

In the Spirit of **GIVING**



WE ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS OUR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO DOING GOOD. Here, a group of local businesses are leading the way in giving back to people, causes and organizations that make the region a supportive network of givers. Learn how notable businesses maintain their commitment to paying it forward in this special section, with programs that span from at-risk kids to veterans in need.



BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE SUN COAST

(Celebrating 50 Years of impacting the lives of children and youth)

WHEN CHILDREN AND TEENS HAVE THE INFLUENCE OF A CARING ADULT, they are more likely to avoid risky behaviors and to focus on academics. Today's youth face a variety of challenges, and being matched with a Big Brother or Big Sister can help them navigate these challenges and reach their potential. On our 50th anniversary we'd like to share one of our many success stories.

Andy was 11 years old when he met Tom, who would not only become his Big Brother, but a friend for life! Andy is grateful that he has Tom to turn to for help and guidance. Neither of Andy's older brothers graduated from high school, so having Tom push him to succeed in school meant a lot. With Tom's guidance and determination to help Andy succeed and accomplish his goals, Andy was able to graduate from Venice High School in 2017 – the first in his family to earn a high school diploma. Working together to apply for scholarships and research higher education opportunities, Tom helped Andy take the necessary steps to realize his potential. Andy has recently begun his freshman year at Santa Fe College, where he is enrolled in the veterinarian technician program, with the hopes of one day enrolling at the University of Florida to become a veterinarian.

Big Brothers Big Sisters helps children realize their potential and build their futures. We nurture children and strengthen communities. And we couldn't do any of it without you.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE SUN COAST provides one-to-one mentoring relationships to children ages 6-18 years old throughout the Gulf Coast of Florida in Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Highlands, Hardee, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier counties. Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast holds itself accountable for children in its program to achieve measurable outcomes, such as educational success; avoidance of risky behaviors; and higher aspirations, greater confidence and better relationships. The organization provides children facing adversity, often those of single or low-income households or families with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE SUN COAST

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SUITE C, VENICE
941.488.4009 | BBBSSUN.ORG



Big Brothers Big Sisters
of the Sun Coast



CS&L CPAS

CS&L CPAS SUPPORTS NUMEROUS NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS throughout the year through volunteer hours, fundraising efforts, sponsorship support, donations and more. Annually, the firm is a corporate sponsor for more than 20 charitable events and activities for charitable organizations across the region. The firm also coordinates frequent employee volunteer projects and donation drives with local organizations that need extra hands. CS&L hosts a philanthropic program called CS&L Cares, which provides a platform for employees to get involved in the community. This initiative was launched as part of the 60th anniversary celebration in 2014 and has become a cornerstone of the firm's culture. Building on the momentum of this initiative, more than 30 percent of CS&L employees now serve on a board or committee in a leadership capacity and many more volunteer their time and energy all year round. For these engaged individuals, CS&L provides support through event sponsorship dollars, in-kind donations and time off so employees can perform their board leadership responsibilities. CS&L promotes positive impact through leadership. Enthusiasm and dedication are characteristics that all CS&L employees exhibit, whether working to solve a complex client challenge or volunteering their time and talent to assist local organizations. Through generosity of time, money and the passion to serve, CS&L employees are making the region a great place to live and thrive.

Serving the Southwest Florida region since 1954, CS&L CPAs is a full-service certified public accounting firm with offices in Bradenton, Sarasota and Tampa. The firm provides accounting, taxation, auditing and consulting services to individuals, businesses and organizations. Their mission is to understand your unique needs and create exceptional solutions. To learn more, visit www.csclcpa.com.

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GIVING THE GIFT OF SIGHT

IT'S EASY TO TAKE YOUR VISION FOR GRANTED until you begin to lose it. For patients treated at Center For Sight during the annual Mission Cataract program in July, they received one of life's greatest gifts – the gift of restored vision. “Center for Sight has been participating in Mission Cataract for over 20 years and I consider it a great honor,” said Dr. David Shoemaker, Founder and Director of Cataract and Lens Replacement Surgery at Center For Sight. “Restoring the gift of sight to these special patients gives them the opportunity to lead meaningful and productive lives. Our Mission Cataract patients are treated like all of our other patients, with the utmost care and service, in addition to the use of our state-of-the-art LensAR laser.” The surgeries for this year’s Mission Cataract took place on July 12 and 19 at Center For Sight’s AAAHC-accredited surgery facility in Sarasota. Center for Sight’s nationally acclaimed surgeons, David W. Shoemaker, M.D., William J. Lahners, M.D., Joshua W. Kim, M.D., and William L. Soscia, M.D., along with a team of ophthalmic technicians, nurse anesthetists, medical technicians, nurses, and administrative staff donated their time and experience to Mission Cataract. Mission Cataract is a national program and Center For Sight is one of only 21 practices in the nation to participate. To qualify for Mission Cataract, patients must have poor vision due to cataracts that is uncorrectable with glasses; have no Medicare, Medicaid, or third-party insurance coverage; and have no other means to pay for cataract surgery. In order to continue providing free cataract surgeries for years to come, Dr. Shoemaker established the Center For Sight Foundation, a donor-advised fund of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation. All donations received to the Foundation go towards the purchase of surgical supplies, medications and the intraocular lenses to be placed in the patients’ eyes during Mission Cataract. To learn more, visit www.CFSfoundation.org.

