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SEASON OF SHARING REACHES \$2 MILLION GOAL TO PREVENT HOMELESSNESS IN FOUR COUNTY REGION

March 22, 2016 (Sarasota, FL)- Through the combined efforts of thousands of citizen philanthropists, local foundations, and local media support, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County announced today that more than \$2 million was raised to prevent homelessness through the Season of Sharing campaign. These funds will help more than 2,800 families in need to stay in their homes throughout the year.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County and the Herald-Tribune Media group have partnered for 16 years to assist vulnerable individuals and families from losing their homes through the Season of Sharing fund, which provides one-time emergency assistance to pay for rent, utilities, transportation, and other essential expenses.

The campaign has been a success thanks to the generosity of thousands of donors and numerous civic groups and businesses throughout the community. Of the more than 2,900 gifts to Season of Sharing, 69% were \$100 or less.

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County and a network of local nonprofits provide all administrative support for Season of Sharing so that every dollar raised goes directly to support individuals and families in need. Case workers at more than 60+ local human services nonprofits verify the need for Season of Sharing funds for their clients. Funds are distributed throughout the year to those in need.

“In our four-county region, it is humbling to see the needs of vulnerable citizens resonate with so many caring people who want to help,” said Roxie Jerde, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County.

“The thousands of individuals, media partners, foundations and businesses that supported their fellow citizens through Season of Sharing demonstrate great unity in our community and the willingness of each one of us to step up and be the one to make a difference. We are proud to facilitate this great example of philanthropy.”

A \$100,000 anonymous gift made through Manatee Community Foundation provided the community funding required to stimulate the additional foundation grants to reach \$2 million. The William G. and Marie Selby Foundation awarded a \$100,000 grant.

A longtime supporter of Season of Sharing, The Patterson Foundation contributed \$100,000 each time the community raised \$500,000 during this year's campaign, for a total of \$300,000. Since 2010, The Patterson Foundation has contributed a total of \$2.69 million to Season of Sharing.

"The generous gifts of all sizes from so many in our region triggered \$300,000 in contributions from The Patterson Foundation this year and has ensured thousands of families in our region will remain in their homes," said Debra Jacobs, president and CEO of The Patterson Foundation. "The outpouring of support from our community demonstrates that individuals, nonprofits, media and others have come together to create a promising future."

For the second consecutive year, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation finished the campaign with a \$200,000 capping grant. "Season of Sharing has such a long reach and we are pleased to be able to help so many people in need by supporting the campaign," said Teri A Hansen, President and CEO of the Barancik Foundation.

"Every year I am completely amazed by the incredible generosity of this community in helping those in need. For sixteen years we have all collectively stepped up to help meet the critical needs of our friends and neighbors, including raising over \$2 million in each of the last three years," says Patrick Dorsey, Publisher of the Herald-Tribune Media Group. "Thank you to the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, to The Patterson Foundation and the Charles and Margery Barancik Foundation for their gifts to help us accelerate overall giving, to our generous media partners that give time and space to promote the campaign, and a very special thank you to this incredible community that comes through time and time again to help us reach our goal."

For more information, visit www.CFSarasota.org.

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