

CAUSES



IMM Quality Boat Lifts sponsored Fishin' with a Mission, a fishing tournament to support students and teachers at St. Michael Lutheran School in Fort Myers. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

SELLING GLOBALLY, SUPPORTING LOCALLY

Worldwide manufacturer's heart is in Southwest Florida

Steven Nanda

Guest Columnist
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

As one of the largest boat lift manufacturers in the world, IMM Quality Boat Lifts engineers, produces and delivers boat lifts across the globe.

You can find IMM-designed boat lifts in Cape Coral and Cape Cod, as well as Naples, Florida, and Naples, Italy. Boaters across six continents are using lifts made by IMM Quality Boat Lifts.

As a global manufacturer, it can be easy to focus on the big picture - strengthening worldwide business operations and increasing sales in coastal markets.

However, IMM Quality Boat Lifts is still a local, family-owned company, just like the many mom-and-pop

businesses that enhance Southwest Florida's economy and quality of life. IMM Quality Boat Lifts just happens to sell its product to a global audience from its headquarters off Alico Road in south Lee County.

Many years ago, the 39-year-old company made a commitment to support the local community. After all, its 75 employees live here. They shop here. Their children go to school here. They spend time at local parks, libraries, restaurants and attractions.

The company's heart is here in Southwest Florida. Recently, IMM Quality Boat Lifts sponsored Fishin' with a Mission, a fishing tournament to support students and teachers at St. Michael Lutheran School in Fort Myers. Held at South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island,

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Red Sox Foundation awards scholarships

Special to Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Boston Red Sox recently honored 14 local public high-school seniors in an on-field presentation celebrating each of their receipt of a \$5,000 college scholarship by the Red Sox Foundation.

This was the sixth consecutive year of the local scholarships. Due to COVID restrictions, this year's presentation was held after Spring Training, but included each recipient receiving a customized bat with their name engraved, an on-field photo in front of the Green Monster at JetBlue Park at Fenway South in Fort Myers and a reception in a suite overlooking the park.

The students said they are planning to attend schools including FGCU, University of Florida, Florida State, UCF and more and are planning a diverse field of majors from law, nursing, biological engineering, pediatric oncology and business to political science, graphic design, computer science and construction management.

Scholarship funds are raised from proceeds from the annual Swings For The Sox golf tournament held each fall to benefit the Red Sox Scholarship and

other efforts. In the past nine years, the Red Sox Foundation has raised more than \$446,160 for local nonprofits and scholarships.

"I barely graduated high school and I never graduated college so this is a pretty important thing for me because I was adopted and I was able to get my limited education by my own choice, not by my parents," said David Doran, owner of DLD Builders LLC of Naples, who was the title sponsor of the Swings For The Sox for the 6th consecutive year. "Financial aid is an important thing, because every student should be able to achieve their dream. I look forward to reading things about these students in the future, because they can change the course of the world."

"We want to thank the Red Sox Foundation as this is six years that they have given scholarships to all 14 high schools, and soon it will be 15 with Gateway High School," said Clayton Simmons, executive director for high schools for the School District of Lee County.

"We are very proud that all the money we raise locally through our annual

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On June 2, volunteers - including Miss Cape Coral Juliandra De Jesus, her mother Alexandra Berru, and Community Cooperative and FPL staff - packaged hurricane kits. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Hurricane kits distributed to Meals on Wheels recipients

Special to Fort Myers News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

For the third year, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) partnered with Community Cooperative to distribute 400 hurricane kits to Meals on Wheels recipients who are homebound and often unable to go out and buy necessary items to prepare for storms.

Each kit included a three-day supply of nutritious shelf-stable food for breakfast, lunch and dinner, water and snacks to help homebound residents in case Community Cooperative is unable after a storm to make regular food deliveries to Meals on Wheels recipients.

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BECAUSE THEY CARE

Florida Lions Eye Clinic welcomes new executive director

The Florida Lions Eye Clinic (FLEC) welcomes Robin Goldstone Garcia as its new executive director. Robin has extensive executive-level managerial experience and has served the vision initiative in Florida for the last several years as the Deputy Director of the Division of Blind Services, FDOE and the Executive Director of Lighthouse of Collier.

Additionally, she has more than 20 years of business experience in financial services, contract administration, human resources and operations.

Robin holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Psychology from the State University of New York, College at Oswego, and has pursued a master's in holistic nutrition from the Clayton College of Natural Health.

The Florida Lions Eye Clinic offers free, state-of-the-art, eye care to children, families and adults who are underserved, do not have medical insur-

ance, and meet the qualifying guidelines. In collaboration with Lions Clubs throughout the state, the Clinic also brings onsite screenings and clinical care to many of the underserved areas in southwest Florida. Serving over 2,000 patients annually, the Clinic relies on the generosity of its supporters and their donations of time, talent, and treasure.

Fort Myers East Rotary Club/Scholarship honors scholarship winners

Fort Myers East Rotary Club has announced \$1,000 scholarships to the following college-bound students: from Dunbar High School – Lindsey Buchner and Athena Pelletier, both of whom will be attending FGCU; from Riverdale High School – Lena McCullers who will also be attending FGCU and Cole Erickson, who will be attending University of Florida.

