



May 2024

2023–2024 EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Julie Fite

Vice President: Kelly Smith

Secretary: Robin Nuccio

Treasurer: Patti Coleman

Directors: Jan Falkum, Susan Krajewski, Jane McCloskey, Linda Sanford, Joy Sullivan, Nan Williams

President's Letter

Dear Members,

Making money to give it away! Well, we certainly did just that this past Tuesday at FSW Gulf Coast Credit Union Arena. Our presentation dinner and final membership meeting of the 23–24 season provided the perfect time and place to share to our community. We gave away \$93,000 and couldn't be more proud of our members that helped us achieve this feat. We have given checks to different organizations that have spoken throughout the season at our meetings, but the bulk of our giving was Tuesday.

Congratulations to Estero Island Historic Society, FMB MERTF, Friends of Matanza Pass Preserve, FMB Art Association, Keep Lee County Beautiful, Support for Sailing, Bay Oaks Recreation, Ostego Bay Summer Camps and Equip. Replacement, FMB Strong, Beach Elementary, Beach Kids Foundation and eleven FMBCF Scholarships given to college students that have FMB ties. We also added to our FSW Pass-through Program and our FSW Endowment Fund.

As we move into our “off season”, I would like to recognize two board members who have recently stepped down. Many thanks to Linda Sanford and Nan Williams for all of their time and effort given to our organization this past year. We certainly appreciate it and you! I would also like to welcome a new board member who has just stepped up: Kathy Nash. Thank you Kathy for jumping aboard. 2024–2025 will be a fun year with some events that we haven’t been able to have since Ian and some repeat events from this past year. Have a wonderful summer everyone and thank you for everything.

Very Sincerely,

Julie

Chamber Award



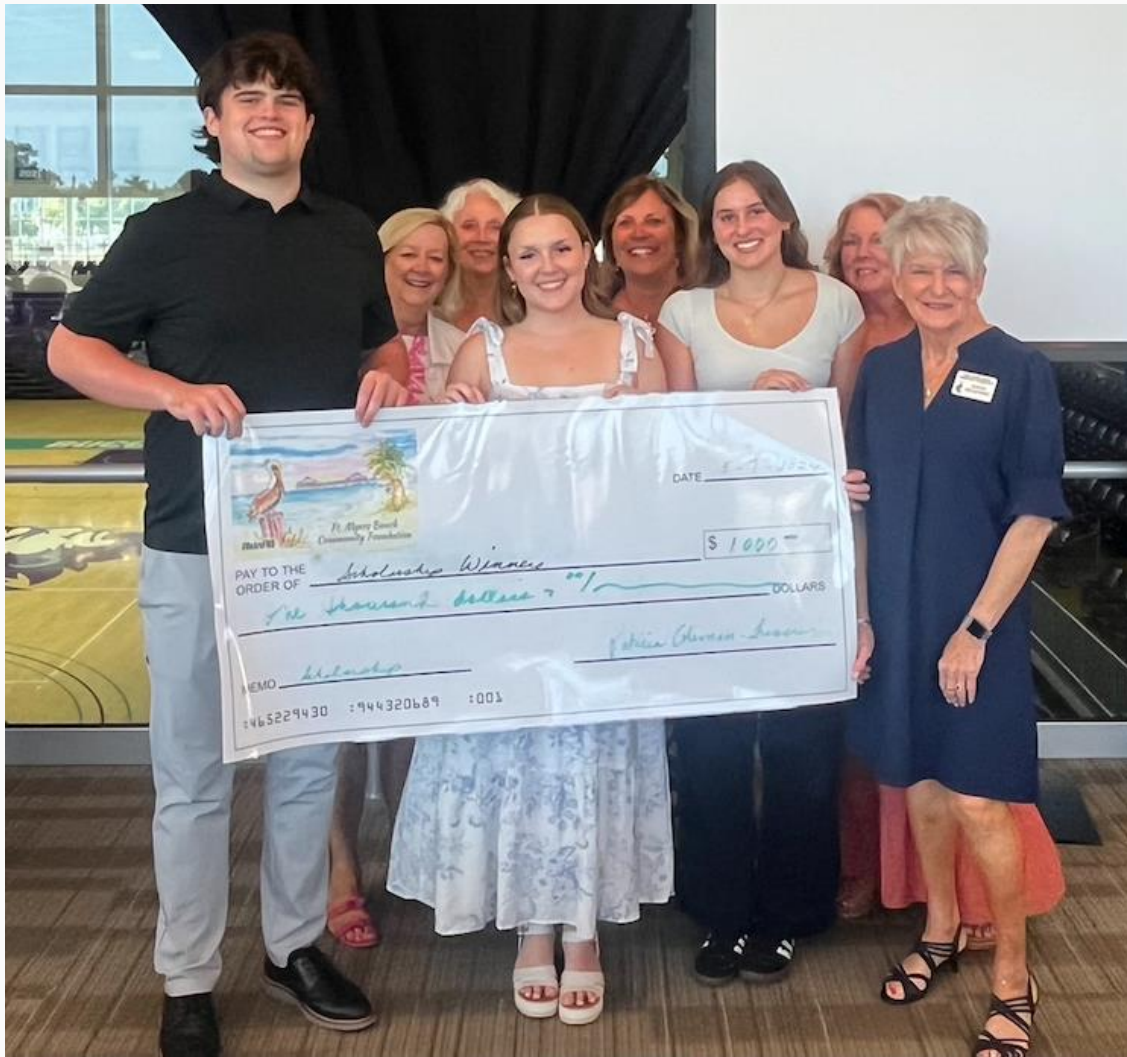
The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce
awarded us
the Civic Award!

