



VOLUNTEER FAIR
Saturday, January 14, 2023
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Pelican Sound Charitable Foundation

Formed in 2019, the Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that offers grants to local charities that directly serve families and children in Southwest Florida.

Many residents of Pelican Sound are active volunteers in the charities represented at the Volunteer Fair.

*For more information about the Foundation and its grants, please visit
www.pelicansoundgrc.com/charitable-foundation.*





2022-2023 Charitable Foundation Directors

Ed Vonderbrink, President

Kathy Fitzpatrick, Secretary

Russ Frith, Treasurer

Ann Bird

Joan Buffone

Annette Koch

Fred Kohnke

Sue Sawchuk

Larry Stanford

Additional Committee Members

Betsy Bridgman

Kathy Rhodes

Barb Caldwell

Ann Ripp

Susan Carter

Paula Ruggeri

Judy Comparato

Suzy Urick

Terese Helberg

Carolyn Watson

Suzanne Hubner

Jane Woolbert

Betsy Radley

The Volunteer Fair

Volunteers are the fuel that make nonprofits run!

*The Volunteer Fair is sponsored by the
Pelican Sound Charitable Foundation
to provide residents
an opportunity to learn about volunteering
in nearby communities.*

*The following pages provide an overview
of the twenty-six charities represented at the event.*





Alliance for Period Supplies of SWFL

Pelican Sound Host:
Linda Christensen

APS of SWFL President:
Dusti Beaubien: dkbien@aol.com

apsofswfl.org

239-877-2528

APS of SWFL became a nonprofit in January 2019 after learning that period poverty wasn't just a Third World problem. It is a silent consequence of poverty existing today throughout the U.S. APS's mission is to provide free, monthly period products to financially-challenged women and girls so they may participate fully in daily life, whether it be school or work.

The problem: When menstruators cannot afford period products, they often depend on substitute products including rags, socks, and paper towels from public restrooms. This can lead to health issues and anxiety, embarrassment, and the inability to focus in the classroom or at work.

As of July 2022, APS has given over 3,000,000 period products to women and girls living in poverty in Southwest Florida. This basic necessity allows girls to attend school and women to be at their hourly jobs.





Audubon Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

**Pelican Sound Host:
Gwen Bellcourt**

**Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary Volunteer and Membership Manager:
Kristina O'Hern: kristina.ohern@audubon.org corkscrew.audubon.org/volunteering 239-348-9151**

Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary occupies approximately 13,450 acres in the heart of the Corkscrew Watershed. It includes the largest remaining virgin bald cypress forest in the world which was historically the site of the largest nesting colony of Federally Endangered Wood Storks in the nation. The Sanctuary provides habitat for the Florida panther, American alligator, gopher tortoise, Florida sandhill crane, Limpkin, Roseate Spoonbill, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Big Cypress fox squirrel, and the Florida black bear. Several rare plants are also found, most notably the ghost orchid.

Our mission: To preserve Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary and support conservation and Restoration of natural ecosystems throughout the Western Everglades. We use science driven land management and education to protect birds, other wildlife, and people.

Volunteers play a vital role in our mission. Make a difference for birds and people by becoming a Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary volunteer!





Animal Refuge Center

Pelican Sound Host:
Carol Thomas

Animal Refuge Center Volunteer Coordinator:

Joy Patton: vcarc@animalrefugecenter.net

animalrefugecenter.org

239-731-3535

The Animal Refuge Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit animal welfare society. We are a non-euthanasia organization dedicated to caring for all owner surrendered cats and dogs we have received into our care.

As the largest no-kill shelter/sanctuary in SW Florida, we provide interim shelter and medical care to cats and dogs who were once pets and, through no fault of their own, found themselves homeless, injured, or abandoned. Our philosophy avows that once an animal is accepted into our care, it will not be destroyed to make room for another.

We place approximately 500 dogs and cats per year into responsible, loving homes through direct and indirect adoptions.

