

Agriculture Future of America Acknowledgement letter

August 31, 2021

First name, last name
Company Name (if applicable)
Address 1, Address 2
City, State, Zip Code

Dear first name,

Thank you for gifting us \$100 in support of the AFA mission. Now, more than ever, it is important the AFA community help collegiate students forge connections with industry leaders, stimulate their professional and intellectual growth and become lifelong learners.

Throughout our history, our founder, R. Crosby Kemper Jr., often recited a poem that was used as a building block for the mission of AFA.

An essential piece in the creation of our 'why,' this poem is a reminder of the reason behind the work we do; building bridges for young leaders to foster engagement and innovation in food and agriculture.

At the end of the day, if our team is able to align our work with the support from donors in building transformational leaders for our industry, the mission of AFA will be fulfilled.

However, we realize a feat such as this would not be possible without the support and love of donors like you.

Thank you.

You are the driving force behind the AFA mission as we plan for the next 25 years.

Sharing your pride in our future,

Mark E. Stewart; President & CEO
816-406-1963; mark.stewart@agfuture.org

The Bridge Builder

BY WILL ALLEN DROMGOOLE

An old man going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and **deep and wide**.
Through which was flowing a sullen tide
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fear for him.
But he turned when safe on the other side
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followed after me to-day
A youth whose feet must **pass this way**.
This chasm that has been as naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim.
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"

Use your smartphone's camera to scan & go directly to the website!



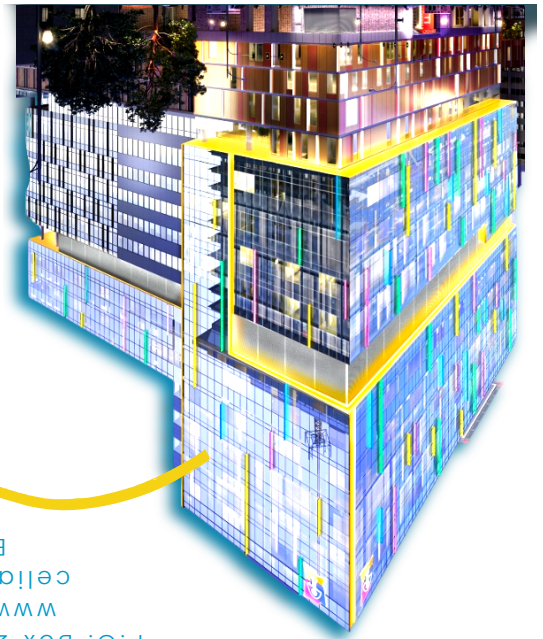
The opening of the Wonder Tower at the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, is an amazing opportunity for Connor's Heroes future. To learn more about the new inpatient hospital and to read a description of what will happen in each Room Filled With Hope, visit www.connorsheroes.org/rooms-filled-with-hope

Connor's Heroes

I included two campaigns that we ran this spring. We launched our first capital campaign. We are raising \$250,000 to open five rooms in construction of an inpatient center at the city's children's hospital. I included the link to an email that tied into an appeal we mailed to our donors. The other campaign was a challenge to raise money for our programs.

Connor's Heroes is dedicated to helping the families in Central Virginia cope with childhood cancer and our community's researchers conquer it. Our mission is to build a community of heroes who provide hope, guidance, and support.

Connor's Heroes Foundation
P.O. Box 2536 Midlothian, VA 23113
www.connorsheroes.org
celia@connorsheroes.org
FIN # 20-4992632



This is a mailer sent to our current donors. It was our first appeal for our capital campaign.

"FROM DAY ONE, CONNOR'S HEROES
STEPPED IN AND HELPED
MY FAMILY IN WAYS
THAT I COULDN'T IMAGINE.



CONNOR'S HEROES WAS

a deep breath in

WHEN I WAS GASPING FOR AIR."
DEB, NOAH'S MOM



Dear < salutation >,

Noah was diagnosed with leukemia in 2016 when he was seven years old. Connor's Heroes has been with Noah's family for every step in his cancer journey. Today Noah and his family join Connor's Heroes on our own journey. We will soon open five spaces on the hematology and oncology floor of the new inpatient children's hospital. But only with your help!



YOUR GIFT CAN OPEN DOORS TO THE
ROOMS *filled with* **HOPE**

for the families who need Connor's Heroes.