Center For Sight is among the nation’s leading multi-specialty physician groups providing patients worldwide with care in ophthalmology, optometry, dermatology and cosmetic facial surgery. Under the clinical direction of David W. Shoemaker, M.D., William J. Lahners, M.D., F.A.C.S., and Joshua W. Kim, M.D., Center For Sight has eight offices serving Manatee, Sarasota and Charlotte counties. For more information, visit CenterForSight.net.

CENTER FOR SIGHT

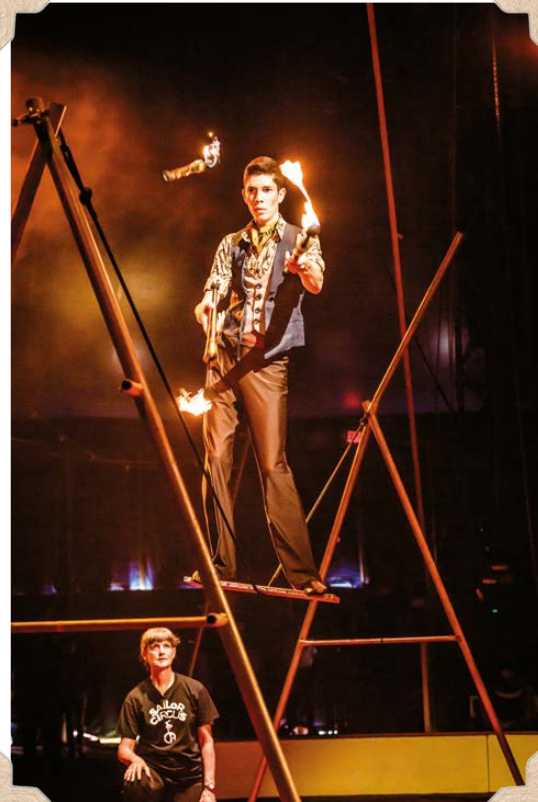
SARASOTA SURGERY CENTER
2601 S. TAMIAMI TRAIL, SARASOTA
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CENTERFORSIGHT.NET
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CENTER FOR SIGHT



Circus arts training builds trust, skill and discipline.



Youth performers learn to balance priorities, juggle responsibilities.

THE CIRCUS ARTS CONSERVATORY

SINCE 1949, SAILOR CIRCUS, THE YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM of The Circus Arts Conservatory, has taught life skills through circus arts. For almost 70 years Sailor Circus students have trained and performed. The CAC has raised \$2.5 million to renovate the iconic Sailor Circus Arena. However, we still need help from supporters like you to raise the remaining \$1.5 million necessary to complete the \$4 million renovation. You can join The Square of Air Society and underwrite one, ten or more cubic square feet of air-conditioned air to fill the Arena.

- Members receive exclusive benefits including tickets and invitations to events.
- You can help generations of students and summer campers experience their time in the circus spotlight in a safe, healthy and state of the art training facility.
- Your gift will help The Sailor Circus Academy offer new and exciting health and fitness activities for seniors, teens and those with physical and developmental challenges.
- With your help, the iconic Sailor Circus Arena will be available year-round to schools, clubs, businesses and organizations.

You can support the Circus Arts Conservatory and be part of the future for local children, for working parents, for seniors in residential care, for students in underserved schools, for adults in assisted living facilities and so many more. Give today! Your gift will have an immediate impact, but your legacy will last forever.

The Circus Arts Conservatory (CAC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that is a nationally recognized leader in the circus arts movement. The organization is the home of Sailor Circus Academy, America's longest running youth circus and internationally renowned professional circus arts performances by Circus Sarasota. Driving home the mantra of being "more than a circus," The CAC also maintains outreach programs that integrate and positively impact our community. The Education Outreach Program brings teaching artists into area schools to teach circus-infused lessons on science, physics, language arts, engineering and more. The Humor Therapy program uses the art of clowning and music to bring joy and personal connection to those most vulnerable in care facilities and hospitals.