All four of these scholarship winners were very active volunteering at school

and in their community while completing The International Baccalaureate program. Fort Myers East Rotary Club meets for breakfast every Wednesday morning at 7:30 a.m. For more information, contact Ellen Erickson at 239-694-6833.

Allyn International donates \$6,500 to Feeding America

Allyn International (Allyn), a local supply chain consulting firm, has donated \$6,500 to Feeding America. The \$6,500 donation will help to provide 6,500 meals to families in need.

Allyn is offering incentives globally to all their employees who receive their COVID-19 vaccination. Allyn is letting employees be vaccinated during the workday, they will also donate 100 USD equivalent to a selected local charity for each employee who gets vaccinated. Along with the donation, each employee is entered in to 200 USD equivalent raffle and is also gifted Allyn merchandise for assisting the community by becom-

ing vaccinated. Allyn's worldwide goal by the end of December is to have at least 75% of all employees vaccinated, as of today they are over 20% vaccinated worldwide.

Sen. Rick Scott donates Senate salary to local organizations

Senator Rick Scott announced he will donate his first quarter Senate salary to two organizations committed to supporting Florida's children and seniors. Liberty Youth Ranch in Bonita Springs is a residential program for vulnerable children, and Advance Senior Center in Kissimmee provides programs and resources for seniors to promote health, exercise and entertainment.

Senator Scott will donate his second quarter Senate salary to Guadalupe Center in Immokalee to support their efforts to break the cycle of poverty through education for the children of Immokalee, and the Florida Chapter of the ALS Association to help fight ALS on all fronts.

Immokalee Foundation receives \$247,500 grant

Special to The News-Press

USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

An anonymous donor with a particular interest in housing in Immokalee has made a \$247,500 grant through the Community Foundation of Collier County to The Immokalee Foundation to support the construction of a new home in the foundation's 18-home Career Pathways Learning Lab subdivision.

The Learning Lab is part of The Immokalee Foundation's Career Pathways program, which provides the youth of Immokalee with robust after-school and summer programming that prepares them for well-paying, in-demand professional careers.

"We are excited to provide support to The Immokalee Foundation through the generosity of our donors for their Learning Lab project as part of our 'Your passion. Your Collier.' campaign, designed to address critical community needs such as education and employment," said Community Foundation of Collier County President and CEO Eileen Connolly-Keesler. "This innovative project will provide an amazing educational opportunity for local students to obtain valuable skills that will prepare them for the workforce."

Collier Enterprises donated 8.3 acres of land for the Learning Lab subdivision and helped underwrite the cost of the permitting and infrastructure work, an investment of more than \$1 million. The Ray Foundation's \$250,000 matching grant provided a significant boost in getting the Learning Lab underway. The Immokalee Foundation also partnered with BCB Homes and Immokalee Technical College (ITECH) to develop a high school curriculum of after-school and summer programs that incorporate on-the-job, experiential learning and paid internships.

The Immokalee Foundation is providing supervision for students during new home construction, and ITECH supports onsite educational instruction. A double-wide trailer provided by Lipman Family Farms serves as a meeting space and on-site classroom for foundation students in the Business Management &



The Immokalee Foundation's students gain hands-on experience at the Career Pathways program. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Entrepreneurship and Engineering & Construction Management Pathways. Learning about land development, home construction, marketing and sales, coupled with their educational curriculum, is helping students achieve employability upon high school graduation and pursue postsecondary education to attain their chosen professional careers.

With three bedrooms and two baths in 1,680 square feet of air-conditioned living area, plus a lanai and a two-car garage, the subdivision's single-family homes will be sold at market price to further support The Immokalee Foundation's Career Pathways Learning Lab project.

Each home requires approximately seven months to complete. The Immokalee Foundation expects to build three homes per year and anticipates completing the Learning Lab in 2027.

The Community Foundation of Collier County, now in its 35th year, is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the

Community Foundation of Collier County manages more than 750 funds, collaborates with hundreds of nonprofits, holds over \$260 million in assets and has distributed over \$200 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and community programs. The Community Foundation of Collier County is one of Florida's fastest-growing community foundations. For good. Forever. Learn more at <https://cfcollier.org/> or call 239-649-5000.

For more than 30 years, The Immokalee Foundation has provided a range of education programs that focus on building pathways to professional careers through support, mentoring and tutoring, and life skills development leading to economic independence. To learn more about The Immokalee Foundation, becoming a mentor, its signature events, volunteering as a career panel speaker or host, making a donation, including the foundation in your estate plans, or for additional information, call 239-430-9122 or visit <https://immokaleefoundation.org>.

Manufacturer

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the event attracted dozens of professional and amateur anglers enjoying beautiful weather while trying to catch the longest redbfish, snook and trout swimming in our coastal waterways. Participants enjoyed food and drinks, games, a raffle, auction and awards dinner.

