

# IN THE BOARD ROOM



Organizations that are dedicated to changing the community rely on the leadership of skilled volunteers and donors. Celebrating the members of their exemplary boards of directors, these local civic institutions are recognizing the men and women who direct and guide their path to giving back. In this special section we will visit Easter Seals, Goodwill Manasota, La Musica and Selah Freedom.



## EASTER SEALS



Front row, left to right: Paul Gesko, Bev Albertson, Kristin Jensen, Secretary, Laurie Hagberg, Stan Muesse, Shirley Garneski, Tom Waters, President & CEO Back row, left to right: Rose-Anne Frano, Immediate Past Chair, LaVerne Green, John LaCivita, Dave Herbert, Chair, Scott Rockwell, Vice Chair, Lisa Mead Not pictured: John P. Berkey, Treasurer, Stephen Bolander, Barbara A. Jones, Paul Klick III, Will Morton, Joseph L. Najmy and John Vita.

**THE EASTER SEALS BOARD OF DIRECTORS REACH, EXTENDS FAR BEYOND THE BOARDROOM.** Our team is comprised of community leaders that offer financial planning, strategic support and volunteer outreach, just to name a few. They are a passionate powerhouse of individuals that devote their time, talents and treasures to advance our mission. This group is tireless in their dedication and outreach into their spheres of influence on behalf of the many who can't always speak for themselves. From chief executives and business owners, to a compassionate social worker and high school sophomore, the Easter Seals Board of Directors offers diversity on all levels. However, they all have one thing in common... to help children and adults living with disabilities lead a more independent lifestyle. Simply put, their altruistic leadership carves a way for the community as whole to embrace our mission.

*"We serve some of the most vulnerable and in-need members of our community. So the goal and passion of the ESSWFL staff and board is very simple - to maximize the life and potential of our clients and their families."*

**Easter Seals Southwest Florida** has been part of our community for 70 years. We offer the highest quality of care and services to children, youth and adults with special needs so that they can enjoy access, opportunities and increased life choices through education and the development of life and job skills. Easter Seals Southwest Florida is committed to remaining a leader in special needs services - an organization to which individuals and their families can turn to for resources, education and support with a continuum of care throughout their lives. The exceptional services offered across a lifetime empower individuals to live their lives to the fullest.

## GOODWILL MANASOTA



Left to right: Chairman of the Board Rob Morris and President and CEO Bob Rosinsky.

**BOB ROSINSKY, GOODWILL MANASOTA'S PRESIDENT & CEO, HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ORGANIZATION FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS.** Through the dedication and support of a local Board of Directors – these area leaders and individuals are engaged and invested in the community and help strengthen Goodwill's mission of changing lives through the power of work. The 2016 Board Chairman is Rob Morris, a Goodwill Ambassador and owner of Certified Fleet Solutions. He is assisted in board endeavors by a solid team including Chair-Emeritus Steve Boone, Chair-Elect Peter Crowley, and Secretary and Treasurer Drayton Saunders. Members also include Debbie Douglas, Rae Dowling, Rod Hollingsworth, Sandy Kirkpatrick, Lisl Liang, Alan Maio, Art McClellan, Brad West, Dr. Richard Wharton, and lifetime member W. Stuart Gregory.

**Goodwill Manasota** is an industry-leading, 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization that changes lives through the power of work. With the sales of donated goods and philanthropic donations, Goodwill is able to assist people with disabilities and other barriers to employment by providing job skills training and employment opportunities. In 2015, Goodwill Manasota assisted 22,739 individuals, placed 961 people in jobs, served 358 veterans and diverted 41 million pounds out of the landfill. We accomplish our mission through a network of Good Neighbor Centers in Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee and DeSoto counties and our Mission Development Services (MDS) around North America.



