apply directly for funding while also sharing their vision with our network of philanthropists and fundholders.



Total grantmaking in 2025 was \$3.5 million, following 2024's total grantmaking of \$3.2 million.



"We are deeply grateful to the Community Foundation for Brevard for supporting this work, which will enable us to deliver much-needed survivorship support beyond the walls of the clinic."

- **Akina Natori**
2025 Medical
Research Recipient

Competitive Grants-Medical Research

Funded by the Kenneth R. Finken and Dorothy Hallam Finken Endowment Fund and the Frank R. Leslie Fund, our Competitive Grants-Medical Research program supports innovative research on Alzheimer's disease and cancer, alternating its focus each year.

Proposals are reviewed by our Medical Research Advisory Committee, which makes funding recommendations to our Board based on scientific merit, impact, and alignment with program priorities.

College Scholarships

The Community Foundation for Brevard offers an annual college scholarship program to support Brevard County students in achieving their academic goals. Scholarships provide financial assistance to students attending accredited colleges and universities with each scholarship carrying its own purpose and eligibility criteria.



“You have made me feel seen and valued, and that is something I will carry with me.”

- **Taiel Lucile**
2024 - 2025
College
Scholarship
Recipient

Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship

Nancy Baur Dillen, artist and retired educator, long envisioned creating more opportunities for art teachers to learn, grow, and share their craft. She believed that when teachers are inspired, their students thrive.

In 2015, Nancy and her husband, Rick, turned that vision into reality by establishing the Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship Fund. Each year, up to five Brevard Public Schools art educators are awarded scholarships to attend immersive workshops at the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts.

Since its inception, the program has inspired tens of thousands throughout the county.

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BREVARD PUBLIC
SCHOOLS TEACHERS



Scholarships

Philanthropy is

The human experience is rich and varied, and so are the ways to create meaningful change. Whatever cause moves you, we are here to help you turn your vision into lasting impact through thoughtful strategies and purpose-driven giving. Our donors include generous individuals, families, and organizations who have established funds with us to realize their philanthropic vision.

3BB Fund
Inge-Britt Adlerstein Animal Rescue Fund
Norma S. Annabal Scholarship Fund
Anonymous Fund (6)
Emelee "Bean" Arbuckle Foundation
Frank and Alice Arguimbau Charitable Fund
Baker Family Fund
Jean R. Baldwin and Charles A. Baldwin Fund
Barington-Armstrong Memorial Fund
Jack T. Bechtel Heart Foundation
Better Together Fund
Bir Family Fund
Yvonne Bixby Fund
Pam and Bill Blackstone Fund
Theodore and Marion Blumenthal Fund
Bond Family Foundation
Joan R. Borders Rolling Readers Endowment Fund
Ron and Midge Bray Charitable Fund
Brenner Family Fund
Brevard Relief Fund
Lucious, Marolyn, and Mitty Burnett Family Charitable Foundation
Geraldine L. Cabic Charitable Fund
Curtis L. Carlberg and Muriel Scheuerer Carlberg Fund
Jan Case Fund
Children and Youth Fund
Leah M. Combs Endowment Fund
Community in Conversation Fund
Community Leadership Fund
Community Scholarship Fund
Grant Volunteer Fire Department - Charles Conway Fund
Culpepper Nursing Scholarship Fund

DJS Family Fund
Deffebach Family Fund
DeVries Family Fund
Dillen Charitable Fund
Dillen Charitable Fund for Brevard
Nancy Baur Dillen Art Teacher Scholarship Fund
Joe and Pennie Di Prima Fund
Keith and Keri Donald Brevard Impact Fund
John and Nancy Dornbos Charitable Fund
Drexler Family Fund
Endowment for the Arts
Endowment for Recreation
Equity and Inclusion Fund
Carolyn P. Erambert Fund
Exploration Arts! Fund
Family Promise HERO Fund
Fillmore Dreams Fund
Kenneth R. Finken and Dorothy Hallam Finken Endowment Fund
Hope and Brian Fisher Family Fund
Kit and Audrey Fisher Legacy Fund
Robin and Rhoda Fisher Fund
Fors-Gomez Fund
Evelyn Foster Endowment Fund
Paul and Shirley Friedland Fund
Paul and Shirley Friedland Fund for Brevard
Paul and Shirley Friedland Fund for Health and Wellbeing
Fulton's Folly Fund in Memory of Robert M. Fulton
Dr. John C. Garey and Eliese D. Garey Fund
Walter J. and Dorothea Gatti Foundation
Gemini Family Charitable Fund
James H. and Betty O. Gooch Fund
Ruth W. Gordon Benevolent Memorial Fund

