

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Ocala / Marion County

2024
IMPACT
REPORT

Building A Stronger Community... ONE PASSION AT A TIME

Message From

FRANK & LAUREN

Frank Hennessey

Chairman

Lauren DeIorio

President & Executive Director

Thanks to donors like you, and the exceptional work of our staff and Board, The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County continues to grow in both giving and impact.

Throughout our history, the Foundation has awarded more than \$9.9 million in grants and in 2024, we experienced another remarkable year, receiving \$3 million in gifts and distributing \$2.5 million in grants to nonprofits. This year's 5th annual Give4Marion raised over \$3 million for more than 130 local nonprofits. This achievement brings the total raised through Give4Marion to more than \$6 million since its inception in 2020. These milestones reflect our ongoing commitment to creating meaningful and lasting impact in improving the lives of people in our communities.

As Marion County's philanthropic hub, the Foundation plays a critical role in strengthening the nonprofit sector and supporting countless individuals and families. This annual Impact Report offers a glimpse into the Foundation's achievements and showcases the remarkable work of our grantees and partners. It serves as a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together when we unite to address our community's needs.

A key focus over the past year has been legacy gifts through planned giving. Legacy gifts are an important way for individuals to leave a lasting impact on their community and support causes that are near and dear to their hearts. By encouraging individuals to include the Community Foundation in their estate plans, we can build a strong foundation for the future and donors can ensure that their philanthropic goals will continue to be met for generations to come.

Our mission cannot be accomplished without all of us contributing our strengths and passions. Whether you're an advocate for education, a champion for the homeless population, or simply just someone who cares deeply about the wellbeing of our community, there is a role for you in shaping our community's future. We hope this impact report inspires you to continue to partner with us on your philanthropic journey. Thank you again for your partnership and commitment to ensuring Marion County is a place where everyone thrives...now and for years to come!



\$9.9 MILLION
In Grants

\$3 MILLION
In Gifts

\$2.5 MILLION
To Nonprofits

\$3+ MILLION
Give4Marion

Executive Committee & Board



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NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE ACADEMY

In 2024, the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County launched the "Nonprofit Excellence Academy" through its Nonprofit Resource Center. With the rapid population growth in Marion County and an increasing demand for human services, local nonprofits are estimated to serve over 100,000 residents, a number that continues to rise significantly. Many of these nonprofits are small organizations with budgets under \$150,000. Alarming, a recent study by Zippia Research reveals that only 50% of nonprofits possess the tools needed for success, and 30% are projected to close within the next decade.

The Nonprofit Excellence Academy was designed to address these challenges by focusing on leadership and professional development at all organizational levels. It equips nonprofits with the skills and resources needed to thrive, ensuring they can continue meeting the needs of Marion County's growing community.



Below are the 2024 Nonprofit Excellence Academy Graduates:

- Ambleside Ocala
- Boys and Girls Club
- Break Barriers
- Brother's Keeper
- Circle Up Center for Practical Peacebuilding
- The Rock Program
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- Frank Deluca YMCA
- HIS Compassion
- Humane Society of Marion County
- Interfaith Emergency Services
- Kimberly's Center for Child Protection
- Love INC Heart of Florida
- Marion County Children's Alliance
- Marion County Literacy Council
- Marion Cultural Alliance
- Marion Senior Services
- Marion Therapeutic Riding Association
- NAMI Marion County
- New Direction Reentry Center of Marion
- Open Arms Village
- Project Hope of Marion County
- Saving Mercy
- Transitions Life Center
- VOCAL
- Wear Gloves
- Xtreme Solutions
- Your Empowerment Center



28
Nonprofit Organization
Participants

22
Courses In
The Academy

11,600
Number of
Residents Impacted





FUND MANAGEMENT

The Community Foundation of Marion County plays a vital role in managing funds for donors and nonprofits, providing a centralized platform for impactful giving. As a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization, the Foundation offers individuals, families, and organizations expert investment management, administrative support, and local community insight to ensure their contributions achieve maximum impact. By establishing charitable funds, donors can efficiently direct their giving to causes they care about while benefiting from potential tax advantages.

