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Cape foundation awards \$301,000 in grants

A record \$301,888 in grant money is being distributed by the Cape Coral Community Foundation and Giving Alliance of Women to 51 Cape Coral agencies, programs and other institutions.

"This is a historical year for the Foundation reaching 7.3 million in assets and distributing over \$300,000 to the Cape Coral Community through grants and scholarships," said Beth Sanger, executive director of the foundation.

The grant amount is \$114,000 higher than last year's total. The foundation also has a record \$7.3 million in assets, up from \$6.3 million a year ago.

The largest grant award, amounting to \$51,336, goes toward scholarships to high school seniors and Cape Coral Hospital employees looking to continue their educational careers.

"We have several scholarship programs, with over 40 students receiving scholarships," Sanger said.

Those scholarships are awarded in the spring.

Another sizeable grant will go to St. Andrew Catholic Church and school, amounting to \$37,705. Sanger said a donor asked that the money be given to the parish.

Those receiving the grants will be acknowledged during the foundation's annual meeting Nov. 7 at Palmetto Pine Country Club.

"It is through strategic grant making that the Foundation is able to focus on the long-term well-being of the Cape Coral citizens," Sanger said.

The foundation also has set aside \$30,000 - called the Capacity Building Initiative, which is targeted for mental health agencies who express a strong need for the funds and how they would use the money.

Since 1973, the foundation has provided grants and scholarships to the Cape Coral area. The mission of the Foundation is to improve the quality of life in the greater Cape Coral community through the stewardship of permanently endowed and gifted funds. Simple stated 'We are the piggy bank of the community.'

Grant distributions

Abuse Counseling and Treatment Center: \$7,184

American Red Cross of Lee County: \$2,000

Animal Refuge Center: \$3,000

C.A.R.E.S. (Community Awareness in Recognizing and Educating on Suicide): \$2,000

Cape Coral Caring Center: \$7,200

Cape Coral Community Foundation (Operating Endowment); \$800

Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife: \$3,000

Cape Coral High School Band Boosters: \$2,000

Cape Coral Historical/Society Museum: \$2,400

Cape Coral Hospital Auxiliary: \$1,500

Cape Coral Housing Development: \$8,000

Cape Coral Housing Rehab. & Develop.: \$2,500

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice: \$3,500

Children's Advocacy Center of SWFL, Inc.: \$3,000

Children's Home Society: \$4,000

City of Cape Coral (Down Syndrome): \$598

City of Cape Coral (Parks and Recreation Youth Financial Aid): \$358

CROW Clinic for the Rehab. of Wildlife: \$3,000

Cultural Park Theatre Company: \$1,000

Dr. Piper Center: \$6,500

Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation: \$600

Friends of Nursing (Lee Memorial Hospital): \$2,000

Girl Scouts of America: \$200

Good Wheels: \$3,000

Good Will Academies SWFL: \$3,500

Guardian Angels for Special Populations, Inc.: \$2,525

Gulf Coast Humane Society: \$3,000

Habitat for Humanity: \$2,000

Harry Chapin Food Bank: 4,000

Hope Hospice: \$6,398

Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free SWFL: \$3,000

Lee County EMS: \$251

Lee Mental Health: \$4,500

Lifeline Family Center: \$800

Make a Wish Foundation: \$500

PACE Center for Girls: \$3,000

Partners for Breast Cancer Care: \$4,200

Salvation Army: \$5,200

Senior Friendship Centers: \$3,000

Special Equestrians: \$3,000

St. Andrew Catholic Parish and School: \$37,705

Survivor Diver: \$400

SW Florida Symphony: \$4,000

Young Artists Awards: \$1,000

Other Distributions

Capacity Building Initiative: \$30,000

Priority Focused Initiative: \$20,000

Scholarships: \$51,336

CCCIA Hurricane Relief: \$13,133

PACE Center for Girls: \$1,185

Aubuchon Helping Hands: \$22,351

Community Special Events: \$2,561

Total grant distributions: \$301,888