

Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation

May 2023



MISSION STATEMENT

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. We respond to the changing and emerging needs of our community by providing support for education, health and welfare, and the preservation of our natural environment and history.

**Raising Money to Give It Away
2022 – 2023**

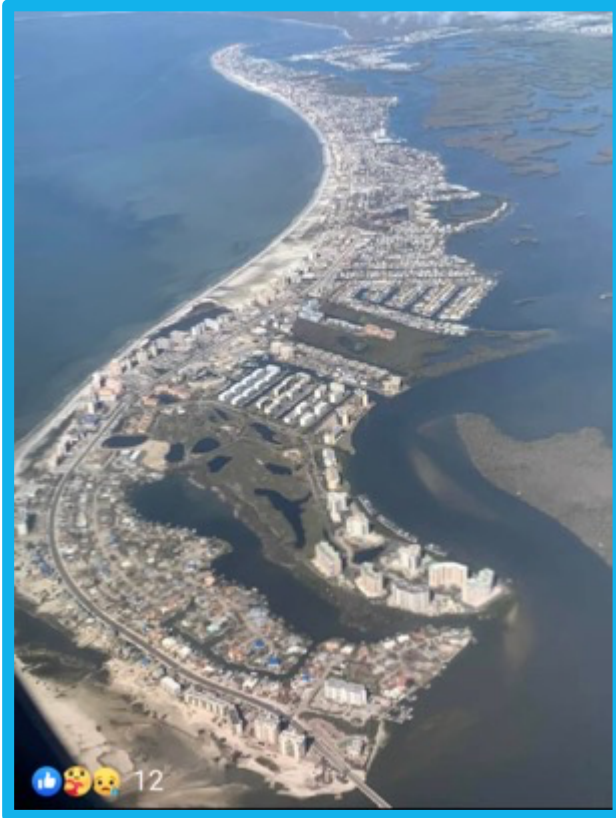


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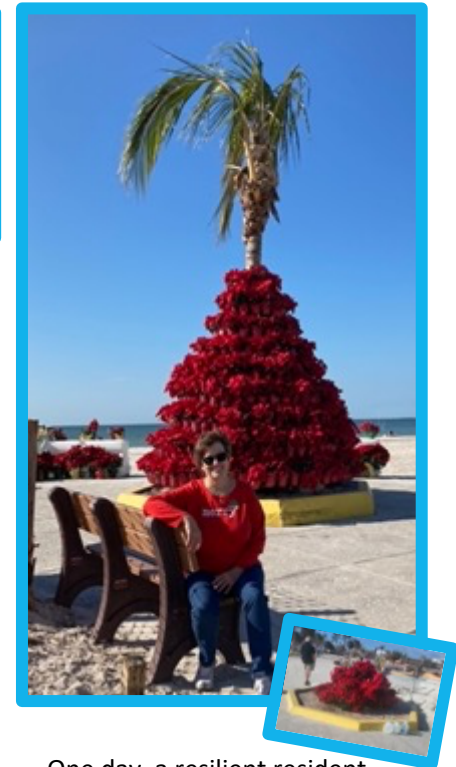
Hurricane Ian



Within 48 hours after Hurricane Ian struck our beautiful shores, we collaborated with the FMB Woman's Club. #WeAreFMB, which started through the efforts of our members to assist people during Covid, transformed into #WeAreFMB Resilient. Combined with the Woman's Club 33931 Fund, we raised over \$800,000 to furnish gift cards to residents of 33931. Yes, **\$800,000** in only three months!



#WeAreFMB was all this woman found in the rubble of her home.



One day, a resilient resident placed a poinsettia where the annual Christmas poinsettia tree would be. Then, another, and another, and another. So, the town bought a new palm, set up the scaffolding, and the tree was back! FMB spirit is strong!



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Educational Efforts



We established an endowed scholarship at FSW in 2020. It automatically provides permanent, yearly educational support to people who have lived or worked in the 33931 zip code. These scholarships are not only for traditional degrees but also workforce certificates as well. With funds directly to scholarships for students, we have given 17 to sixteen students (one received it twice.)

Did you know that a recent impact study concluded that FSW has a \$434 million impact on our local economy. Our investment in these students is also an investment in our community.

Our Foundation continues to give students scholarships to other schools as well.

I lived in fort myers beach from 1998-2002 and currently live in fort myers 33912



Thank you, Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation, for your very generous gift. This gift will be a wonderful contribution to my college financial needs. As a Fort Myers Beach resident, I have many amazing memories as a young child attending Fort Myers Beach Elementary school and visiting the parks, beaches and pools in the community. Fort Myers Beach is home to me and will always have a special place in my heart. Seeing it go through so much damage during Hurricane Ian was heartbreaking but I'm confident that as a community we can build it back up and restore its natural beauty. As a U.S. Army veteran, and current Florida National Guard member, I always strive to find ways to help our community. Being a Registered Nurse will be the best way for me to help the community. Once again, I would like to thank you for choosing me to receive this gift, as a returning full time college student, this gift will help me get one step closer to achieving my career dreams of becoming a nurse and be able to take care of our community members.