ARC's ongoing mission is to provide community education as to the needs and care of animals, and public awareness regarding the importance of spaying and neutering their animal companions, with the ultimate result being the elimination of euthanasia.





Blessings In A Backpack SWFL

Pelican Sound Host:

Ann Bird

Blessings In A Backpack SWFL, Managing Director:

Cecilia St. Arnold: cecilia@blessingsinabackpack.org blessingsinswfl.org 239-410-9592

The Blessings in a Backpack program steps-up by feeding children on the weekend. Every Friday afternoon, children receive backpacks filled with kid-friendly, ready-to-eat items. Students return every Monday morning with an empty backpack, a full stomach, and an eager mind. For a lot of kids, food is their most important school supply.

You can volunteer by creating positive note cards with words of encouragement for children to take home over the weekend. These note cards will be attached to the bags of food for the children and will provide them with positive words of encouragement over the weekend. They can say anything from "Have a Great Day!" to "You are loved!" You can get creative! All note cards must be non-denominational and age appropriate.





Cafe of Life

Pelican Sound Host:
Valerie Schaefer

Cafe of Life Executive Director:
Jeff Nichols: caringsharing@serving@cafeoflife.org cafeoflife.org 239-495-9325

Our clients are 90% working poor, mostly Hispanic families, and 10% are homeless. They are single mothers with preschoolers, unemployed day laborers, professionals who may have been a part of downsizing, or persons simply experiencing extreme financial difficulties.

We are not interested in why they have come to us – only that we demonstrate a “caring, sharing, and serving” response to their needs. We serve from 80 to 120 clients each day. In 2021, we served over 21,000 meals.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the Café of Life. Without them we could not survive. People just like you – concerned that in a “society of plenty” there are those who face each day without the most basic of human needs. In essence, these volunteers “care, share and serve” their fellow man!





Conservancy of Southwest Florida

Pelican Sound Host:
Pam Starr

Conservancy of Southwest Florida Membership and Volunteer Coordinator:

James Kintz: JamesK@conservancy.org

conservancy.org

239-403-4212

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida was founded in 1964 by a small group of concerned citizens fighting to protect the natural beauty of our region. For nearly 60 years, the Conservancy has been a leading environmental advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the water, land, wildlife and future of our five-county area.

Today the Conservancy is one of Florida's largest and most respected environmental organizations. Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Conservancy. The Conservancy of Southwest Florida thanks our dedicated volunteers who have provided well over \$1-million in service to the Conservancy during the past year alone.

A variety of fun volunteer opportunities are available.





Estero Historical Society

Pelican Sound Host:
Diana Ferriter

Estero Historical Society:
Roslyn Gula: roslyn.gula@gmail.com EsteroHistoricalSociety@gmail.com 239-272-1911

The Estero area of SWFL is rich in history, and over the last 5 years the Historical Society has provided an Estero Area historical experience for over 3000 visitors. This includes children, summer campers, adults, civic groups, and business groups.

Our purpose is to provide a capability for the greater Estero community to experience history through docent tours of the cottage and schoolhouse, interactive touchscreens, displays of artifacts, events, and documentation of early Estero history.

The Estero Historical Society is a non-profit organization that depends entirely on volunteers to accomplish its work. Over the last 5 years Society volunteers put in over 10,000 hours to run the all-volunteer society.





Friends of Koreshan State Park

Pelican Sound Host:

Pat Sias

Friends of Koreshan State Park:

Jennifer Grow: jennifer.grow@floridadep.gov friendsofkoreshan.org 239-707-8102

Friends of Koreshan State Park is dedicated to the protection and enhancement of historic, environmental and recreational resources of Koreshan State Park for present and future generations. The Friends serves as the Citizens Support Organization (CSO) for the park. Our fundraising activities support the park through work projects, programs, events, restoration of historic buildings and landscapes, outreach programs, historical exhibits, guided tours, and interpretive programs.