When the Wonder Tower opens in 2023, childhood cancer families like Noah's family will have the state-of-the-art medical facility they have been dreaming of and need. Inside the hospital is where Connor's Heroes can do wonders.

We identified five unique spaces designed with our childhood cancer heroes, their families, healthcare teams, and researchers in mind. In each ROOM FILLED WITH HOPE, a hero family will see how a community of heroes can help: from the moment they receive a Heroes Bag and Backpack after their child's diagnosis, and through the ups and downs of their cancer treatment.



**You can open the door to a ROOM FILLED WITH HOPE
if you make your financial gift today.**

With your gift, Connor's Heroes can continue to focus on what is important to you: making sure NO family will face their child's cancer alone. They will have a community of heroes by their side. And how wonderful it will be! On behalf of Noah and our hero families, *Thank you!*

Celia Tetlow Martin
Executive Director



**Fayette Community
Foundation**

Quarterly Thank You. We turned this into a postcard-style Thank You and included a custom sticker in the shape of our county since we are a community foundation.



Thank You

We're Better Together Because of You

Fayette Community Foundation

Quarterly Thank You. We turned this into a postcard-style Thank You and included a custom sticker in the shape of our county since we are a community foundation.





February 19, 2020

Sample DEFAULT Person
1234 Main St.
Portland, OR 97214

Dear Mrs. Default,

Thank you so very much for your generous gift of \$50 to Helen Keller International, which we received on February 12, 2020. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support.

Your gift will be put to use immediately, helping HKI to deliver practical, lifesaving solutions to children and adults facing tremendous challenges in 20 countries around the world. In fact, your contribution helps provide families with the essential building blocks of health and wellbeing – nutritious food, lifesaving medical care and stable livelihoods.

Through generosity like yours, HKI assists people struggling to recover from natural disasters and other sudden crises, for example in Mozambique, where HKI staff are helping thousands of families to re-establish their farms and avoid a major food crisis in the wake of a devastating cyclone.

Your support also allows us to partner with communities around the world to overcome longstanding cycles of malnutrition and poverty. And right here in the United States, we are transforming lives by providing low-income students, homeless veterans and other disadvantaged groups with access to free vision screenings and prescription eyeglasses.

On behalf of all of us at HKI, and especially the people we serve, thank you for your compassion and generosity. Together, we are keeping Helen Keller's remarkable legacy alive.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Kathy Spahn
President and CEO

P.S. As tax regulations require, Helen Keller International (Tax ID #13-5562162) acknowledges that it has not provided you with any goods or services in exchange for your contribution of \$50 received on February 12, 2020.

One Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, Floor 2 , New York, New York, 10017 | 212-532-0544 | www.hki.org

Thank You For Your Support

Please mark any corrections to your name or address below, if necessary, and return this tear-off form in the enclosed envelope.

Receive updates from HKI via email: _____ @ _____

Occasionally, HKI shares the names of our donors with like-minded organizations. If you would prefer that we not share your name, please check here:

To make an additional gift, please send your check payable to **Helen Keller International**, or see the reverse to give by credit card and explore other giving options.



