

FORT MYERS BEACH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
P.O Box 2834, Fort Myers Beach, FL 33932
www.FMCommunityFoundation.com

## **CELEBRATING 2020**

What an amazing year 2020 has been! A year for the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation to celebrate! What do we have to celebrate? Well, a lot!

**OUR 10**<sup>th</sup> **ANNIVERSAR**Y! The Community Foundation began when the Pilot Club, which had been serving the island for almost 25 years, dispersed. During these 10 years, over \$175,000 was distributed to support our neighbors. That entailed a lot of fund raisers from galas and fashion shows, to casino nights and dinner auctions, to yard sales and luncheons. Our philanthropy has reached many beach organizations such as the Beach Library, the Mound House, Friends of Matanzas Preserve, Fort Myers Beach Fire Department, St. Vincent DePaul, Choice Market. In fact, we have supported over 30 organizations!





We were all set to repeat these efforts in 2020 when suddenly, life came to a halt. The Covid 19 Pandemic shut everything down. One of our members, Anita Cereceda, with Janeen Paulauskis decided to extend neighborly kindness to the hospitality workers of the island. They sold #WeAreFMB t-shirts hoping to make \$5000 so they could give out 100 \$50 Publix gift cards. The Community Foundation became deeply

involved right from the start. Heartfelt thanks go to Jan Falkum for whipping together a web page to

sell the shirts. Sincere appreciation goes to Cheryl Hohman, our foundation treasurer, for taking on the almost full-time job tracking every penny. The numbers are astounding: \$62,057.05 deposited with \$47,171.84 disbursements split between costs of merchandise and 640 Publix cards! (Thank you, Cheryl, for counting every nickel!) Six hundred forty cards went directly to people in need, all in less than three months! Fort Myers Beach is an amazing place. Is there anywhere else that could have done this successful endeavor?



The Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation seeks to empower our members and our community by encouraging philanthropy to improve the overall quality of life in Fort Myers Beach. The Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation responds to the changing and emerging needs of our community by providing support for its education, health and welfare, and through our active participation in the preservation of our natural environment and history.

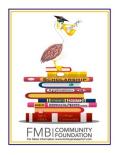


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By the beginning of the summer, people were getting busy with their lives and the need for the cards abated. The process of supporting struggling workers of Fort Myers Beach adapted. The Community Foundation has taken over the #WeAreFMB initiative. We have expanded the **merchandise** to include doggy bandanas, masks and mugs. We are distributing Publix gift cards to any employee identified by their beach employer. This allows us to find people in true need and to expand the recipients



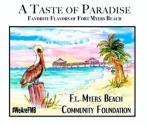
beyond hospitality workers. We had a distribution in October and one this December. We will have such distributions annually each August and September during our slow months and whenever nature or viruses make one necessary.



We are honored to continue our efforts to serve the hungry, the homeless, the poor, the struggling worker, the adults seeking to further their education with **scholarships** directly and at Florida SouthWestern State College, the children at Beach Elementary School. All fit in with our mission to empower our members and our community by encouraging philanthropy to improve the overall quality of life in Fort Myers Beach.

Next up: 2021 and our *Taste of Paradise Cookbook, Favorite Flavors of Fort Myers Beach*, Fashion Show and Virtual Auction on February 13, and more #WeAreFMB!

Please visit our website to purchase merchandise or to donate.



## www.FMBCommunityFoundation.com

Our community on Fort Myers Beach thanks you!



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