

# CHARITIES SUPPORTED BY THE VASARI CARES FOUNDATION

Through the generosity of Vasari Members and Event sponsors, nearly \$400,000 has been donated since Vasari Cares was started in 2017. All recipients are local. Money raised here, stays here! And, all of the charities are well recognized and/or have received top ratings from Charity Navigator.

	<p><b>Golisano Children's Hospital</b> has been a perennial recipient of grants totaling <b>\$98,261</b> since 2018. They deliver vital and lifesaving care for children throughout Southwest Florida through their state-of-the-art facility opened in 2017. In 2022, \$25,000 was donated in memory of Steve Evangelista, one of the founders of the Vasari Cares Foundation.</p>
	<p>Both <b>Collier and Lee/Hendry Habitat for Humanity</b> organizations have received grants. The total amount thus far is <b>\$24,940</b>. In 2020 a \$1,940 donation was made that supported the Carolina Street project in Bonita Springs and was matched by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.</p>
	<p>Three grants for a total of <b>\$27,000</b> have been made to the <b>Harry Chapin Food Bank</b>. When unemployment and the need for basic necessities spiked due to Covid 19, Vasari Cares quickly donated \$20,000 to the Harry Chapin Food Bank.</p>
	<p><b>New Horizons</b> received a grant of <b>\$12,000</b> in 2025. They provide after school and summer programming at 10 club sites in Lee and Collier Counties. They provide tutoring and mentoring along with life lessons and encouragement to help children achieve success. New Horizons wants to see all students grow into successful members of our community and graduate from high school with a plan for the future. VCF issued a grant of \$12,000 to them in 2024, as well.</p>
	<p>In 2025, <b>\$15,000</b> was awarded to <b>Warrior Homes of Collier</b>. Their efforts and resources are focused on veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. They fulfill a variety of housing needs as well as emergency assistance with healthcare and daily living expenses and case managers who understand the special needs of veterans. They received \$12,000 from VCF in 2024</p>
	<p><b>Laces of Love</b> was given <b>\$20,000</b> in 2025. They provide sneakers to the under-privileged in grades K-12 in Lee and Collier Counties. In many cases, this is the first pair of “new” sneakers the child has ever had. This grant will provide approximately 200 pairs of sneakers. A grant of \$10,000 was given to them in 2024.</p>
	<p><b>Golden PAWS</b> received a grant of <b>\$11,500</b> in 2020. This organization trains and pairs assistance dogs with combat wounded veterans and children with life-changing disabilities. The dogs are bred and trained to meet specific standards, and all applicants must meet program requirements.</p>

 <p>STARability FOUNDATION <i>Shining light on ability, not disability.</i></p>	<p>The <b>STARability Foundation</b> has received multiple grants that add up to <b>\$10,940</b>. STARability's seeks to transform the lives of individuals with disabilities through social, vocational and educational connections to the community, while strengthening awareness and respect for individual abilities.</p>
 <p>Bonita Springs Assistance Office</p>	<p>The <b>Bonita Springs Assistance Office</b> was awarded <b>\$10,000</b> in 2018. They function as a primary social services agency in Bonita Springs by providing temporary assistance to residents of Bonita Springs who have been affected by an unexpected crisis.</p>
 <p>Fun Time Early Childhood Academy Since 1961</p>	<p>In 2023, <b>\$10,000</b> was awarded to <b>Fun Time Early Childhood Academy</b>, a Five Star accredited institution that delivers exemplary pre-kindergarten education programs that focus on research-based educational programs. Fun Time provides safe, high-quality affordable education and care for children of parents from low-income working families. Their goal is "<i>ready-to read and ready to learn!</i>"</p>
 <p>FLORIDA LIONS EYE CLINIC</p>	<p><b>\$24,450</b> has been awarded to the <b>Florida Lions Eye Clinic</b> in Bonita Springs in multiple grants since 2021. This organization provides a wide range of quality eye care services and medical treatments free of charge to qualified patients in underserved areas.</p>
 <p>Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida</p>	<p>The <b>Multiple Sclerosis Center of SWFL</b> in Bonita Springs received a <b>\$5,000</b> grant in 2021. They provide specialized exercise classes, care coordination, art therapy, mental health counseling, connection to resources and education.</p>
 <p>CAFÉ OF LIFE</p>	<p><b>Café of Life</b>, a new recipient, received <b>\$5,000</b> in 2025. This organization operates in our backyard in Bonita Springs. Their goal is to enrich lives and provide empowerment. They strive to empower the community's poor to lift themselves out of poverty, and not just poverty of money. They address the poverty of self-esteem, hope, opportunity, and freedom.</p>
 <p>MOAA</p>	<p>The <b>Military Officers Association of Southwest Florida</b> received <b>\$3,000</b> in 2025. They advocate for retirement benefits including medical insurance for military veterans; protect the rights and interests of active duty, retired, Reserve and National Guard personnel of the uniformed services and their dependents and survivors; provide useful services for members and their dependents and survivors.</p>
 <p>Little League Challenger</p>	<p><b>\$1,000</b> was given to <b>Tri-County Challenger Baseball</b> in 2025. The Challenger Division of Little League® Baseball is an adaptive baseball program for individuals with physical and mental handicaps, ages four through adult. Each year approximately 150 participants from Lee, Collier, and Hendry Counties play ball on Saturday mornings from January through April. Challenger Little League® provides the opportunity for disabled girls and boys to participate in the organized game of baseball.</p>
 <p>the YMCA YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA</p>	<p>Several grants totaling over <b>\$3,500</b> have been awarded to the <b>YMCA</b> in Bonita Springs over the years. In 2021, \$2,400 for the YMCA was donated to Vasari Cares in memory of a Vasari Member.</p>
 <p>Fairways for Freedom Empowering Injured Veterans</p>	<p>In 2021 Vasari Cares helped raise <b>\$1,950</b> for <b>Fairways for Freedom</b>. This organization helps combat-injured veterans assimilate back into society through holistic initiatives and the game of golf.</p>