The Foundation's fund management services also support nonprofit agencies in building permanent endowments, enabling long-term sustainability and growth. Additionally, it facilitates scholarships and grantmaking initiatives that address community needs and improve the quality of life in Marion County. Through its expertise and dedication, the Foundation empowers donors and nonprofits to create lasting change, aligning their passions with meaningful opportunities to strengthen the local community.

MARION COUNTY SHERIFF'S FOUNDATION

The Marion County Sheriff's Office Foundation Fund plays a vital role in supporting the Marion County Sheriff's Office. Since its inception in 2008, the Foundation has been instrumental in raising funds to provide essential equipment for our volunteers and various divisions within the Sheriff's Office.



"We want to help give back to the community we serve through our many initiatives, such as the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch, our K-9s, and our Mounted Unit, all of which are funded by generous donations from local members of the community. Through these funds, we hope to directly connect with the public to help fight crime, maintain peace, and create a meaningful impact together. We are deeply thankful to the Community Foundation for their guidance and efforts, which allow us to serve in so many ways."

— Lieutenant Paul Bloom, Marion County Sheriff's Office

AMBLESIDE SCHOOL

Ambleside School of Ocala is an independent, not-for-profit Christian school that provides a "living education" to its students in Kindergarten to 12th grade. They seek to cultivate a love for learning and care for others while interacting with a curriculum based in literature, art, music, and "the majesty of creation."



"The Community Foundation has been an invaluable partner to Ambleside School. During Give4Marion, their dedicated support helped us exceed our expectations in raising much-needed funding. The Nonprofit Excellence Academy provided our team with resources and training that go beyond what any Master's program in nonprofit work could offer. Their grant services, and expert guidance inspired us to apply our newly learned skills to successfully secure grants. The foundation's wide range of tools has saved us both time and money, allowing us to focus on fulfilling our mission every day. Without their unwavering support and partnership, we wouldn't be where we are today."

— Jill Romaine, Principal, Ambleside School

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

Since 1954, FCA has been dedicated to challenging coaches and athletes at every level—professional, collegiate, high school, junior high, and youth—to leverage the powerful platform of sports to share the life-changing message of Jesus Christ.

In Marion County, FCA is committed to serving our local community by engaging, equipping, and empowering coaches and athletes to make an eternal impact. Through the gospel, FCA inspires unity, builds faith, and empowers individuals to bring positive change to their teams, schools, and the world.



"The Community Foundation has been an incredible blessing to FCA Marion County. By providing us with office space and technical support, they've given us the tools we need to focus on our mission of impacting lives for Christ. Their support has allowed us to grow and serve our community more effectively, and we're deeply grateful for their partnership."

— John "Beef" Branard, FCA Metro Director

MARION COUNTY MEMORIAL HONOR GUARD

The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard is dedicated to promoting American values, dignity, and respect for our nation's warriors by maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in their conduct and appearance.

The Honor Guard takes pride in providing ceremonial funeral honors and support to military veterans and their families during times of need, as well as delivering patriotic services upon request. Currently, they perform nearly four memorial services per week, all offered free of charge.



"The Community Foundation has been a cornerstone of support for the Marion County Memorial Honor Guard. Their guidance and assistance have empowered us to stay true to our mission of promoting American values, dignity, and respect for our nation's warriors. By helping us navigate resources and expand our outreach, they've allowed us to continue providing free ceremonial funeral honors and patriotic services with the highest standards of professionalism and integrity. Thanks to their partnership, we're able to honor over four veterans each week and serve their families with the respect they deserve."