Time to give money away!!

\$93,000 worth of aid to our community!

EDUCATION

FMB Scholarships



We awarded 11 awards to deserving students from Fort Myers Beach
In attendance: Brady Carrington, Taylor Harlan, Annelisa Swiersz
Suzy Krajewski, Scholarship Director

FSW Scholarships and Endowment



We added money to our Florida SouthWestern College endowment as well as money to be given to students immediately.

Julie Fite thanks Heather Chester for encouraging our little organization

to do amazing things! We also thank FSW for opening their facility for a fabulous setting for our end-of-year celebration.

Beach Elementary



Tracey Kohler, principal at Beach Elementary, accepts the check from Julie Fite to assist the children of FMB.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

#FMB Strong



#FMBStrong's mission is to revitalize the thriving community of Fort Myers Beach. We definitely support this! Thank you, Tim Ryan!

Bay Oaks



Danielle DiBono is thrilled to accept our support to Bay Oaks where many activities for people of all ages are provided including the setting for our Pickle Ball Tournament!

FMB Art Association



Still without a home, the Julie Neubam and the FMB Art Association continues to support artists with shows, classes, and camaraderie.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

FMB MERTF



Jen Rusk accepts our funds as we appreciate all MERTF's efforts to educate people about the natural beauty of Estero Island.

Ostego Bay



Otsego Bay has provided Marine Science experiences. We are proud to support Joanne Semmer, who was there when the organization started!

Keep Lee County Beautiful



What an amazing partnership we have with Keep Lee County Beautiful! Jane McCloskey shows our dedication with a donation presented to Trish Fancer.

Friends of Matanzas Pass



Matanzas Pass is a special, pristine place on Estero Island. Terri Caine receives funding to assist in preserving this small piece of quiet beauty.

HISTORY

Estero Island Historic Society



Ellie Bunting and the Estero Island Historic Society is determined to remember our past and the island's magic and resilience.

Star Award

goes to Joy Sullivan!
Thank you, Joy, for all you do!



Joy receives her Star Award from Jane McCloskey and Christy Matthis

End of Year Celebration





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Joy Sullivan

2nd Annual Day Before Fathers Day Pub Crawl

Beach Talk Radio's Day Before Father's Day Pub Crawl will benefit US!

Saturday June 15th starting at Noon

The tentative lineup is:

License to Chill

Lighthouse

La Ola

Suzy Q's

Rude Shrimp

Nervous Nellies

Wahoo Willie's

We are gathering prizes to raffle off.
There will be a 50/50 raffle at each location.

Volunteers are needed.
Watch your emails to join in a fun day!

Happy Hour TBD



News From Afar

I am sorry to say I will no longer be a member of the group. I have sold the house at Estrellita Drive. I will be living in my old home in NJ. I will miss being a Florida resident and being a part of the FMBCF but it seemed the best decision for me at this time. I wish you all the best as I can see you are bouncing back filled with more energy than ever determined to help resurrect the beach. It is a great organization. I will keep you all in my prayers. My understanding is the people who bought the house are going to live in it. I heard she really loves it. A new prospective member!

We only moved to Estrellita the year before covid from the big house on Lagoon. I loved it there.

My husband died 2 months before the hurricane. If I came back I would be 88 years old, alone in a place that is going to take years to recover. My daughter lives in VA. My son is across the state from me. It is only an hour away. I became a great grandmother just yesterday and have already held the baby boy. Most of my friends are gone. The family thinks of this house, on the water, a mile ride down the river to the ocean as everyone's summer home. So summers are great. They all make a point to come often. I spend a lot of weekends with my son now. So my decision, although painful, was pretty much a no-brainer. I hate the cold but I would be too far away from my family to do anything else.

You take care too and enjoy the summers.

Joan Blessing

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.

Our mailing address is:

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www.fmbcommunityfoundation.com