Sample DEFAULT Person
1234 Main St.
Portland, OR 97214



ACK 999999

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller

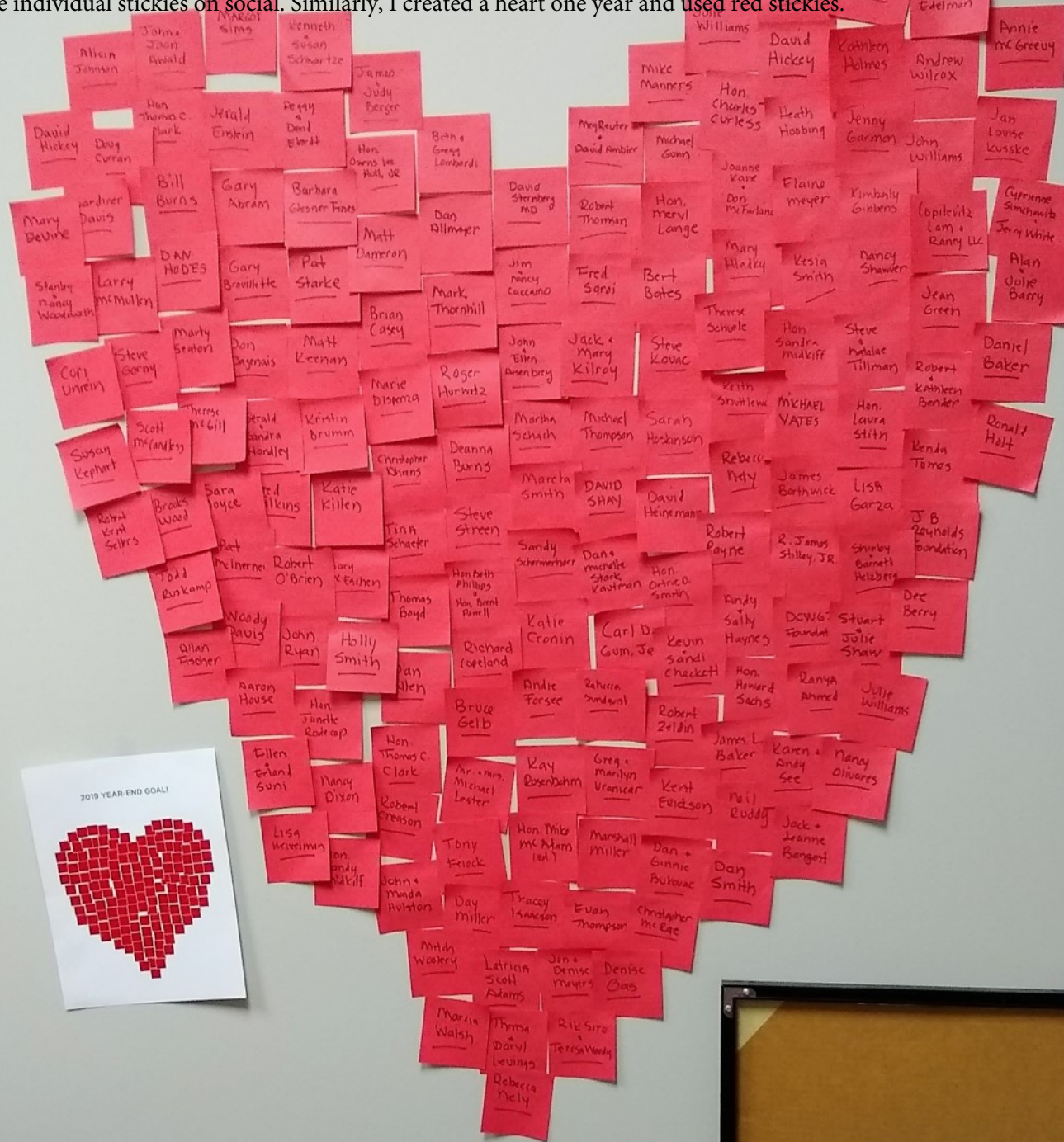
Completed Smiley-the white sheet represents my goal. I posted photos of each yellow stickie on social

MARGOT SIMS
 Robert V. Lieberman
 Sarah Blom Smith
 Thomas C. Brown
 Don & Bonnie Dubuc
 Day Miller
 Therese Mc Gill
 Carol Boob
 J. Michael Vaughan
 William E. Garick
 Pharylo Shany
 Chris Jennifer Trucel
 Ann Sheffard
 Helly Michael Buser
 Elizabeth Bova David Martin
 Alice David Jack Schenker
 Maureen Scully
 J. Scott McCallis
 Richard Debra Lombardo
 Charlotte Erbs
 Curtis Jackson
 Pat Janna Stueck
 David Smoler
 Michael Butler
 Robert D. Murphy
 Han Michael & Irina (dot)
 Sandra C. Terry J.
 Markiff Soterlee
 Alison Fisher
 Sandy Stromborn
 Robert Thurman
 Kelly Brinde
 Gerald Sandra Mandley
 Maureen Scully
 Morris J. Rubin
 Lynn Ann Kimbrell
 Thomas Boyd
 Charlotte Erbs
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 Mark Ellison
 Tracy Abelin
 John Matheson
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 Harri Aylward & Bandy
 Steve Garner
 Carla Gladis Kraus
 Kelly Carpenter
 David Bult
 Marti Schuch
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 John Baby Turner
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 Julia Oswald
 Stuart Julie Shaw
 Brian Casey
 Kimbly Gibbons
 Steven Langshat
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 Billman Wasserman
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 Katie Fahrholz
 Erik Siro
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 John P. Madden
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 Robert Kent Sellers
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 Shauna Woodcock
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 Theresa May
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 Patrick Kathleen Dolan
 Anton Jean Jacobo
 Steve Kovac
 Clare Dolan
 John R Campbell Jr
 Patrick Kathleen Dolan
 Anton Jean Jacobo
 Steve Kovac
 Clare Dolan



Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Each year, I work to come up with a fun way to thank our year-end donors. One year, we were moving because our bldg was going to be turned into apartments, so I wrote a thank you to each donor on my office wall and posted photos of each individual thank you on social media. Another year, I bought an Elf on the Shelf and posted photos of the elf around our office. In each photo, he held a card thanking an individual donor. We used the elf again in 2020 and I bought a little mask for him to wear. Another year, I set out to complete a yellow smiley face on my wall. Each sticky note contained a donor name and I shared photos of the individual stickies on social. Similarly, I created a heart one year and used red stickies.



THE ART LEAGUE OF MARCO ISLAND INC. D/B/A MARCO ISLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS IS A 501(C) (3) TAX EXEMPT ORGANIZATION FOR BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE TAX PURPOSES. OUR FEDERAL TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER IS 59-1754367. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE (CH-11549) OR BY GOING TO THE WEBSITE HTTP://WWW.FRESHFROMFLORIDA.COM/. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.



Donations can also be made online www.marcoislandart.org / 239-394-4221 / 1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145

Signature: _____ I wish to remain anonymous

Bill My Credit Card #: _____ Security Code: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Check enclosed — Please Make payable to Marco Island Center for the Arts.

Please accept my tax deductible donation in the amount of: \$ _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City/State: _____

Name: _____

\$10,000 \$5,000 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100 Monthly Contribution Other: \$ _____

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL — THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR SUPPORTING THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS!

CUT ON THE DOTTED LINE AND MAIL TO THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS



While not a traditional acknowledgement, we choose to make our Annual Appeal a THANK YOU to our stakeholders who gave so much to support us through the pandemic. We stayed open and retained our entire small staff with no layoffs or reduction in pay. We could not have done it without our community. While the appeal asks for donations, it is also an acknowledgement of the support received during the most challenging of times. / Annual Appeal THANK YOU to stakeholders for support during the pandemic year.





Because YOU have supported Marco Island Center for the Arts during the unprecedented challenges of the last year, your Art Center has continued to serve you and your community.

WE THANK YOU.

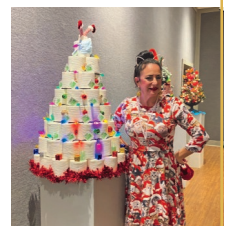
This past year has been financially disastrous for many art organizations. According to a report from the Brookings Institute the fine and performing arts have already suffered the loss of almost 1.4 million jobs and \$42.5 billion in sales. Creative fields have lost more than 2.3 million jobs and \$74 billion in average monthly earnings for workers. All of this is to say that the arts and art organizations need support.

From October 1, 2020 till now, the Art Center has presented four main gallery exhibitions and six La Petite Galerie shows. A successful Young Artist Academy was run in the Fall and the Annual Festival of Trees took place at the beginning of December. Adult art classes and workshops were offered onsite and, for the first time, online classes took place. Musical Interludes were moved to our courtyard and four concerts were presented. Art Center Live was launched and conversations with artists, performers, authors and more were live on Facebook and can be found on our YouTube channel. The full staff was retained because when we say we are an Art Family we mean it.

What awaits you for 2021-2022? Extraordinary art exhibitions, classes, workshops, music and other programs are already being planned for next year. Come see an art exhibition featuring artists Emily James, Rachel Pierce, JoAnn Sanborn and Phyllis Pransky. Enjoy the music of the Peter and Will Anderson Jazz Trio. You will be able to take classes with your favorite teaching artist as well as some new instructors.

We can't do it without your support. Now more than ever, your donation is needed so that the Art Center can continue to grow and provide art opportunities for all.

You are our Art Family and we are your Art Home.