— Stephen Petty, President of The Marion County Memorial Honor Guard

GRANTS DISTRIBUTED SINCE 2012

\$9.9 MILLION

GRANTS DISTRIBUTED IN 2024

\$2.5 MILLION

TOTAL ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT

\$7.9 MILLION

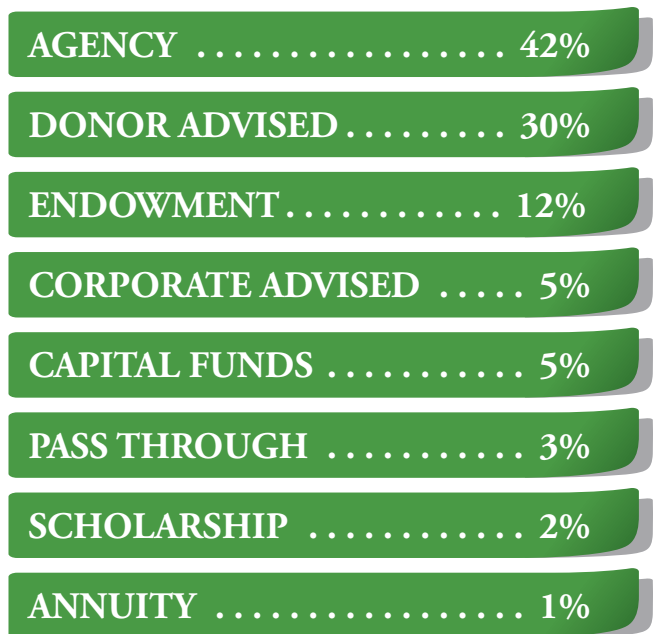
INCREASE IN ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT IN 2024

15%

FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT

140

BREAKDOWN OF TYPES OF FUNDS:





GRANT SERVICES

Sustainability is the biggest threat to nonprofit organizations, especially those that are small and medium size. Grants can provide long-term, sustainable funding that enables organizations to grow both programming and infrastructure. In 2019, The Community Foundation reached out to the nonprofit community and found that many nonprofit organizations were not applying for grant funding and only 2% had a professional grant writer on staff. For this reason, the Community Foundation of Ocala/Marion County is focused on helping nonprofit organizations with the foundational pieces to build capacity and sustainability through Grant Services.

We offer nonprofits a variety of ways to get started; our grant readiness course, grant research through scans, grant writing & reviews, as well as environmental scans.



THE ROCK PROGRAM

Thanks to the invaluable skills and tools provided during the Foundation's grant readiness workshop, including the Grant Scan, The Rock staff has written and successfully secured 7 grants in 2024 totaling \$99,500! This funding made a huge impact. Funds assisted with the launch of The Rolling Rock Truck, visiting 9 community locations like Pace Center for Girls and Phoenix House, and expanded The Rock to more middle and high schools making them more efficient in delivering essential services where they are needed most. Funds also helped expand The Rock's staff and strengthen their mission to serve more youth and communities, laying the foundation for even bigger initiatives in 2025!

STATISTICS

38 Nonprofits participated in month-long grant readiness workshop

47 Nonprofit grant scans completed

FORT KING HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Through the guidance and support of the Foundation's Grants Team and opportunities identified and presented through the Grant Scan, Fort King Heritage Foundation has been awarded \$10,000 to bring history to life at the Festival at Fort King. This two-day event in December 2024 invited the community to step into the 1800s with historic-themed crafts, games, workshops, activities, living historians, vendors, food, drinks, and much more. The highlight of the festival was an engaging reenactment of the event that fueled the start of the Second Seminole War. This festival is a way to preserve history and enrich our local community.



THE CITY OF OCALA

The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion is proud to partner with the City of Ocala to address key community needs. By working closely with City Departments and utilizing the Grant Scan, funding opportunities were uncovered that align with their vision. These options were evaluated to ensure they are practical and impactful and then submitted applications to secure the necessary resources to turn ideas into action. Projects include partnerships with Community Services to support affordable housing, Parks and Recreation to enhance public spaces, and Ocala Fire and Rescue to secure critical equipment and develop outreach programs. Successes like the \$133,000 formula grant for streetlight upgrades with Ocala Electric, where the Community Foundation provided support in completing the application, highlighting the power of collaboration in action. This partnership continues to demonstrate how working together makes a lasting difference in meeting the needs of Ocala residents.