Give your time: Volunteer to work at Koreshan State park. Positions are available for a wide variety of interests and expertise.





Guardian Ad Litem Foundation

Pelican Sound Host:
Susan Carter

Guardian Ad Litem Foundation Executive Director:
Jessica Stanfield: jstanfield@galfoundation20.org voicesforkids.org 239-533-1435

The Guardian Ad Litem Foundation (GAL) is a non-profit agency which includes Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. Our mission is to assure that every abused, neglected or abandoned child in Southwest Florida may be paired with a GAL volunteer advocate whose role is to represent the best interests of the child until a safe, permanent placement can be achieved.

We serve more than 1200 children annually through over 520 active volunteer child advocates.

Volunteer Child Advocates are everyday citizens trained and court certified to represent the best interests of these children in court, school, the child welfare system, and the community.

Each volunteer is trained and supported by staff trained in social service and legal areas of expertise.





Gulf Coast Humane Society

Pelican Sound Host:
Vicki Plank

Gulf Coast Humane Society Volunteer Coordinator:
Jessica Purdy: volunteers@gulfcoasthumane.org gulfcoasthumane.org 239-332-0364

The Gulf Coast Humane Society is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, no-kill, animal welfare organization serving Southwest Florida for more than 75 years. Our mission is to provide humane care for surrendered animals by offering refuge, providing medical care, and facilitating an adoptive home. Each year we take in more than 3,000 animals in need of compassionate care.

The talents of our generous volunteers help keep our doors open. Volunteers are actively involved in the general care of the animals including walking/exercising, socializing, grooming, and cleaning kennels. Volunteers are also involved in special projects, events, humane education, offsite outreach programs and in-home foster care.





Habitat for Humanity

Pelican Sound Host:
Gary Privett

Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Coordinator:
Jordin Forgays: jordinf@habitat4humanity.org habitat4humanity.org 239-652-1684

For the past 40 years, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties has provided a pathway to affordable homeownership for more than 1700 low-income families. As a private non-profit, Habitat brings together donors, volunteers, and community leaders to generate the support needed to address the critical need for affordable housing.

You can volunteer with Habitat by working on construction sites building new homes, or rehabbing existing homes. Volunteers also work at one of our four ReStore locations, assisting with placing new items on the floor.

No prior experience is necessary to lend a helping hand!





**Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL

**Pelican Sound Host:
Gwen Swanger**

**Harry Chapin Food Bank of SWFL Volunteer Manager:
Lori Harrington: lharrington@harrychapinfoodbank.org**

harrychapinfoodbank.org 239-334-7007

Harry Chapin Food Bank is the largest hunger-relief nonprofit and the only Feeding America member in Southwest Florida, serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. We rescue and distribute donated food and other grocery products through our food distribution programs, feeding more than a quarter of a million people who are hungry each month!

Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida needs you! Individuals looking to volunteer need to complete the volunteer application online. There are two locations where food is sorted, inspected and packaged for distribution on weekdays and Saturday mornings.

Volunteers may also work handing out food directly to those in need.





Hearts and Homes for Veterans

Pelican Sound Host:
Philip Nassar

Hearts and Homes for Veterans Vice President:
Tom Donoghue: tdonoghue@hhveterans.com

hhveterans.com

239-674-1719

Hearts and Homes for Veterans, Inc. is a Florida nonprofit corporation that was created in 2013. Its purpose is to support homeless veterans and their families who find themselves without the necessities of everyday life. Hearts and Homes for Veterans is committed to empowering these veterans to lift themselves out of poverty and then, in turn, reach back and help other veterans to do the same.

As we develop and grow, volunteers are needed for transportation services, handyman and light building maintenance, assistance at fundraising events, assistance with job searches, moving furniture to veterans homes, picking up donated items, and many other services. In addition, there is a great need for pro-bono medical and dental services, as well as legal, realtor and contractor advisory services.