Marco Island Center for the Arts

1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, FL 34145 /239-394-4221



Marco Island
Center for the Arts



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Total Wine & More

GOLD SPONSOR

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Allyson & Jim Richards
Monica & William Rheiner

SILVER SPONSOR

Karin & Marlon Cohn
Emily & John James
Mary Pat & Aldo Palombo

BRONZE SPONSOR

Jolee Farro
Mary Ann Tittle

THANK YOU

DONORS

Karin & Marlon Cohn
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Lisa Hammond
Sally & Bob Jahn
LaVonne Johnson
Karla & John Kunzeman
Judy Maloney
Chris & Ken Stroud
Sandra & Bill Wallen
Mary & Dr. Norman Zemel

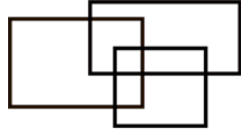
IN-KIND DONORS

A. Jaron Fine Jewelry
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Marco Island Water Sports
Naples Botanical Garden
Naples Princess
Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens
Natalie's Skin Solutions
Passiko's Jewelry
Platinum Dry Cleaners
Total Wine & More

IN-KIND DONORS

Charlie Blum
Delores Burton
Judy Chinski
Cheryl Costley
Hyla Crane
Heidi Darrow
Sue Darrow
Pam Dills
Barney Halaschak
Sandy Moore Howe
Emily James
Sandra Fay Mark
Ginny Mueller
Nancy Norman
Virginia Palma
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Barbara Parisi
Joseph C. Parisi DVM
Rachel Pierce
Jim Richards
Vera Ripley
Bruce Robertson
Debbie & Marty Roddy
Jo-Ann Sanborn
Donald Sunshine
Karen Swanker
Malenda Trick
Mary & Dr. Norman Zemel

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Annual Appeal acknowledgement letter

Marco Island
Center for the Arts

[Today]

[Envelope Name]
[Street]
[City], [State] [ZIP Code]

Dear [Informal Name],

Thanks to you and your generous gift to our 2021 Annual Appeal, especially during these trying times, the arts will continue to play a role in positively impacting the ever evolving community of Marco Island and the surrounding areas. Inter-community connections -- the promise of increased understanding between people -- is essential. The arts have a long history of bringing people together across boundaries -- increasing understandings across disparate groups, and supporting the agency of all communities to create, maintain and share their own stories. You make this possible.

Because of your support, an array of art exhibitions adorn the gallery walls year round providing opportunities for engagement and conversation. Intimate musical concerts in a variety of genres offer yet another way in which people connect and fosters community.

New friendships and a sense of purpose are the direct result of the many art education programs that your donation makes possible for students from 6 to 96. You make it possible for these students to participate in the Young Artist Academy which provides free art workshops for students in middle and high school.

The "thank you" is for you. Without you this program would not exist. Without you, there would not be an Art Center on Marco Island. You ensure that cultural opportunities are available to all and we at the Marco Island Center for the Arts wish to express our boundless gratitude.

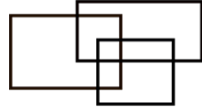
If you have any questions or suggestions, we are here to listen. Please don't hesitate to call or stop by. Remember -- the Art Center is your Art Home.

Sincerely,

Hyla Crane
Executive Director

Please consider this letter as an official receipt of your tax deductible contribution of [Amount] on [Date]. No goods or services were provided to you in consideration of this gift. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent of the tax laws. Our Federal tax identification number is 59-1754367. Art League of Marco Island Inc. d/b/a The Marco Island Center for the Arts is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt organization for both Federal and State tax purposes. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE (CH-11549). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

1010 Winterberry Drive, Marco Island, Florida 34145
Phone: 239.394.4221 ~ FAX: 239.394.7812 ~ www.marcoislandart.org ~ Tax ID 59-1754367



Marco Island
Center for the Arts

Gala Fund A Need Thank You - the theme of the request was that The Future Starts Today.

[Today]

[Envelope Name]

[Street]

[City], [State] [ZIP Code]

Dear [Informal Name],

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Staff, and Gala Chair, I thank you for your contribution during the Fund-a-Need component of the 2021 Fly Me to the Moon and Let Me Play Among the Arts Gala, our annual fundraiser to benefit the Marco Island Center for the Arts.

Your contribution of [Amount] will help us ensure the Art Center will be here next year, 5 years from now, and 50 years from now. **The Future Starts Today!**

We are fortunate to have friends like you who share our commitment to the arts, and to the growth of the Center for the Arts. Your support is appreciated and it will make a very real and meaningful difference in our community.

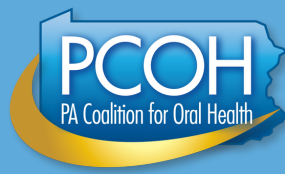
Please accept our sincere thanks for your support to preserve the cultural journey of the Art Center, especially during these trying times.