247 Hours of technical support were provided to nonprofits

256 Unique grant opportunities identified and presented to nonprofits for their specific needs

Building A Stronger Community...
ONE PASSION AT A TIME



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Community foundations are a powerful force for positive change, bringing people together to face challenges, share dreams, and build solutions. With compassion and dedication, they unite neighbors, businesses, nonprofits, and governments to create stronger and more connected communities. Our work inspires hope, strengthens bonds, and opens doors to new opportunities. By addressing local needs and fostering a sense of belonging, the Community Foundation helps to create brighter futures filled with possibility and purpose for everyone. Below are a few community initiatives the Community Foundation supported in 2024.

A HOME FOR A HERO

The "A Home for a Hero" initiative in Marion County, supported by Pedro R. Interian, founder of Capris Furniture, and his sons, have provided a deserving military veteran with a new home. Partnering with C4 Construction and the Housing Finance Authority of Marion County, the family has donated \$30,000 toward the home's construction in Rainbow Springs. This meaningful project honors veterans' service while encouraging the community to join in supporting those who have sacrificed for their country.



FEEDING THE FEARLESS

At the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion, we are proud to support initiatives like Feeding the Fearless, a program that embodies the heart of our community. This initiative is dedicated to providing meals to first responders and frontline workers across Marion County, our firefighters, paramedics, police officers, and healthcare professionals who work tirelessly to keep us safe. What makes this effort truly special is the collaboration behind it. Many of our local nonprofits generously lend their time to help prepare and deliver meals directly to fire stations, hospitals, and emergency facilities. It's a powerful reminder of what we can accomplish together when our community comes together to show gratitude and care for those who give so much to us.



WEST OCALA TOUR

The City of Ocala hosted a tour of West Ocala, inviting Community Foundation board members & selected community leaders to explore the area's needs and uncover opportunities for revitalization. The tour highlighted key challenges such as infrastructure improvements, housing, and access to resources, while also showcasing the neighborhood's rich history, potential, and resilience.



ADAM HANSON YOUTH PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

Our Adam Hanson Youth Philanthropy in Action (YPIA) program is an educational initiative aimed at teaching middle school students the value of philanthropy and how they can impact their community from a young age. Hosted one day per week for six weeks, the program is facilitated by Community Foundation Staff, with assistance from NonProfit Business Council (NPBC) Steering Committee Steering Committee Members, and local volunteers. It explores the history of philanthropy, the roles of different societal sectors (nonprofit, for-profit, government), and helps students discover their passions and understand community needs. Students, grouped by shared interests, develop "case for support" presentations for local charities, resulting in the allocation of a \$500 donation.



SINCE 2012

2,364

Participating Students

106

Classes Taught

\$53,000

Grant Awards To Nonprofits

IN 2024

266

Participating Students

15

Participating Public & Private Schools

22

Total Classes Taught

PARTICIPATING STUDENTS SAID

87% of students learned more about their community

81% of students discovered their personal passions

79% of students expressed interest in volunteering



SHARE THE LOVE

Launched in 2020 to support Marion County's frontline workers and first responders during the height of the pandemic, the Share the Love program has grown into a cherished annual tradition. Held the week of Valentine's Day, this heartfelt initiative brings together local businesses, community leaders, and organizations to express gratitude for those who serve our community tirelessly.

Each year, participants visit every Fire Station both City and County, EMS station, 911 Call Center, AdventHealth and HCA Hospitals, The Heart of Florida, and Free-Standing Emergency Room in Marion County. Highlights of the event include thoughtful gestures like Chick-fil-A delivering cookies, ensuring these heroes feel appreciated for their dedication and service.



BACK TO SCHOOL

Since its inception in 2019, the Back to School Community Giveback has played a vital role in preparing over 6,000 students in Marion County for academic success. Founded by The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion, AdventHealth Ocala, and Marion County Public Schools, the program has distributed more than 30,000 backpacks filled with essential school supplies.