powered by

Marilyn and Walter Grace Fund	Michael and Assunta Picardi Fund
Graham Family Fund	Jean B. Prais Charitable Remainder
Guardians Endowment Fund	Unitrust Fund
Hannah-Chanel Fund	Jan Pridmore Foundation
Hawkins Family Fund	RAB Family Foundation
Sandra J. Henry Fund	Rainwater Fund
John and Betty Higdon Fund	Kathryn Ridner Fund
Mark and Kimberly Hobbs Family Fund	John K. and Julia R. Roach Fund
Holton Family Fund	Robert and Deborah Sands Fund
Ella Josephine Goodman Horn Fund	Schluckebier Young Fund
KJC Family Fund	Schuler Family Donor Advised Fund
Kreuzkamp Family Charitable Fund	Walter E. and Judith L. Schwab Fund
Christine P. Lance Foundation	Schwinn Family Fund
Lane Family Fund	Sendler Family Charitable Fund
Kathryn F. Lazar Fund	Missy and Tony Shannon Memorial
Lazar Family Charitable Fund	Scholarship Fund
Hendrik and Phoebe Leeman Charitable Foundation	Shorr Family Fund
Mr. & Mrs. Hendrik Leeman Family Fund	Skate to School Scholarship Fund
Frank R. Leslie Fund	Sandy and Robert Slane Fund
James W. and Mary Alice Libby Scholarship	Spezzano Family Charitable Fund
Danielle Sarah Mahon Memorial Fund	St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church Fund
James and Penelope Martin Fund	Strategic Initiatives Fund
M. Kendall Martin Fund	Alice and Stephen Tarr Fund
Randy and Linda May Fund	James E. and Irene L. Thomas Fund
Thomas E. McNamara and Lois R. McNamara	Peg and Rob Twitty Charitable Fund
Charitable Fund	Veterans Fund
John P. and Nancy K. Miles Family Fund	R. Patricia Wallburg Endowment Fund
MNT Fund	Barbara Wells Family Foundation
Allan and Judy Moen Fund	Frank J. and Mary R. Wertalik Foundation
Dawson E. Molyneaux and Charlotte B. Molyneaux	Marie Louise G. West Endowment Fund
Endowment Fund	Wild About Education: Midshipman 3/C
Jared and Rebecca Mongold Fund	Justin Zemser Memorial Endowment for
Heaven's Rays Fund in Memory of Thomas and	Education and Conservation
Emily Moseley	Wilkinson Family Fund
F. Turner Munsell Fund	Winter Family Fund
Gordon L. Nelson Endowment Fund	Witherspoon Foundation
Annette E. Parker Fund	
Holly Howe Parker Fund	
Petre Family Fund in Memory of Reverend	
Gabriel & Julia Petre of Palm Bay	

people

Building your legacy

Walter J. and Dorothea Gatti Foundation

Walter J. Gatti, born in New York City, left an indelible mark during his 88 years. As the Founder and CEO of Tensor Engineering in Indian Harbour Beach, Florida, Walter was instrumental in the construction of more than 4,000 steel bridges, including landmarks like the Leonard P. Zakim Bridge in Boston and the new San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge.

Dorothea Gatti, born in Philadelphia and known as Dottie, was a radiant presence to all who knew her. While serving as Tensor's treasurer, Dottie's compassion for others extended deeply through her volunteerism and board service for Serene Harbor, South Brevard Women's Center, Health First Aging Institute, and more.

Together, Walter and Dottie elevated many through their shared philanthropic interests to include a named scholarship, helping over 70 students attend Florida Tech.

As a Legacy Society member, Walter committed to continuing their philanthropy after their lifetimes, engaging his close advisors in the conversation. Upon his passing, the Community Foundation received a contribution of more than \$7 million to establish the Walter J. and Dorothea Gatti Foundation, advised by Michael Cerow, Dale Dettmer, and Janice Swift.





"We were fortunate to work alongside the Gattis for many years. We're gratified to know our integral promise of ensuring their philanthropic intentions were realized and will continue."

- **Michael Cerow**, CPA
Fund Advisor



"The Gattis' commitment to excellence and efficacy, interest in specific causes, and desire to strengthen community bonds align perfectly with the Community Foundation."

- **Dale Dettmer**, Esq.
Fund Advisor



"The Gattis designed more than steel bridges – they crafted connections that shaped their community. We are honored to carry that care and commitment forward."

- **Janice Swift**
Fund Advisor

\$218K
GRANTED IN 2025

Grantees included East Coast Zoological Foundation, Florida Tech, Serene Harbor, Veterans Airlift Command, and Brevard County Sheriff's Office Charity

Legacy Society

Legacy Society members are individuals who have made the ultimate gift — a future-focused act of generosity helping to create a better tomorrow for our community. By establishing endowed funds, planning future endowments, or including the Community Foundation in their estate plans, they embody the deepest expression of philanthropic purpose and vision.

