

**BECAUSE THEY CARE**

**Community Cooperative to hold Santa Scramble Golf tourney**

Community Cooperative, the Southwest Florida nonprofit dedicated to ending hunger and homelessness, is hosting an inaugural Santa Scramble Golf Tournament on Friday, Dec. 3 at the Old Corkscrew Golf Club in Estero.

The charity golf tournament will feature registration and lunch from 11-11:45 a.m. and a shotgun start set for noon. Golf will be followed by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a festive live auction. Four-somes can register for \$1,200, including entry, lunch and hors d'oeuvres. Sponsorships are still available and range from \$250 to \$10,000.

Proceeds from the inaugural event will go to support vital hunger relief programs and help those struggling with homelessness during the holidays in Southwest Florida. Community Cooperative programs supported include Sam's Community Care & Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Mobile Food Pantries, innovative social services and more, serving thousands of local children, women, men, families and veterans every day.

For sponsorship opportunities and foursome registrations, contact Tami Holliday at 239-332-7687, ext. 125, or email Tami@CommunityCooperative.com.

**Local Red Sox scholarship applications open online**

The Boston Red Sox Foundation will once again be awarding \$5,000 scholarships in the spring of 2022 to one deserving student from each of the 14 public high schools in Lee County.

For the first time, all Lee County charter and ALS schools will added with one



The Nurse Practitioners of Lee County held another successful food drive to benefit the local Harry Chapin Food Bank. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

\$5,000 scholarship also being awarded to a student from this category for a total of 15 scholarships worth \$75,000.

Applications are now open and available at [redsoxfoundation.org/leecounty-scholarship/](http://redsoxfoundation.org/leecounty-scholarship/)

The deadline to apply is January 7, 2022. All applications should be submitted to [flscholarships@redsox.com](mailto:flscholarships@redsox.com).

The scholarships are for academically talented students who have shown a commitment to community service and are pursuing a two- or four- year degree at any college or university.

Scholarship funds are raised annually from proceeds of the Red Sox annual Swings for the Sox Golf Tournament. To date, the Swings for the Sox has raised more than \$497,000 for local charities and specifically \$437,175 for the scholar-

ship program.

For more information about the Red Sox Foundation, please visit our website at [redsoxfoundation.org](http://redsoxfoundation.org).

**Charity for Change receives grant from State Farm**

Charity for Change has received a \$1,500 grant from State Farm to add curriculum content and videos for its evidence-based Charity for Change Program, which successfully addresses developmental outcomes: social-emotional learning (SEL), academic achievement; and civic/cultural development in participating schools.

Naples-based educational nonprofit Charity for Change recently enhanced its school programs with a new online plat-

form and additional social-emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, which grew by 400% to address the mental wellness challenges during the pandemic and the aftermath.

The enhanced program includes scientifically proven methods of teaching SEL, including four teaching modalities. The proprietary curriculum seamlessly blends character education, charitable involvement and giving, with standards-based math and language arts in a cooperative learning environment.

Since 2008, 80,000 pre-K through 5th grade children have participated in the daily learning program. In addition, more than 100 collaborating charity partners have received more than \$140,000 raised by Charity for Change participants.

**Do good**

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ation for our Southwest Florida home and community has only continued to grow.

Today, we are thankful to be in a position to recognize those who serve our community so bravely and selflessly, while also working to help those in need. We are proud to have supported efforts to make our community safer and healthier – from healthcare workers to community service stars, clean water

advocates, and law enforcement officers working to keep our roads safe.

To inspire our next generation and support local education, we created the Make A Difference Award program over 20 years ago to provide scholarships to students who demonstrate extraordinary community service efforts and leadership. Over the years, recipients of the award have touched the hearts of families of fallen first responders, fed children for a year, provided awareness and support for mental health, and so much more. Some students have even created their own nonprofit organizations to build a lasting legacy. By recog-

nizing and motivating these young leaders, we hope to make the commitment to our community contagious.

My work has brought me into the lives of so many who have lost so much. Inspired by their strength and perseverance, I believe every day is a gift to be cherished. As we enter the holiday season, I implore you to reinvigorate your commitment to your family, friends, and community. Drive safe. Watch for motorcycles. Love your neighbor. Give back where the opportunity arises.

My family, my firm, and I love and value our community. I hope to continue

to educate, advocate, inspire and serve because I believe that together, we can make our community an even better, safer, and more prosperous place to live and work.

*Bruce L. Scheiner has been practicing law in Southwest Florida for 50 years. His firm, Associates and Bruce L. Scheiner, Attorneys for the Injured, has represented over 25,000 people during their time of need. He works with his wife Cheryl, son PJ, and team of over 70 other dedicated southwest Floridians to fight for justice on behalf of those injured by the negligence or carelessness of others.*

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