Initially held at a single location, the initiative expanded to nine locations by 2024, significantly increasing its reach to serve diverse communities and cities across the county. This effort has been made possible through the support of major partners, including The Rock, Stuff the Bus, Adam Hanson Better Communities Fund, Panzer Medicine, Team Cone, Ausley Construction, The Boyd Group, Heart of Florida, Gill Logistics, and His Compassion.

Additionally, an inclusive school supply drive launched by The Community Foundation supports over 40 nonprofit organizations, ensuring resources reach a wide range of students. This includes public school students, special needs programs, homeschoolers, foster care programs, homeless students, and those in after-school programs. The Back-to-School Community Giveback continues to grow, demonstrating its lasting impact on Marion County's children and families.





INSPIRE GALA

The Inspire Gala, hosted by The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County, celebrates the transformative power of philanthropy and highlights the incredible work of local nonprofits. Launched as an annual tradition, the gala serves as a platform to honor outstanding individuals, businesses, and organizations that have significantly impacted the community through charitable giving and service. Over the years, the event has evolved into a cornerstone for uniting community leaders, donors, and nonprofit professionals, fostering collaboration and inspiration. The evening showcases powerful stories of change, highlights innovative initiatives, and raises vital funds to support the foundation's mission. The Inspire Gala is more than an event, it's a testament to the community's commitment to creating a brighter, more connected future for Ocala/Marion County.

Unsung Hero of The Year: R.J. Jenkins

Youth Philanthropists of The Year: Aubryn Barnes & Sean Martin

Corporate Partner of The Year: Marion County Hospital District

Emerging NonProfit of The Year: Arts in Health Ocala Metro

NonProfit of The Year: The Rock Program

Philanthropists of The Year: Brandon and Diannah Perry

Board Member of The Year: Danielle Marciano

Frank Martin Hennessey Legacy Award: Frank DeLuca





GIVE4MARION



In five years, Give4Marion has grown exponentially, raising over \$3 million in 2024, compared to \$310,000 in its first year. This 33-hour giving event supports Marion County nonprofits, combining online donations, prizes, and donor matches. Starting as a pandemic response, it has become a vital fundraiser, connecting nonprofits to donors and volunteers. Last year, nonprofits benefited from small contributions amplified through matching opportunities, reflecting the community's growing generosity and support.



TOTAL RAISED SINCE 2020 \$6,061,123

2020

Raised \$310,884
Donors..... 1,154
Gifts..... 1,592
Nonprofits..... 81

Inaugural

2021

Raised \$532,348
Donors..... 2,269
Gifts..... 3,253
Nonprofits..... 75

+ 71%

2022

Raised \$771,075
Donors..... 2,606
Gifts..... 3,787
Nonprofits..... 87

+ 45%

2023

Raised ... \$1,427,333
Donors..... 3,840
Gifts..... 5,762
Nonprofits..... 103

+ 82%

2024

Raised \$3,019,483
Individual Donors 5,384
New Donors..... 2,426
Gifts..... 7,816
Nonprofits..... 133

+ 111%




ESTATE

PLANNING COUNCIL of MARION COUNTY

Established in 1986 and incorporated into the Community Foundation in 2018, the Estate Planning Council of Marion County connects accountants, attorneys, financial advisors, and other estate planning professionals. With over 40 members, the Council fosters collaboration and professional development through quarterly meetings, social events, and educational resources. Administered by the Community Foundation and guided by a volunteer Executive Board of estate planning experts, the Council offers a platform for networking and sharing best practices.



NONPROFIT

BUSINESS COUNCIL

The NonProfit Business Council (NPBC), founded 13 years ago under the Chamber & Economic Partnership (CEP), transitioned to the management of the Community Foundation in 2016, sparking significant growth. Committed to showcasing the economic contributions of nonprofits, the NPBC focuses on strengthening their leadership, fundraising, board development, staff training, and compliance efforts. It also promotes collaboration and offers philanthropic education. Today, the Council represents a network of 178 nonprofit organizations, guided by a diverse steering committee of sector leaders.