Sincerely, Mayra

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Educational Efforts

<p>I used to live and go to school on Ft Myers Beach as a child and still have family there.</p> 	<p>Dear Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation,</p> <p>I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the scholarship you have awarded me. I am truly honored and humbled to have been chosen as a recipient of this generous gift.</p> <p>Receiving this scholarship has lifted a tremendous financial burden off my shoulders and will allow me to focus on my studies without having to worry about the cost of tuition and other expenses. Your support has given me the opportunity to pursue my academic goals and has brought me one step closer to achieving my dreams.</p> <p>I am impressed by the work that the Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation does for our community, and I am grateful to be part of this effort through your scholarship program. Your investment in my education will not go to waste, and I promise to use the knowledge and skills I gain from my studies to make a positive impact in the world.</p> <p>Once again, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your kindness and generosity. Your support has made a significant difference in my life, and I will always be grateful for your contribution.</p> <p>Sincerely, Patrick</p>
<p>I work 16 hours weekly at Fort Myers Beach Library</p> 	<p>Dear *Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation*, my name is Yamile Perryman and I am student and mother of two little girls. I have recently received your generous donation and I wanted to thank you. My goal is to become a librarian and serve the community and you foundation is making a difference in my life.</p> <p>Yamile</p>
<p>I have worked in Fort Myers Beach at Sea and Sun Boat Rentals from October 2021 to February 2022 then at Snug Harbor from February 2022 to September 2022 when boat season slowed down.</p> 	<p>Dear Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation,</p> <p>Thank you so much for this fantastic opportunity and your aid in helping me to pursue my academic goals. I truly appreciate this, and I am so honored to have been chosen to receive this scholarship from you. I will use this scholarship to do great things; since my degree is geared toward Marine Science. I was very humbled when I saw that fort Myers beach was the donor, as this is my first scholarship acceptance, and I have lived and loved going to fort Myers beach growing up most of my life. thank you again for this fantastic scholarship, and hope you have a great rest of your week, thank you again.</p> <p>Brianna</p>

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Educational Opportunities



Our Foundation continues to give students scholarships to other post-secondary and vocational schools as well.

There will be opportunities for children to participate in camps on or near FMB! There is need to rebuild but these will re-open anyway!

Bay Oaks provides recreational events, educational programming, and field trips.

Ostego Bay teaches conservation in our local estuary environment. They have been serving the FMB area for thirty years.

Friends of Lovers Key provides Eco-Arts Camp where children enjoy fun experiences to become effective stewards of our beautiful coastal community.

Beach Elementary We provided finances to assist the teachers during this challenging year.



Dr Traci Koaler informed us that next week we'll know if/when the Beach Elementary reopens.

Joanne Semmer was overjoyed for the bright future of Ostego Bay. She made sure that some of the funds may buy prizes for the children at the camps!

Jeff Hauge was inspired by our call to put together a Bay Oaks summer program which had not been thought possible.

Kathryn Klar is excited that the displays at Lovers Key can now be restored.



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Keep Lee County Beautiful



Jenn Downes from Keep Lee County Beautiful informed us of the effects of Hurricane Ian. From October through December, there was over 10 years' worth of waste produced.



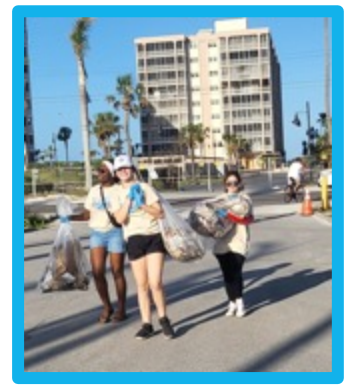
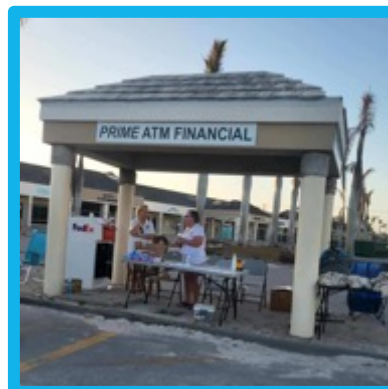
Trish Fancher accepted the funds to support KLCB. KLCB and FMBCF have been working together since FMBCF was the Pilot club over 30 years ago!

We take seriously the preservation of our natural environment with both member participation and philanthropy.

We assist Keep Lee County Beautiful initiatives with teams of members who either assist in the organization of the day or get out onto the beach and pick up trash.

At Great American Clean Ups, we hand out supplies and document what is brought back.

Adopt-A-Shore partners with us to clean the beach. Our area starts at the Dakota Ave. Beach. We meet quarterly to walk the beach.