THE CIRCUS ARTS CONSERVATORY

2075 BAHIA VISTA STREET, SARASOTA
941.355.9335 | CIRCUSARTS.ORG



**THE CIRCUS ARTS
CONSERVATORY**

PERFORMANCE. TRAINING. OUTREACH. LEGACY.



NATIONAL CHURCH RESIDENCES

EACH YEAR, FRIENDS AND FAMILY FROM AROUND THE NATION

continue to pull together to demonstrate their strong commitment to human caring. The generous contributions of National Church Residences' friends and families provide critical support for our ministry to older adults. Thousands of residents nationwide rely on coming home to the comfortable, affordable housing that National Church Residences offers. It is our obligation to provide the best quality of life possible to our residents, and continually identify a plan for healthier aging. All around us, right in our hometowns, more and more people face devastating problems. They can't afford decent housing, they struggle on fixed incomes as prices rise, they stretch their already modest funds to make ends meet. But they're not alone. Neighbors like you—individuals, businesses, groups of faith and clubs—are rallying to give support through partnerships with National Church Residences. Your help can change lives, and it's never been needed more urgently especially with the recent hurricanes. National Church Residences takes great pride in the fact that it is a national advocate for the expansion and betterment of family and senior health care services. With contributions and volunteers we will continue to touch the lives of seniors we serve on a daily basis.

National Church Residences has a dedicated proven track record of excellence in providing homes and services to seniors, enabling them to live healthier and more satisfying lives. Our residents and clients include seniors of all income levels. Since the opening of our first retirement community in 1961, we have expanded our mission to include full-service retirement communities, affordable housing and an array of health care services. Today National Church Residences has 340 communities in 27 states and Puerto Rico.

To contribute to hurricane relief,
visit nationalchurchresidences.org/disaster-relief

WATER'S EDGE OF BRADENTON



National Church Residences

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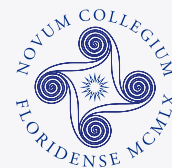
NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA

MACKENNA JENSEN GREW UP IN OHIO, a long way from Florida's beautiful coastlines. But she always loved the water, from aquariums to chilly Lake Erie, and the animals that live in it. Her mom called her a "water baby." By high school, Mackenna knew she wanted to go on to study marine biology, but didn't know how to make it possible, especially after her mother died of cancer. Her dad said Mackenna could go to college wherever she wanted, if they could find a way to pay for it.

Then she got a postcard from New College of Florida, listing programs including marine biology. "I remember crying because it was just so perfect – a great program, small, right on the water, and had plenty of opportunities for hands-on work," she said. Mackenna applied, was accepted, and is now in her third year at New College, thanks to scholarship funds provided by Sarasota's Ken and Peggy Abt. "It is tremendously fulfilling to be a part of the success story of one of these exceptional students," the Abts said. "To know that we have in some small way, helped someone achieve their dream, is a fabulous feeling." That dream is indeed coming true. Mackenna's academic work has included shark tagging in the Gulf of Mexico, and conducting a study on the intertidal Sarasota Bay ecology, in addition to taking rigorous classes. "To have done these things within my first two years of working on my undergraduate degree has provided me with a cherished experience," she said. "New College has become such a home for me, and to know I am getting a wonderful education as well is the most amazing thing."

Founded in 1960, New College is Florida's honors college for the liberal arts and sciences. It is regularly featured in guides from The Princeton Review, U.S. News & World Report, Peterson's and Fiske as one of the nation's top small colleges and as a best value in higher education. It features small classes, with a 10:1 student-faculty ratio, and extensive research opportunities for students. Faculty members have their doctorates from some of the world's top universities, and provide one-to-one mentoring of students. Eighty-five New College students have received Fulbright awards, a better per-capita rate than almost all American colleges.

NEW COLLEGE OF FLORIDA
5800 BAY SHORE RD, SARASOTA
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SEASIDE NATIONAL BANK & TRUST

AT SEASIDE NATIONAL BANK & TRUST, giving back to the communities we serve is part of who we are. Since 2006, we have consistently contributed our time, support, guidance and money to nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Florida. We pride ourselves on being good corporate citizens that encourage and support our professionals' involvement in business, civic, and social activities. Taking part in community activities, as a representative of Seaside, is a direct reflection of our values. We encourage all Seaside professionals to hold leadership positions within the community, selecting organizations that are personally rewarding for them, and that are consistent with Seaside's values and the needs within the community.

Seaside National Bank & Trust is a nationally chartered commercial bank headquartered in Orlando, Florida. With one loan production office and 14 full-service offices throughout Central Florida, South Florida, West Florida and North Florida, the bank currently has a total of \$1.8 billion in, on and off balance sheet assets. Seaside offers its clients a complete array of wealth management, commercial and private banking financial solutions. For more information visit www.seasidebank.com. Member FDIC.



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