Pelican Sound Host:
Sheila Barsky

Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center Development and Membership Specialist:
Tim Morrison: tim@hmcec.org hmcec.org 239-263-9200

The mission of the museum is to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to inspire action against bigotry, hatred, and violence. This is done through displaying artifacts and photographs which tell the individual stories within the larger history of the Holocaust; providing educational programs and activities to students at all grade levels; and presenting general public programs and exhibits that highlight elements of our collection and stories related to the Holocaust and other genocides.

Volunteers play an extremely important role in the operation of the Holocaust Museum & Cohen Education Center and its programs. The Museum relies on volunteer support, donations and membership to carry out its mission.





Hope Healthcare

Pelican Sound Host:
Linda Clemons

Hope Healthcare Volunteer Coordinator:
Julie Golden: julie.golden@hopehcs.org

hopehcs.org

239-444-4140

Hope Healthcare is an award-winning, not-for-profit organization nationally recognized as a leader in providing comprehensive, coordinated care. Although we are best known for our Hope Hospice program, we also have a variety of supportive services to help people of all ages, including children, who are facing physical and emotional challenges while living with serious illness. With our help, families, caregivers, and loved ones can receive support to live each day to the fullest.

Our vision for the future is to transform the experiences of illness, aging, and dying into opportunities to live well. Hope has grown to a comprehensive health care system helping more than 3,000 people a day.

Do you have a caring heart and time to share? Volunteers are essential to our important work. They make a difference in the lives of thousands of individuals.





Interfaith Charities

Pelican Sound Host:

Jane Woolbert

Interfaith Charities of South Lee :

Kim Varano: kim@icslee.org

icslee.org

239-267-3510

Interfaith Charities of South Lee (ICSL) is a community service organization serving the residents of South Fort Myers, Estero, and San Carlos Park. We're open Monday – Saturday, from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. We're located at 17592 Rockefeller Circle in San Carlos Park.

Our mission is to feed the hungry and provide help and hope for those in need. The food pantry is a program. Both perishable and shelf-stable items are donated by local merchants, HOAs, church food drives, and individuals. We also receive food from the Harry Chapin Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank. A grant from United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee funds our financial assistance program that pays utility bills for clients and offers free tax preparation services through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Volunteers are needed in the food pantry for a variety of jobs including pantry workers, client Intake volunteers, baggers, runners, and store pickup volunteers.





Junior Achievement of SWFL

Pelican Sound Host:
Sue Sawchuk

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida Education Coordinator:

Danielle Freeman: dfreeman@jaswfl.org

southwestflorida.ja.org

239-225-2590

Junior Achievement's mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. The inspiration piece comes from community volunteers who not only deliver our lessons, but share their experiences. In the process, these volunteers serve as role models helping to positively impact young people's perceptions about the importance of education, as well as critical life skills. Our proven lessons promote financial capability, work and career readiness, and business ownership.

Junior Achievement's 247,350 classroom volunteers come from all walks of life, including business people, college students, parents and retirees. These dedicated individuals are the backbone of our organization.





Laces of Love

Pelican Sound Host:
Sandy Reeves

Laces of Love Board of Directors:
Bette Russo: br46@comcast.net

lacesoflove.org

239-495-1954

Realizing kids were sharing shoes in our community in SWFL, my sister and I started to collect new shoes and deliver them to needy kids at local schools. Over 150,000 new shoes later, with a volunteer board of directors, and countless volunteers and supporters, Laces of Love has been able to help many needy children one pair of shoes at a time. ~ Jeanne Nealon, Co-founder and President.

Over 60% of Collier County and 70% of Lee County public school students are designated "economically needy." The children who receive Laces of Love shoes are among these kids. Incorporated in 2005, Laces of Love has outfitted over 200,000 needy kids in Southwest Florida with NEW shoes. New sneakers and monetary donations, 100% of which are used to purchase shoes unless otherwise designated, are extremely important and gratefully accepted.