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Our Environment

Jen Rusk contacted the Community Foundation in 2021 requesting funds for a Marine Task Force Pop-Up educational tent to teach all things beachy. We were able to help her with her dream then. Now, we are funding the return of her fun tent!

Turtle Time will have an interesting year as the environment for the turtles has been so disturbed.

FMB Chamber Water Foundation Is dedicated to bringing awareness and education on the health of our aquatic ecosystem, its organisms, and wildlife to our island and surrounding communities.



Really, Jen Rusk was not crying when she realized MERTF has the resources to rebuild! Really!!



Turtle season has started! Eve Haverfield has many plans to restock all of Turtle Time's equipment and pamphlets.



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Quality of Life and History



Lizbeth Rhodes is looking forward to the new space for the children's corner where the library was severely damaged.

The **Estero Island Historic Society** keeps alive our stories of the past which was swept away. We are proud to assist in preserving the uniqueness of Fort Myers Beach.

Our **FMB Library** means so much to so many—books, classes, rooms to rent, and the best elevator in Florida!

*Fort Myers Beach
Public Library
Your Beach Library!*



Ellie Bunting told us that the older buildings at the Historic Museum survived better than the newer ones!



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Quality of Life and History



The FMB Art Association and Gallery

provides opportunities for artists to show their pieces and classes for us to hone our skills, too.

Bring Music Back to the Beach Fund was created by songwriter, Stephen Clarke. It provides free entertainment at events in Times Square and Moss Marina while bringing in local musicians who have lost their jobs and income due to Ian.



Star Sherwood discussed all the Art Association is doing to come back to the Beach.

Bring Music Back to the Beach



Stephen Clark

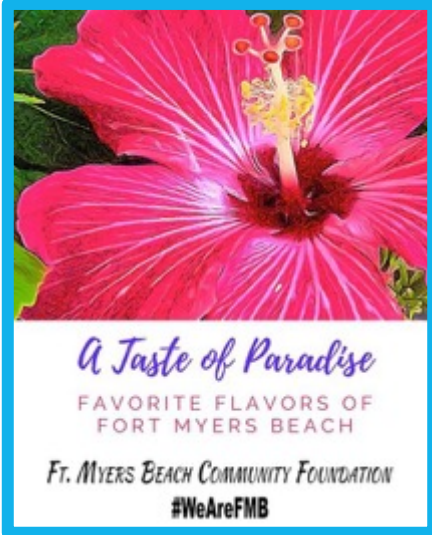


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Merchandise



Our **cookbook** has gone through four or five printings now! There are many recipes from our favorite restaurants. What a fabulous memory of FMB.



We sat in the cold and sun and dark to sell our t-shirts, hats, and other merchandise. It was fun, so worth every minute.

Lorna Littrell used her fabulous artwork to create an exquisite calendar. She raised over \$10,000 for our community!

Lorna Littrell Photography



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Member Meetings

Our monthly meetings were first held at Ron Dao and then Diamond Head. They were always fun and informative. We gathered to welcome new members, to eat and make merry, to enjoy each other's company, to be part of the solution.

We learned about organizations on the island—KLCB, FMB Art Association, FMB Chamber Water Foundation, and the Town's Park and Recreation Department.

We also made important decisions. Including how to distribute over \$100,000. Wow!



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2023 Celebration and Awards

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Robin Bush

Vice President: Paula Smith

Secretary: Robin Nuccio

Treasurer: Patti Coleman

Directors: Jan Falkum, Julie Fite, Susan Krajewski, Jane McCloskey, and Kelly Smith



May 2, 2023 was a night of smiles, laughter, and giving. The happiness was palpable from the executive board and directors to the members and to the recipients of the funds we distributed that night. Our total for the Hurricane Ian year was **\$105,750**. As Robin Bush, our president said, "We accomplished so much for such a bad reason."

Nancy Mulholland **STAR AWARD** is given to the member annually who goes above and beyond to fulfill the purpose and mission of the FMB Community Foundation. It is voted on by our members.

This year, we acknowledge the tremendous success led by **Robin Bush**. Thank you, so much for a record-breaking year!

Thank you, **Patti Coleman**, treasurer extraordinaire and answerer of all 33931 digital gift card questions.



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Today we celebrate. We celebrate our hard work throughout a very tough year of fundraising. We are so blessed to have a community that has come together in the hardest of times, where we have all been impacted but we all gave more to help each other. We have met our mission of responding to the changing needs of our community. We offered financial help to every single member of our island. We are still able to make amazing donations to help other organizations meet their needs on our 7 mile strip. As George HW Bush said, "There could be no definitions of a successful life that does not include service to others."

– Kathy Nash



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Passing of the gavel from Robin Bush to Paula Smith!

Have Fun Paula!!

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Thank You to our Donors!

**\$105,750 distributed
in 2022-2023!**

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