



2025

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Ocala / Marion County

IMPACT REPORT

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

Message From
**FRANK &
 LAUREN**

Frank Hennessey
 Chairman

Lauren DeIorio
 CEO

Dear Friends,

2025 was a year of momentum, progress, and possibility for the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County and none of it would have been possible without you.

One of our most significant milestones this year was achieving accreditation through the Council on Foundations' National Standards. Simply put, it reinforces that your trust is well placed and that our house is in order as we steward charitable resources on behalf of our community.

Our commitment to strengthening the nonprofit sector remains a top priority. Through the continued growth of our Nonprofit Excellence Academy, we provided nonprofit leaders with practical tools, expert guidance, and meaningful peer connections to help their organizations build capacity, reduce burnout, and serve our community more effectively. When nonprofits are strong, our entire community benefits.

This year also marked important steps toward launching impact investing opportunities, giving donors new and meaningful ways to align their charitable passions with investments that drive lasting community change. These efforts represent an exciting evolution in how philanthropy can work by combining purpose, sustainability, and measurable impact.

Looking ahead, we are energized by what's to come. Donors can expect new and innovative ways to connect their charitable goals to the needs they care about most. We will continue expanding our partnerships with estate planning professionals by working collaboratively to serve clients with thoughtful, flexible, and forward-looking philanthropic solutions. And at the heart of everything we do, we remain deeply committed to supporting the nonprofits who serve our citizens every day.

You are the constant throughout this story. Through your generosity, vision, and dedication, you are the hero of our community's journey. We hope this Impact Report not only reflects what we have accomplished together, but also inspires you to discover new ways to shape the next chapter of Ocala/Marion County's future. Thank you for believing in this community and for being the hero in its story.

Lauren B. DeIorio
 CEO

Frank M. Hennessey
 Founder/Chairman



GRANTS DISTRIBUTED SINCE 2012
\$12.8 MILLION

GRANTS DISTRIBUTED IN 2025
\$2.8 MILLION

TOTAL ASSETS UNDER
 MANAGEMENT
\$9.9 MILLION

INCREASE IN ASSETS UNDER
 MANAGEMENT IN 2025
25%

FUNDS UNDER MANAGEMENT
149



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
 Ocala / Marion County

Executive Committee & Board



FRANK HENNESSEY
Chairman



RUSTY BRANSON
Director at Large



BILL CHAMBERS
Vice Chairman



JON KURTZ
Treasurer



DAVID MIDGETT
Vice Chairman



JANE FONTAINE
Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Nick Blaser
 Douglas Cone III
 Lori Conway
 Kent Guinn
 Patrick Hill
 Jim Hillebrandt

Ken Kirkpatrick
 Steven Lee
 Thomas O'Mara
 Todd Panzer
 Michael Siboni
 Erika Skula

BOARD MEMBERS EMERITUS

Rich Bianculli
 Robert "Bob" Reilly
 Jim Schneider

LIAISON TO THE BOARD

Mounir Bouyounes
*County Administrator
 Marion County*

Jeannine Robbins
*Strategic & Legislative
 Affairs Administrator
 City of Ocala*

Chief Michael Balken
Ocala Police Department

Sheriff Billy Woods
*Marion County
 Sheriff's Office*

ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT



ACCREDITED FOUNDATION

The Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County strengthens our community by transforming generosity into lasting impact. As a grantmaking public charity, the Foundation brings together the charitable resources of individuals, families, and businesses and stewards them with care to support effective nonprofits and community priorities. Through thoughtful fund management, strategic grantmaking, and deep local knowledge, the Foundation connects donors with the causes they care about most while serving as a trusted partner and convener across the nonprofit, business, and civic sectors identifying local needs, fostering collaboration, and advancing solutions that build a stronger, more resilient Ocala/Marion County for today and future generations.