## LA MUSICA



La Musica Board of Directors pictured, front row: Linda Bento-Rei, Janet Hunter, Ellen Cavanaugh, Sally Faron (President/Secretary), Nancy Gold; back row: David Hess (Chief Financial Officer), Terri Derr, Frederick Derr (Chairman), John Moffitt, Jerry Bilik, Robert Stanton [not pictured: Sam Schackow (Vice Chairman) and Renee Hamad]

**THE MISSION OF LA MUSICA IS TO BRING TOGETHER THE FINEST MUSICIANS OF EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS** to present exciting programs of familiar and unusual chamber music, communicating a joy in performance to enthusiastic audiences. With a 30-year history, La Musica has established itself as an artistic and critical success and an outstanding American cultural institution. Guided by Artistic Director Bruno Giuranna and Associate Artistic Director Derek Han, La Musica strives for high artistic standards in selecting musicians for each annual festival. La Musica is steered by chairman Frederick Derr and a dedicated board of directors consisting of business leaders and individuals active in the community and the arts. A major goal of the organization is community outreach to draw audiences into the creative process through open rehearsals during the festival. During open rehearsals, musicians collaborate and meld their different musical traditions as the audiences listen and learn about musical expression and interpretation. For the past 20 years, a primary focus has been to reach out to young students with its Education Outreach program. La Musica aims to stimulate a love for music at a young age in hopes to foster a growing audience for the arts for future generations. Throughout its existence, La Musica has collaborated with other cultural organizations, both national and local, including the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Sarasota Film Society, Sarasota Ballet and Ringling College of Art and Design. New works have been commissioned and/or premiered by composers including Turchi, Wallach, Bracali, Wyner, Hyman, Winn, Tower and Bilik. Each year since 1998, La Musica has embarked on a thematic excursion, exploring ways in which music relates to other art forms and cultural movements.

*“A major factor in the long-term success of the La Musica International Chamber Music Festival has been the La Musica dedicated Board Members who have always embraced their work with great enthusiasm – in part because they enjoy the synergy of bringing their talents together and in part because they are continually inspired by the musicians.”* Frederick M. Derr, Chairman of the Board

## SELAH FREEDOM



**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT SELAH FREEDOM IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SETTING THE STANDARDS** in the arena of anti-sex trafficking while offering sustainable programming. Chairman of the Board and Florida State Representative Ray Pilon exudes leadership, strength and character. Ray comes with a long list of accomplishments. His experience in board development makes him an exceptional leader during Selah Freedom's exponential growth. The rest of the board is equally impressive; Dr. Matt Nessetti, is a licensed clinical psychologist, physician and attorney, Shahla Simpler, attorney, Cross Trainer warrior, and Executive Director Of Baycross Christian Family Foundation, Chris McGee brings the financial background as Wealth Manager at PNC Bank. Selah Freedom also has the balance of 2 pastors and sharp business minds, wielding great wisdom, Misty Stinson (co-founder of Selah) and Stephen Supe. Add the extreme wit and marketing brilliance of John Bowman- Marketing Director at Inspiration Academy and CEO of 2 medical device companies. The diverse balance of wisdom, experience and niche strengths displays a Board of over achieving leaders, who match the DNA of Selah Freedom's organization. The Board of Director's wisdom is paired with their amazing hearts and fearless vision, which positions Selah Freedom to grow as a leading organization in the arena of Sex Trafficking Solutions, not only in Florida but nationally. Selah Freedom exists to end sex trafficking and bring freedom to the exploited. They are a thriving organization with four foundational programs: Awareness, Teen Prevention, Outreach, and Residential.



*"As the newly elected Chairman of the Board of Selah Freedom I am humbled to have been selected. I am anxious to contribute to a cause that deserves the attention of our community, state, nation and indeed the world, that of human sex trafficking. As a state legislator, former Sarasota County commissioner and career law-enforcement officer, the cause to fight this heinous part of our culture is a challenge I could not ignore or refuse to become involved in." Florida State Representative Ray Pilon, Chairman of the Board (shown above right)*

**Selah Freedom** brings Awareness and Education Programming to over 39,000 people annually. Their Teen Prevention Program, for at-risk girls ages 11-17 years old, empowers them with the tools they need to avoid being commercially sold with a 90% success rate. Selah Freedom's Outreach Program is in the jail system and on the streets. It provides support groups, case management, and referral services to survivors. Selah Freedom has partnered with law enforcement and the State Attorney's Office to launch the TYLA (Turn Your Life Around) Program, a diversionary program for sex trafficking survivors in the legal system. Selah Freedom also provides Residential Programming for survivors of sex trafficking which encompasses wrap around care that includes personalized educational plan, job placement, trauma therapy, life skills, medical and legal assistance, holistic restorative care and more.