Sincerely,

Hyla Crane
Executive Director

Please consider this letter as an official receipt of your contribution of [Amount] on [Date]. No goods or services were provided to you in consideration of this gift. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent of the tax laws. Our Federal tax identification number is 59-1754367. Art League of Marco Island Inc. d/b/a The Marco Island Center for the Arts is a 501(c) (3) tax-exempt organization for both Federal and State tax purposes. A COPY OF OUR OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE FLORIDA DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE (CH-11549). REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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Phone: 239.394.4221 FAX: 239.394.7812 www.marcoislandart.org
Tax ID 59-1754367



This piece was created in lieu of our usual year-end appeal letter for 2020.

2020 Year in Review

You continue to inspire us to do more; look at what we've done together this year!

PCOH staff and board are grateful for your help as we navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic. With your support, we are able to focus on our priorities improving oral health and overall health for Pennsylvanians.

- ★ Supporting Pennsylvania oral health workforce development
- ★ Improving oral health for Pennsylvania's most vulnerable populations
- ★ Advocating for community water fluoridation
- ★ Advancing and advocating for oral health policy and infrastructure across all systems

113

informational packets delivered to high school guidance counselors for students to consider careers in dentistry

200+

phone conversations assisting stakeholders with COVID-19 response

6

meetings held with PA legislators and staff

101

dental staff completed the Nicotine Dependence and Tobacco Cessation training

7

grants awarded to public water systems for fluoridation equipment

250+

PA dental/dental hygiene students participated in "Teeth" book study sessions to learn more about public health

824

PCOH stakeholders received weekly newsletters, interacted with PCOH on social media, and attended virtual events

500,000+

Pennsylvanians served by water systems committed to fluoridating for at least 5 years through our grant program

85

primary care provider offices provided with community water fluoridation patient education materials

24

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) offices receiving community water fluoridation education materials

11

virtual stakeholder meetings hosted by PCOH

52

email newsletters sent to PCOH stakeholders with news, event/webinar offerings, and resources

Partial funding for these projects provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under Grant T12HP27539: Grants to States to Support Oral Health Workforce Activities and through the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under the Preventative Health and Health Services Block Grant and Grant NU58DP006467: Using Surveillance Data and Evidence-based Interventions to Improve Oral Health Outcomes in Pennsylvania. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by CDC, HHS or the U.S. Government.



Thank you to all of our supporters
for making this work possible.



Programs that Make A Difference: LEAD



“A leader is the person in the front, who sets the example and has gained enough trust so that people will follow. And by doing this you are serving those who you are leading.”

— **Ryan Ashburn**
(Colorado State)

Reflecting on the definition of leadership after experiencing Sigma Nu's LEAD program.



Sigma Nu
EDUCATIONAL
FOUNDATION

The Sigma Nu Educational Foundation mission is to secure and provide enduring resources to support the educational and charitable initiatives of Sigma Nu Fraternity.

We begin with the belief that every collegiate brother has the ability to become a leader. Every collegiate brother has the ability to gain skills to help them lead a group, set the example, encourage others, challenge the process, and set a vision.

For Ryan Ashburn (Colorado State), a quiet introvert who didn't hold any formal leadership roles in high school, leadership was something that he thought was for others or "something that was reserved for someone like the captain of a sports team."

For Will Daughton (Southern Methodist), who was involved in several different student organizations in high school and held many formal leadership positions, Sigma Nu was an opportunity to add to his base of knowledge and sharpen those skills.

For both brothers, the LEAD Program was a life-changing experience and an important part of their collegiate Sigma Nu experience.

Reflecting on his understanding of leadership when he was in high school, Ryan said, "As a senior, I did not really have a concept of what leadership was all about. In high school, I thought people were leaders because they had a title or formal position. I thought leadership was about someone in a position of authority." He added, "When I think of my leadership skills now compared to when I graduated from high school, I think I have grown immensely. Sigma Nu helped me become a leader."

After joining Sigma Nu at Colorado State, Ryan settled in and started

paying more attention to brothers who held leadership positions in the chapter.

"I saw the way my Marshal was a leader," he says. "I remember him telling me that he was there for me if I needed anything. That really impacted me. Through LEAD Phases I, II, and III, I was able to learn more about real leadership and began to build my knowledge and understanding of myself."