Trust and accountability are central to our work. In 2025, the Foundation took significant steps to strengthen its governance, donor services, investments, grantmaking, and financial practices, culminating in the achievement of national accreditation through the Council on Foundations’ Community Foundations National Standards® program which is the highest standard for philanthropic excellence in the nation. This rigorous, independent accreditation affirms that the Foundation meets and exceeds best practices and provides donors, advisors, and the community with confidence that charitable resources are stewarded responsibly, ethically, and transparently. Through a wide range of giving options which include donor advised funds, designated funds, scholarship funds, corporate giving funds, and community impact funds, the Foundation ensures every gift is managed with care and aligned with evolving community needs, reinforcing its role as a trusted steward and partner in building a stronger, more resilient Ocala/Marion County.

CFNS ACCREDITATION

The National Standards® program requires community foundations to document and adopt best practices across donor services, investments, grantmaking, governance, and financial administration. With over 500 accredited community foundations nationwide, the program ensures donors and their legal and financial advisors can rely on responsible stewardship and high-quality service.

BREAKDOWN OF TYPES OF FUNDS:

Agency (40%)	61
Donor Advised (31%)	46
Endowment (12%)	18
Capital Funds (5%)	8
Corporate Advised (5%)	7
Scholarship (3%)	4
Pass Through (3%)	4
Annuity (1%)	1

TOTAL
149



ADVANCING TOWARD IMPACT INVESTING

Building a Stronger Future for Marion County



In 2025, the Community Foundation began laying the groundwork for a new approach to philanthropy through the exploration of impact investing. Often described as investment activity that seeks to generate both positive social outcomes and financial returns, impact investing activates financial resources to address pressing community challenges. Communities across the country are using this approach to tackle issues such as affordable housing, education gaps, and other critical needs by aligning capital with meaningful community outcomes.

As part of these early efforts, the Community Foundation has begun exploring a partnership with the Housing Finance Authority and other community stakeholders to support a Veterans Village project. This initiative represents an important first step toward a future where investment capital can work alongside philanthropy to strengthen Marion County. Impact investing will also create new opportunities for donors who want to see their charitable funds put to work in ways that generate lasting benefits for the community while advancing solutions to some of its most important challenges.

“ ...tackle issues such as affordable housing, education gaps, and other critical needs ”



NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE ACADEMY



2025 NONPROFIT EXCELLENCE PARTICIPANTS

In 2025, the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County continued its commitment to strengthening the nonprofit sector through the Nonprofit Excellence Academy. Local nonprofits now serve more than 100,000 residents each year, addressing critical needs such as elder care, affordable housing, food insecurity, mental health access, childcare, and homelessness. At the same time, these organizations face rising costs, increased demand, leadership burnout, staff turnover, and growing financial strain which are challenges mirrored across Florida's nonprofit sector.

The Nonprofit Excellence Academy was designed to respond directly to these pressures by providing high-quality, relevant professional development. The Academy focuses on strengthening leadership capacity, enhancing financial sustainability, improving operational efficiency, fostering collaboration, and combating burnout and turnover. Through shared learning and practical tools, nonprofit leaders gain skills in governance, fundraising, compliance, cybersecurity, budgeting, and partnership building.

Below is the list of local nonprofits that made the commitment to the 2025 Academy's rigorous programming and invest in their people, their missions, and the long-term health of our community.

- Alan Madden Foundation
- Ambleside Ocala
- Boys & Girls Club of Marion
- Break Barriers
- Empowered/The Rock Program
- Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center
- Faith Family Camp
- FCA
- Frank Deluca YMCA
- Girls on the Rise
- Harlow's Helping Hands
- Heart of Florida
- His Compassion
- His House for Her
- Interfaith Emergency Services
- Kenny's Place Nursery
- Love INC
- Marion County Sexual Assault Center
- Marion Therapeutic Riding Association
- Sozo Kids
- The Fostering Foundation
- The Ora Clubhouse
- Transitions Life Center
- Veterans Helping Veterans
- Wear Gloves
- Xtreme Solutions



GRANT SERVICES & PATHWAYS FOR FUNDRAISING FUTURES

Evolving Grant Services to meet Nonprofit Needs

The Community Foundation launched its Grant Services program to address a major challenge facing local nonprofits: long-term financial sustainability.

The Grant Services team now supports nonprofits in three key areas: Grant readiness and capacity building, which helps organizations strengthen mission alignment, governance, and financial practices; hands-on grant writing and coaching, providing individualized support from application development through submission and post-award planning; and grant research and opportunity identification, delivering customized funding opportunities aligned with each organization's programs and goals.