Lee Health Volunteer Services

Pelican Sound Host:

Al Hauer

Lee Health Volunteer Coordinator:

Susie Martini: Susie.k.martini@leehealth.org leehealth.org/for-volunteers 239-343-2409

Share your time, get inspired, and make a difference!

Our volunteers touch many lives in many different ways. They greet you with a warm welcome, treat you with compassion and bring you comfort. Volunteers serve our patients, families, and staff with great devotion – whether it's answering questions, clerical help, helping locate services, manning the gift shop, or interacting with patients.

Whatever your talents, interests or skills, a volunteer position is available for you at Cape Coral Hospital in Cape Coral, Gulf Coast Medical Center in South Fort Myers, Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, HealthPark Medical Center in South Fort Myers, or Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.





Literacy Council Gulf Coast

Pelican Sound Host:
Donna Wilbur

Literacy Council Gulf Coast President and CEO:
Susan Schad: susan@literacygulfcoast.org

literacygulfcoast.org

239-676-5202

The Literacy Council Gulf Coast is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization committed to improving English language and reading skills of adults and children throughout Southwest Florida. The Literacy Council provides free instruction for adults in reading and writing, and in English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

We offer 'Moms and Tots Family Literacy' for mothers and their young children and 'Kids + Lifelong Learning' for parents in Title I schools. Additionally, we offer work-site literacy programs at local gated communities. Our program serves residents of Bonita Springs, San Carlos Park, Estero, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Cape Coral, Sanibel & Naples.

We need dedicated and motivated volunteers who want to help change a life. Sharing the gift of English with a motivated student brings satisfaction to both tutor and student.





Meals On Wheels of Lee County

Pelican Sound Host:
Tina Greene

Community Cooperative Volunteer Services Coordinator:
Janelle McVay: janelle@communitycooperative.com communitycooperative.com (239) 337-1055

The mission of Community Cooperative is to eliminate hunger and homelessness in Lee County while simultaneously inspiring and supporting sustained positive change in its clients by delivering innovative food, education, and social service programs.

The following is a short list of our volunteer experiences:

- *Sam's Community Café and Kitchen: Assist with prep of meals for the Meals on Wheels deliveries.*
- *Community Market: Stock shelves, distribute groceries, and help customers shop.*
- *Able Garden: Planting, weeding, harvesting, and more.*
- *Mobile Pantries: Set up tables and food, and distribute groceries.*
- *Meals on Wheels Driver: Deliver a hot, nutritious, and well-balanced meal to elderly, ill, or disabled clients unable to shop or prepare their own food.*





Naples Therapeutic Riding Center

Pelican Sound Host:
Sue Lottridge

Naples Therapeutic Riding Center Volunteer Manager:
Amy Burrell-Cormier: volunteermanager@ntrc.org naplestherapeuticridingcenter.org 239-596-2988

The mission of Naples Therapeutic Riding Center is to improve the lives of children and adults with physical, social and mental health needs through therapeutic riding and other equine-related programs.

NTRC delivers safe and highly effective equine assisted therapeutic programs, achieving measurable results for nearly 800 individuals (ages 4-82) with special needs annually. Last year, 69% of those we served were children and youth age 21+ under. NTRC is widely acknowledged as a leading equine therapeutic service provider. With the help of our caring and professional team, and our dedicated and highly trained group of 350+ volunteers, we typically offer 12,000+ hours of service annually.

We are honored to have you explore the possibility of becoming a volunteer.





Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens

Pelican Sound Host:
Ann Ripp

Naples Zoo Volunteer Coordinator:
Jessica Deering: volunteer@napleszoo.org

napleszoo.org

239-262-5409 x136

There are many ways for you to get involved at the Naples Zoo!

Volunteers assist with many important jobs, including educating guests about the amazing animals, preparing diets behind the scenes, assisting guests at the boat dock, tending the garden, looking after guest safety and enjoyment, helping with events, and much more.