From there Ryan held some small leadership positions in the chapter. First, he was elected by his candidate class to be the Candidate Class Lt. Commander. While the position had narrow responsibilities, he was able to shadow the chapter's Lt. Commander and learn how the Executive Board functioned. Ryan added, "Holding that first position helped me get onto the Honor Board and Community Service Committee during my first semester as an initiated member."

Those committee roles soon led to Ryan being elected as the Community Service Chairman. "These first few leadership positions helped me grow as a leader and develop those skills. Sigma Nu gave me the chance to test myself in smaller leadership positions in the chapter. From there, I went on to serve as Lt. Commander, Commander, and now as



Interfraternity Council President."

Ryan remembers one of his "aha moments" a few years into his time in the chapter. "It was towards the end of my term as Lt. Commander, close to election time. Our chapter had gone through some growing pains because we had grown to almost 100 brothers from about 50."

When Ryan heard that there were not many other brothers thinking of running for Commander, he started considering it. "Part of me thought that maybe I should, another part of me was telling me that I should not."

As he heard feedback from other brothers, he took time to reflect on the opportunity in front of him. Ryan remembers that moment. "I think this is what I should do. It was a defining moment. I realized that I am good at this. I have the capability to lead."

During his time in Sigma Nu, Ryan said his thoughts on leadership evolved. "I tend to focus on Servant Leadership. I think there is a big difference between being a leader



leaders who hold official positions and great leaders who do not hold any formal position. This shifted my view so that instead of thinking that someone is a leader because they have a title, I now think that generally they have a title or formal position because they are a leader.”

For Ryan, LEAD has been an integral part of his growth as a person, student, and leader. His leadership journey has tested him, shaped him, and pushed him to develop his skills. “The LEAD Program was something that I value. The LEAD sessions helped me be introspective and think about myself.”

BECOMING SOMETHING MORE

Looking at Will Daughton’s list of leadership roles in high school, you can envision a young man who was actively seeking out opportunities and being intentional. A rising Sophomore in the colony at Southern Methodist University, Will was actively involved in high school. He had roles in the school’s Student Government Association starting in his freshman year and was serving as the Student Government President by his senior year. His love of journalism led him to a role as Sports Editor for his school newspaper. An accomplished tennis player, he was named varsity captain of the team his junior and senior year.

However, Will realized that despite the different roles, there were things that were holding him back from improving as a student leader.

“I’ve always been self-reliant for better or worse,” he said. “My challenges always crept in when I had a leadership position. Even though a big group of people would have been happy to have helped me with a project, I tried to do it on my own. My thinking was that I didn’t want to burden others. It was just a lot; overwhelming sometimes. Even though I knew I had other people who could have helped.”

“A lot of people don’t see our efforts to help each other grow as men and leaders who are ready and willing to have the conversations necessary to build real, authentic relationships with each other and those around us.”

– **Will Daughton**
(Southern Methodist)



and being a boss. To me, a boss is someone who stands in the back and tells people where to go, but a leader is the person in the front, who sets the example and has gained enough trust so that people will follow. And by doing this you are serving those who you are leading.”

Ryan also said he learned the importance of building relationships with others as part of the leadership process. “For me, leadership is about making connections and building relationships. It is about empowering them to take ownership and develop themselves. This creates a shared sense of responsibility and ownership so that everyone is working to improve not only themselves, but also each other and improve the organization as a whole.”

As Ryan enters his senior year at Colorado State, he said that Sigma Nu has made a big impact on him. “My experience with Sigma Nu changed my view of leadership experience. I realized that there can be bad





Will's thoughts on leadership changed when he became a member of the Sigma Nu colony at SMU. "I think I was inspired by all the guys in the colony. It was a collective effort to get our charter approved. The brothers all had different roles, and everyone was part of the effort. My high school self would have tried to do it on my own."

Watching how the brothers in the colony worked together was powerful for Will. "I saw that leadership is not just about leading people. It's about who you surround yourself with. I saw the guys in Sigma Nu. They all wanted the same thing. When you have a group that wants the same thing and want it badly, it is motivating."

The LEAD Program, a four-year leadership development program for Sigma Nu collegians, was part of the core experience for Will and his colony brothers. As colony members, they completed Phase I of the LEAD Program together as part of their preparation to become a chartered chapter.

One LEAD session that had a powerful impact on Will was on Emotional Intelligence. "I had always heard of the term Emotional Intelligence being thrown around," he says. "I didn't really have a grasp on what it meant."