These efforts produced strong results in 2025. Participating nonprofits secured more than \$550,000 in new grant funding, while many others strengthened their fundraising systems through workshops, grant scans, and one-on-one support that better positioned them for future opportunities.

Building on this progress, the Foundation is expanding Grant Services into Pathways for Fundraising Futures, a comprehensive capacity-building program designed to meet nonprofits at any stage of development. Through grant readiness workshops, personalized coaching, and strategic grant research, the program equips organizations with the tools and strategies needed to diversify revenue, strengthen fundraising infrastructure, and pursue sustainable funding aligned with their missions. Pathways for Fundraising Futures reflects the Foundation's ongoing commitment to helping nonprofits move beyond short-term wins toward long-term resilience and growth.



“ Participating nonprofits secured more than \$550,000 in new grant funding ”



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Osal Marion County

ADAM HANSON YOUTH PHILANTHROPY IN ACTION

The Adam Hanson Youth Philanthropy in Action (YPIA) program continues to be a powerful investment in the future of our community. In 2025, 84% of participating middle school students entered the program unsure of what it meant to be philanthropic. By the end of the six-week experience, 90% reported a stronger awareness of local community needs and where to find resources, and 83% said they see themselves volunteering in the future for causes they care about.

Hosted one day per week and facilitated by Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County staff with support from NPBC Steering Committee members and community volunteers, YPIA introduces students to the history of philanthropy and the roles of nonprofits, businesses, and government. Students explore their passions, work in small groups, and develop case-for-support presentations for local charities, simulating the allocation of a \$500 grant. Most importantly, YPIA empowers young people to see that even now, they can make a meaningful difference in the issues that matter most to them.



SINCE 2012

2,553
Participating Students

116
Classes Taught

\$58,000
Grant Awards to Nonprofits

IN 2025

189
Participating Students

6
Participating Public
& Private Schools

10
Total Classes Taught

IMPACT

90% of students learned more about their community

84% of students did not know what philanthropic meant

83% of students expressed interest in volunteering



GIVE4MARION



Give4Marion, held September 16–17, 2025, once again demonstrated the power of collective generosity in Marion County. During this 33-hour online giving event, our community raised an incredible \$2.3 million for local nonprofits, bringing the total raised since Give4Marion’s inception to \$8.4 million.

Give4Marion is more than a fundraising event, it is a catalyst for community impact. Every dollar raised stays local, supporting essential services such as food security, education, health care access, housing stability, and arts and cultural programs. Giving days like Give4Marion also strengthens philanthropy by encouraging gifts of all sizes, engaging new donors, and helping nonprofits share their stories with broader audiences.

The impact of Give4Marion is amplified when our community gets involved by spreading the word, inviting others to participate, or offering matching gifts that inspire generosity. Together, these actions build momentum, strengthen nonprofits, and reinforce a shared culture of giving that benefits all who call Marion County home.



2020

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

Inagural

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
 Donors..... 5,384
 Gifts..... 7,816
 Nonprofits 133

+ 111%

2025

Raised \$2,355,597
 Individual Donors 5,076
 New Donors..... 2,426
 Gifts..... 7,959
 Nonprofits 112

**TOTAL RAISED
 SINCE 2020
 \$8,416,720**



INSPIRE GALA

The Inspire Gala is the Community Foundation for Ocala/Marion County's signature celebration of the nonprofit sector and the donors, volunteers, and organizations whose generosity strengthens our community every day. This inspiring evening shines a spotlight on the stories of passion, service, and mission that drive meaningful change across Marion County. By honoring those who give their time, talent, and resources to address critical community needs, the Inspire Gala reinforces the powerful role philanthropy plays in building a stronger, more connected community. Through shared stories of impact and generosity, the event leaves attendees inspired to deepen their engagement and continue investing in the causes that matter most.

