

United Way Meets Campaign Goal Yet Again

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades has concluded its 2021-22 campaign, and met the campaign goal of \$11.1 million. This is the 29th consecutive year that the goal has been met or exceeded.

Campaign chairs Noelle Branning (Lee County Tax Collector) and Corey Vertich (Uhlher & Vertich Financial Planning) announced that local residents and companies contributed a record amount of \$11.1 million to the campaign. The theme was Back to the Future.

"The United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades met its fundraising goal of \$11.1 million despite an economy devastated by COVID-19 and rising inflation. It is stunning and speaks volumes about the generosity of our community," said Branning.

"Seeing how many people are so committed to reach this essential goal shows just how much our community cares. Now that we have met it, our United Way can help our 90 partner agencies look forward to doing their important work by going back to the future," said Vertich.

Alexis de Tocqueville donors are those that donate over \$10,000 to United Way. This year, those donors, led by David Lucas, comprised 46.8



Corey Vertich as Doc Brown and Noelle Branning as Marty McFly at the Back to the Future campaign kickoff photo provided

percent of the campaign. Lucas has a 32-year history of fostering philanthropy among his United Way peers, resulting in almost \$53.3 million going back to the community. This year, with his encouragement, there was an additional \$670,382 donated to the campaign; a 10.5 percent increase over last year's totals. Lucas brought in an additional 32 members to the group, which brings this year's total to 217 members, and

\$5,193,688.

Making the goal means United Way partner agencies will receive their share of funding for the coming year. Long standing United Way partners like Harry Chapin Food Bank, Community Cooperative, Abuse Counseling and Treatment and Children's Advocacy Center will be able to continue their vital programs because of the support provided to United Way by the

community in surpassing the goal. Because of the generosity of Southwest Florida, hungry families will receive food, veterans will find support through Mission United, abused children will find safety and shelter, older people can find assistance to remain in their own homes, and thousands of lower income families can get their taxes done at no charge through Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Donations and support help others live a better life.

"A very sincere thank you to all of the individuals, companies, communities and partner agencies for your generous contributions. You all prove time and again what an incredibly caring community this is," said United Way President and CEO Jeannine Joy.

The top local contributing companies and communities are as follows:

Million Dollar Circle of Excellence: Bonita Bay Community; Publix
 \$500,000 Circle of Excellence: Islands of Sanibel & Captiva; Bonita Bay Group
 \$300,000 Circle of Excellence: Beesley's Paw Prints
 \$200,000 Circle of Excellence: FineMark National Bank & Trust; Pelican Landing Community; Grandezza Community; Fiddlesticks Community; LCEC
 \$100,000 Circle of Excellence: Lee Health; Lee Board of County Commissioners; Shell Point Retirement Community; Gulf Harbour Community; The Brooks Community; Lee County School District.*

Children's Programs At Captiva Library

The Captiva Memorial Library is offering the following free programming for children in June:

Glitter Fish Craft - June 1 to 4, available during normal library operating hours. Stop in and decorate a tropical fish mosaic with stickers and string (while supplies last).

Treasure Chest Craft - June 7 to 11, available during normal library operating hours. Decorate your own cardboard chest to hold all of your treasures (while supplies last).

Flowerpot Whale Craft - June 14 to 18, available during normal library operating hours. This sea creature art project made from papier-maché and foam pieces is an ocean of fun (while supplies last).

Under the Sea Picture Frame Craft - June 21 to 25, available during normal library operating hours. Decorate a foam picture frame with stickers and add your own beach photo (while supplies last).

Adam's Amazing Animals - Thursday, June 23 at 2 p.m. Local wildlife biologist Adam Pottruck is bringing his critters to the library for an interactive show and tell experience. Space is limited.

Wood Sea Life Mobile Craft - June 28 to July 2, available during normal

library operating hours. Create an under-the-sea mobile. Color or embellish the sea creature shapes before stringing them on metallic cording (while supplies last).

Magic with Joey Evans - Thursday, June 30 at 2 p.m. This master magician is back to tickle your funny bone with magic, mystery and fun. Prepare to be amazed and inspired by illusions, puppets and tricks.

The Captiva Memorial Library is located at 11560 Chapin Lane on Captiva. Normal operating hours are: Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Wednesday, noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about a program or to register, call 533-4500. Check the Lee County Library System's website at www.leelibrary.net to find out about programs at other locations. Call the host library, or Telephone Reference at 479-INFO (4636), for more information about a specific program.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, Lee County will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities in its services, programs or activities. To request an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or a reasonable modification to participate, contact Joan LaGuardia at 533-2314, Florida Relay Service 711 or jlguardia@leegov.com. Accommodation will be provided at no cost to the requestor. Requests should be made at least five business days in advance.*



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