After attending the session, Will realized that, "It means to develop real authentic relationships, communicate ideas, understand yourself better, and make deeper connections." Will saw the opportunity to build a different kind of friendship. "It is more than a fraternity brother, a brother for life. It is an extension of brotherhood."

During the session, one of the interactive activities on Self Awareness involved being paired up with another colony brother and sharing thoughts on specific questions with each other. Due to the pandemic, this was done on his cell phone.

"We were going back and forth, opening up and telling each other

stuff that we hadn't shared with many other people. It really helped us understand each other. I remember thinking to myself, if this becomes a habit with other brothers in the colony, it is going to bring us so much closer. It will help us accomplish more."

The session on Emotional Intelligence defined the term for the brothers, showed why Emotional Intelligence is more important than IQ to someone's success, and focused on the five factors of Emotional Intelligence: Self-Perception,

Self-Expression, Interpersonal Competence, Decision Making, and Stress Management. Self-Awareness was one area that Will was drawn to during the session. One of the key topics related to that area is vulnerability.

As Will reflected on the session, he thought about how he and the other colony brothers had grown during the past year. "As a 20-year-old, it is easy to fall into a habit of being the person that others want you to be and forgetting who you are. It is easy to struggle with your identity. Being vulnerable can be a way to help figure out who you are on the deepest level and identify the similarities that we share as humans in our struggles and insecurities. Sharing something that is near and dear to your heart is not easy. But it shows the other person that you trust them. It makes the connection that much stronger."

The session also had Will reflect on how Emotional Intelligence was not what others would normally think of as fraternity men learning. "I think that when you hear the word fraternity, there are stereotypes that come to mind," Will says as he considers the impact of the LEAD program "A lot of people don't see our efforts to help each other grow as men and leaders who are ready and willing to have the conversations necessary to build real, authentic relationships with each other and those around us. By focusing on personal growth through LEAD, they will see the type of men that Sigma Nu is producing."

At the end of that evening's session, he saw an opportunity for himself. "After getting off the ZOOM LEAD session, I thought to myself, wow. That (Emotional Intelligence) is something I need to work on. It could change my life. If the rest of the colony brothers bring it, we could develop our brotherhood into something really special." *

SIGMA NU'S LEAD PROGRAM
LEADERSHIP · ETHICS · ACHIEVEMENT · DEVELOPMENT

1988
Year the LEAD Program was created

11
Number of sessions in LEAD Phase I

8
Number of awards that the LEAD Program has received by national organizations

98%
Percent of chapters that use at least one Phase of LEAD

202
Number of LEAD sessions facilitated by Sigma Nu staff during the 2019-20 academic year

Sigma Nu Educational Foundation

Acknowledgement letter for Quarter 1 of FY 21

Date

Name

Address

Address

Dear _____,

You made my day!

As I sat here this morning opening the mail, I came across your generous donation of \$ ____ to (INSERT PURPOSE). I can't tell you how much I appreciate your support for our great fraternity. Quite simply, **your investment in Sigma Nu increases our strength.**

Commented [LCL1]: Since this is a "thank you" letter, I'd recommend an opening that directly addresses them - "Your generous donation..." or "thank you for your...". It should be about them.

What does this strength mean to collegians? What does this strength mean to you as an alumnus?

- It means that we have award-winning leadership program like **L.E.A.D.** for collegians to develop their skills and confidence.
- It means that **ALL** chapters receive 2-chapter visits from a Chapter Leadership Consultant during the academic year. These visits include 1:1 coaching with officers, facilitation of leadership workshops and goal-setting.
- It means that as an alumnus, you can feel pride in the **quality of our chapters** nationwide.
- It means that we have **dedicated staff support for our Alumni Advisory Boards** and the more than 2,000 alumni that help move our chapters forward.
- It means that our fraternity has dedicated staff support to help alumni brothers **stay connected and engaged** on the local and national level.
- It means that we have **increased our average chapter size** from INSERT to INSERT since 2015.

Commented [LCL2]: Oxford Comma to make it a bit clearer.

- It means that our chapters have **increased their level of performance** in our “Pursuit of Excellence” program, which measures the success of all chapters every academic year.

Your support has helped to make this success possible. Your support has helped your fraternity gain strength.

_____, thank you once again for your donation. It truly makes an impact!

With gratitude,

Brad Beacham

Executive Director, Sigma Nu Fraternity

Interim President, Sigma Nu Educational Foundation