2025 WINNERS

Youth Philanthropist of The Year – *Chloe Kostowicz*

Emerging Nonprofit – *Ocala Horse Alliance*

Nonprofit Board Member of The Year – *Bob Levenson*

Nonprofit of The Year – *Estella Byrd Whitman Healthcare Center*

Corporate Partner of The Year – *Team Cone*

The Unsung Hero – *Michelle Stone*

Philanthropist of The Year – *Frank DeLuca*

Frank Martin Hennessey Award – *Stan Hanson*

Estate Planning Council's Luminary Award – *Jim Hilty*



COMMUNITY FUND

Established in 2023, the Community Fund provides a flexible way for donors to support the most pressing needs across Marion County. Designed for those who care deeply about the community but may not know where their gift can have the greatest impact, the fund directs resources to key areas including Disaster & Crisis Relief, Housing & Homelessness, and Mental Health & Substance Abuse. Each sub-fund is guided by an advisory board of community members with relevant expertise and passion. Looking ahead, a new Education focus area will support innovative solutions in PreK–12 and beyond, helping strengthen our community through strategic, responsive investments that address Marion County's evolving needs.



DISASTER &
CRISIS
RELIEF



EDUCATION



HOUSING &
HOMELESSNESS



MENTAL
HEALTH



SUBSTANCE
ABUSE

Scan
The QR

to learn
more about the
Community
Fund





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 attorneys, accountants, and financial advisors. With over 45 members, the Council fosters collaboration, education, and ethical practice through quarterly meetings, networking, and shared expertise to strengthen professional excellence and community impact.



2025 Members by Category	Members
Attorney	12
Certified Financial Planner	3
CPA	10
Development Officer	6
Financial Advisor	4
Registered Investment Advisor	5
Trust Officer	2
Other	5

47
Total Members




NON PROFIT

BUSINESS COUNCIL

The NonProfit Business Council (NPBC), founded 13 years ago under the Chamber & Economic Partnership, transitioned to Community Foundation management in 2016, fueling growth. In 2025, NPBC includes over 170 members serving diverse community needs, promoting nonprofits' economic impact, strengthening leadership capacity, and advancing collaboration and philanthropic education countywide together locally.





The Pillar Society brings together visionary leaders who serve as the “pillars” holding up philanthropy in Marion County, strengthening both our community and the Community Foundation’s capacity to lead and serve. Members are recognized for leading by example and for addressing pressing needs with innovative solutions, long-term strategies, and targeted funding that improves quality of life for local residents. Beyond financial support, Pillars help shape local philanthropy by sharing insight, vision, and expertise. Through exclusive, small-group, behind-the-scenes experiences, members deepen their understanding of community initiatives and needs, empowering them to strategically determine where to put their philanthropy into action for the greatest impact.

TOTAL COMMITTED CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE 2021

\$40,000 & ABOVE

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

\$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 DeIorio
Harvey Vandeven
Douglas Cone III
Frank & Angela DeLuca
Jon Kurtz

\$7,000 – \$9,999

Angie Lewis
Zinnia Wealth
Hassler/Anderson Tax Strategies
Ken Kirkpatrick
Todd Panzer

\$3,000 – \$6,999

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





“IMPACT” SPONSORS

Adam Hanson Better Communities Foundation
 City of Ocala
 Team Cone
 Circle Square Foundation
 Panzer Medicine
 AdventHealth Ocala
 Wells Fargo Foundation
 David Midgett Foundation
 Hennessey Arabians
 Angie Lewis State Farm

Empath Health/Hospice
 Live Oak International
 DeLuca Family Foundation
 The Boyd Group
 Ausley Construction
 SECO Energy Foundation
 Zinnia Wealth Management
 SouthState Bank
 Regions Bank



“CONNECTOR” SPONSORS

Heart of Florida
 Roberts Funeral Home
 Empowered/The Rock
 Cogent Bank
 Pro-Tech Solutions

Duke Energy
 Pepsi
 Florida Credit Union
 Florida Natural Beef
 Quantum Fiber



“COLLABORATOR” SPONSORS

Siboni Law Group/Mike Siboni
 OneCommunity Fund/Ben Marciano
 Girl Scouts of Western Central Florida
 Seacoast Bank
 Big Licks
 Radiant Credit Union
 First Federal Bank
 Metronet
 Dillon Media Group

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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