Number of Members 42

MEMBERS BY CATEGORY

Attorney	26%
CPA	17%
Trust Officer	15%
Financial Advisor	15%
Registered Investment Advisor	12%
Certified Financial Planner	10%
Other	5%



Number of Nonprofit Members 178

ANNUAL BUDGET SIZE

\$0-\$249,000	58%
\$1,000,000 and higher	23%
\$250,000-\$499,999	10%
\$500,000-\$999,999	7%

NONPROFITS BY CATEGORY

Human Services	38%
Education & Research	17%
Animals & Environment	13%
Health	11%
Public/Society Benefit	8%
Arts & Culture	6%
Religious	6%
Other (including those not specified and affiliate members)	1%



COMMUNITY FUND

The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County established the Community Fund to provide donors with a way to support broad community needs and make a meaningful impact. This financial resource is dedicated to addressing the immediate and ongoing challenges facing Marion County residents. The fund specifically focuses on Disaster & Crisis Relief, Housing & Homelessness, and Mental Health & Substance Abuse, ensuring that critical issues receive the necessary attention and funding. As an unrestricted fund, contributions come directly from local citizens, businesses, and neighboring communities, guaranteeing that all donations remain within Marion County to benefit its residents.

The Community Fund is overseen by an Advisory Board comprised of key members from various community agencies, ensuring that resources are allocated efficiently and responsibly to meet both present and future needs. By investing in this fund, donors help strengthen self-sufficiency, foster community-driven development, and promote overall well-being. This initiative empowers Marion County to take control of its challenges, bringing people together to create lasting change. Through the Community Fund, residents and businesses alike can contribute to a stronger, more resilient community, reinforcing the bonds that unite them while addressing critical local issues with immediate and strategic solutions.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COMMUNITY FUND

Scan To Visit Our Website





In 2024, The Pillar Society continues to unite visionary philanthropists dedicated to strengthening Marion County through the Community Foundation. These leaders address pressing community needs while inspiring solutions that enhance quality of life.

For the past decade, Stan and Martha Hanson have been pillars of generosity within The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County. Their dedication began with The Adam Hanson Better Communities Fund, established in 2007, which later evolved into the Adam Hanson Youth Philanthropy in Action Program in 2020. In 2024, they expanded their philanthropic legacy by introducing The Love Israel Foundation USA Fund. Guided by a giving philosophy centered on education, healthcare, libraries, and parks, their efforts have impacted children in Marion County and beyond.

“Our focus is to contribute to not only youth, but children of the world of all ages. We weren’t blessed with grandchildren, so we have chosen to adopt the children of the world,” Mr. Hanson shares.

Stan’s hands-on involvement, particularly during Guest Philanthropist days, inspires countless students. Their enduring generosity has helped the Foundation prioritize impactful giving, transforming lives and leaving a lasting legacy of hope.

LISTED ARE THEIR TOTAL COMMITTED CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 2021.

\$40,000 AND ABOVE

- Stan & Martha Hanson
- Frank & Carol Hennessey
- Robert Reilly
- Diane Palmer

\$7,000 – \$9,999

- Angie Lewis
- Zinnia Wealth

\$3,000 – \$6,999

\$10,000 – \$39,999

- Rusty Branson
- Thad & Julie Boyd
- William & Cynthia Chambers
- Jane Fontaine
- Jim Hillebrandt
- David Midgett
- Jim & Melodee Schneider
- Chester Weber
- Dr. Tony & Lauren Delorio
- Harvey Vandeven
- Team Cone
- Frank & Angela DeLuca

\$3,000 – \$6,999

- Joseph & Susan Gilliland
- Dr. Rahul Razdan
- Michael Gill
- Peter & Penny Vilella
- Ben & Danielle Marciano
- Gold’s Gym
- Michael Siboni
- Tom O’Mara
- ProTech Solutions
- S & P Accounting



IMPACT SPONSORS



CONNECTOR SPONSORS



COLLABORATOR SPONSORS



Building A Stronger Community.. ONE PASSION AT A TIME

Want to learn how you can get involved? Contact us today.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Ocala / Marion County

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