While volunteering you will have the opportunity to learn, make new friends, and help the plants and animals. We are looking for individuals who can devote at least 4 hours a week. Seasonal volunteers are welcome if they are in the area for 3 months a year. If here less than that, can still help with events.

Apply today and join our wildly fun team of nature lovers!





New Horizons of Southwest Florida

Pelican Sound Host:
Pat Becker

New Horizons of Southwest Florida President:
Charlotte Nal: charlotte@newhorizonsofswfl.org

newhorizonsofswfl.org 239-948-4146

New Horizons of SWFL's mission is to empower under-resourced youth to reach their full potential through tutoring, mentoring and faith-building. It is our vision to see all at-risk youth complete high school with a plan for the future to become contributing members of society. New Horizons provides after school tutoring, mentoring and character building support to qualified students at our trusted neighborhood clubs throughout Lee and Collier counties. From Monday-Thursday throughout the school year, K-12 students attend a club near, at no cost to students or their families.

Every day volunteers make a direct impact in the lives of hundreds of students in our community. As a volunteer-driven organization, New Horizons accepts and encourages volunteer involvement at all levels of the organization.





Our Mother's Home

Pelican Sound Host:
Linda Stypulkowski

Our Mother's Home Executive Director :

Alicia Miller: alicia@ourmothershome.org ourmothershome.org 239-267-4663

As a privatized 501(c)(3) organization, Our Mother's Home raises 50 – 60% of its own funding, to provide teen moms a supporting environment to stay with their children, learn life skills, and finish their education. We depend heavily on our dedicated volunteers, contributions of funds, commodities and services. Our success rate has generated great interest among those interested in decreasing the rate of children in foster care.

Our Mother's Home provides a safe and nurturing environment for young moms (ages 11-21) in foster care and their babies. This unique home is the only one of its kind in Southwest Florida to provide service to break the cycle one teen at a time.

We are always in need of volunteers who want to help with the daily needs of our young mothers and their children, as well as enrich their lives, adding to their growth and learning experience.





United Way Volunteer Center

United Way of Lee,
Hendry, and Glades

Pelican Sound Host:
Terese Helberg

United Way Volunteer Center Manager:
Christine Loconte: volunteer@unitedwaylee.org unitedwaylee.org/ (239) 433-7567

The United Way Volunteer Center creates connections to volunteer opportunities and individuals, families, businesses, and groups to help serve the community. In addition to our in-house programs, we also work in collaboration with local agencies and organizations on special projects, events, and initiatives throughout the year.

Volunteers are needed for the Days of Caring Program, Reading Pals Program, Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, Beesley's Paw Print Program (pet therapy), and WeCare Program. Both short-term and long-term (1 day through year-long) projects are available. Opportunities may include assistance with blood drives, food distributions, gift wrapping, school resource centers, tax preparation, etc.



Thank You!



... to all involved in making this year's Volunteer Fair event possible, particularly those who served as committee members and as hosts.

... to the organizations and their representatives for sharing their knowledge about the many needs for volunteers in our area. The work you do is so important.

... to the Pelican Sound management & staff. You are appreciated for all you do.

... to all those who attended. We hope this Volunteer Fair has given YOU the opportunity to learn more about charities in our area, and that you will consider volunteering at a charity of your choice.

Please consider supporting the Pelican Sound Charitable Foundation

~ Making A Difference Together ~

MAKE A MONETARY DONATION

- Individual Direct Donation (cash, check or credit card)
- Bequests
- IRA Required Minimum Distribution
- Donor Advised Funds
- Gift of Security Transfer

PARTICIPATE IN AN EVENT

- Spooktacular Golf Tournament – Saturday, October 22, 2022
- Volunteer Fair – Saturday, January 14, 2023
- Scavenger Hunt – Sunday, March 19, 2023
- Grants Award Ceremony – TBD, April 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO

- www.pelicansoundgrc.com/charitable-foundation