We are honored to work alongside these generous donors — as well as their professional advisors and any appointed friends or family members — to ensure their intentions are fulfilled for good, forever.

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LEGACY
SOCIETY
MEMBERS

Activating philanthropy

The Community Foundation offers meaningful opportunities to come together with purpose and shared intent. Through thoughtfully designed gatherings and experiences, donors can reflect on collective progress, deepen their understanding of evolving community needs, and explore new avenues for impact. These moments foster connection, while also providing space for learning, inspiration, and collaboration. By engaging throughout the year, you become part of an ongoing, intergenerational effort to strengthen the community and build a more vibrant, thriving place for all.

Nancy & Rick Dillen
The Philanthropist 2024



The Philanthropist

The Community Foundation bestows its annual award – The Philanthropist – to individuals with a record of exceptional philanthropy. Honorees have demonstrated outstanding civic responsibility through exemplary leadership, financial support, and volunteerism. Their generosity and life-affirming actions inspire and engage others throughout Brevard.





Each year, we create a commemorative seal featuring the honoree. These golden seals adorn every piece of Community Foundation correspondence for the following twelve months.

“All matter and energy are fundamentally connected, so creating a better community requires us to know each other and work together. Starting with Health First Foundation and partnering with the Community Foundation, I have really enjoyed the journey. Through our conversations, process, and data, I know I’m giving to the most critical causes and to organizations who will use it well.”

- **John Roach**

The Philanthropist 2025



Nonprofit Endowment Partners

Nonprofits are crucial to the health and vibrancy of our community, and we are deeply committed to supporting a strong nonprofit ecosystem. For organizations focused on sustainable, long-term impact, an endowment offers a reliable source of funding for the future. The Community Foundation is proud to serve as a trusted partner in planned giving, endowment management, and stewardship.

Aging Matters in Brevard	LEAD Brevard
Arc of Space Coast	Love INC of Brevard
Brevard Achievement Center	Marine Resources Council
Brevard Humane Society	Melbourne Chamber Music Society
Candlelighters of Brevard	Neighbor Up Brevard
Children's Hunger Project	New Life Mission
Club Esteem	Preeclampsia Foundation
East Coast Zoological Foundation	Promise in Brevard
Elevate Brevard	Providence Connects
Family Partnerships of Central Florida	Rolling Readers
Family Promise of Brevard	Sea Turtle Conservancy
Florida Wildlife Hospital	Serene Harbor
The Haven for Children	Sharing Center of Central Brevard
Junior Achievement of the Space Coast	Space Coast Discovery
Keep Brevard Beautiful	Space Coast Habitat for Humanity
	Titusville Playhouse

Brevard Funders Alliance

Brevard’s funders work together to strengthen the community through data-driven action, advocacy, and philanthropy. While each entity has a different mission and strategic approach, we collaborate as the Brevard Funders Alliance. Collectively, our four members hold more than \$140 million in charitable assets and leverage more than \$11 million annually in philanthropic investments to improve residents’ quality of life and build a thriving community.



At a Glimpse

In today’s interconnected world, each sector — public, private, and nonprofit — plays a vital role in advancing collective well-being. Together, they form a dynamic ecosystem with nonprofits fostering balance and resilience. Often closest to the challenges communities face, nonprofits are uniquely positioned to respond with insight, empathy, and agility.



In Florida

The nonprofit sector is comparable with construction and manufacturing in terms of number of people employed and annual wages paid.



In Brevard

The nonprofit sector



generates
\$3.2 billion
in annual revenue

pays over
\$736 million
in annual wages

employs
13,059
individuals

annual revenue
\$116 billion
more than
\$27 billion
annual wages paid

456,016
total employees

In the United States

The nonprofit sector comprises





Community Foundation Team

2026



Theresa Grimison
President & CEO



Shari Richards
Chief Financial Officer



Donna Sewell
*Director of Philanthropy
and Programs*



Roxanne Lestrangle
*Director of Philanthropy
and Operations*



Isabel Gonzalez
Engagement Lead



Kerina Robison
Philanthropy Assistant



Cover photo was captured by Mike Seeley during the October full moon, also known as the Hunter's Moon. This shot was taken in Titusville, Florida, along the west side of the Indian River Lagoon. It took thirty seconds for the rocket to travel from the launchpad to the height of the Moon.

A note from the photographer:

"The image with the streak was almost an afterthought, captured with an extra camera and a wider lens (140mm) with a Neutral Density filter to enable a thirty-second exposure. The rocket creates the streak, and the Moon is also rising throughout the thirty seconds, which is why it's blurry. It was just after sunset, so the sky has a pinkish hue, and it was just a surprisingly pleasing scene."

Contributing photographers include Jennifer Cleveland (page 13), Randy Coleman (pages 5 & 14), Isabel Gonzalez (page 2), Gwenyth Houten (page 14).

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