More than a dozen sponsors helped make this event successful. Several sponsors had connections to the boating and fishing industry, but others represented real estate, health care, construction, law and other fields. Most sponsors operate solely within Southwest Florida, while others have a regional or national presence.

Meanwhile, those who entered the fishing tournament also represented a wide range of anglers. Some knew exactly where to fish and what type of bait would catch the biggest fish, while others were happy to just get a bite and make it safely back to shore.

The fishing tournament was a microcosm of what we all want for society – people from all interests and walks of life coming together to support a charitable cause. Generous sponsors and participants helped raise money to enhance education for school children in Southwest Florida.

Strong businesses invest in their people, products and processes, but they also invest in their community.

Steven Nanda is managing director of IMM Quality Boat Lifts, a Fort Myers-based company that builds custom boat lifts for vessels of all sizes, including luxury yachts. For more information, please call 239-432-9110 or visit IQBoatLifts.com.

Foundation

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golf tournament and more, stays locally right here in Southwest Florida," said Brennan Whitley, senior manager Florida business operations for the Boston Red Sox. "Education remains an area of focus for the Red Sox Foundation."

According to Whitley, 211 applications were received this year for the 14 scholarships.

The Red Sox Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the official team charity of the Boston Red Sox. The foundation's primary focus locally is in serving the health, education, recreation and social service needs of children and families across Southwest Florida. The Red Sox Foundation is one of the most successful in all of Major League Baseball.

2021 Scholarship Recipients

Gabriella Dominicus, Bonita Springs High School

Julia Lin, Cape Coral High School
Ashley Walters, Cypress Lake High School

Corbria Crawford, Dunbar High School

Jonathan Hernandez, East Lee County

Maria Hernandez, Estero High School

Abner Wilhelm, Fort Myers High School

Olivia Barcenos Ortiz, Ida Baker High School

Jose Rojas, Island Coast High School
Yasminie Sahadeo, Lehigh Senior High School

Morgan Russell, Mariner High School
Halie Hornsby, North Fort Myers High School

Carolina Boitel, Riverdale High School

Michelle Miranda, South Fort Myers High School

Kits

Continued from Page 1C

"It means a lot of things besides the survival aspect of a hurricane or getting food in," said Dennis Dial, Meals on Wheels recipient who also received the hurricane kit. "It means that somebody's there that cares, and I think that's a big part of this Meals on Wheels program."

On June 2, volunteers, including Miss Cape Coral Juliandra De Jesus and her mother Alexandra Berru, along with Community Cooperative and FPL staff packaged the kits. Kits were distributed with Meals on Wheels deliveries on June 9.

"Since the pandemic, Community Cooperative's Meals on Wheels program has grown about 20%," said Stefanie Ink-Edwards, CEO of Community Cooperative. "We are extremely grateful to FPL for their continued partnership that ensures our elderly homebound clients will have three days' worth of food supplies in the event they become isolated due to a storm, and we can't get to them quickly."

FPL, which is headquartered in Juno Beach, has been hosting events like



Florida Power and Light representatives distribute hurricane kits to seniors. DAVID ADAME/FOR FPL

this since 2016 and began working with Community Cooperative in 2019 by providing funds and volunteers to pack and distribute the emergency kits.

"We are happy to partner with Community Cooperative once again this year to help seniors in our community prepare for hurricane season," said FPL External Affairs Manager Charlotte Miller. "At FPL, we work with our com-

munities to help make them better places to live, work and raise a family, and helping our most vulnerable residents prepare is one of the ways we do that."

For additional information from FPL about storm preparation, visit FPL.com/storm. For information on how to volunteer, support or receive Meals on Wheels food deliveries, visit CommunityCooperative.com.

Happy Father's Day



Happy Father's Day

If there was a day for everything you have given to me as a father, it would be Father's Day every day. Thanks for always helping me to remember what is important in life...and today it is you! You're the best!

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Community Cooperative is looking for local individuals, businesses, organizations, churches and community groups to support the School's Out, Hunger's Not campaign by hosting food drives, volunteering and giving financially. SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-PRESS

Volunteers, donations needed for School's Out, Hunger's Not campaign

Special to The News-Press
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Recognizing that hunger does not take a summer break, Community Cooperative is calling on community members to support its School's Out, Hunger's Not campaign. During the months of June, July and August, Community Cooperative is looking for additional volunteers and donations for its Sam's Community Café & Kitchen, Community Market and mobile food pantries as well as volunteers to help deliver Meals on Wheels to homebound individuals. The increased need for emergency groceries each summer presents a unique challenge to Community Cooperative and its volunteers in these months as well.

"A decrease in summer volunteers is an issue we face annually," said Tami Holliday, Community Cooperative's community relations and development manager. "Nearly half of our volunteers are seasonal residents, so that leaves us with many open positions to fill each summer and into the fall. We are look-

ing for helping hands that have time and talent to share."

Community Cooperative is looking for local individuals, businesses, organizations, churches and community groups to support the School's Out, Hunger's Not campaign by hosting food drives, volunteering and giving financially. Food drives can range from simple collection days to engaging social donation events. Volunteers are needed in various areas, such as packaging and delivering meals for Meals on Wheels, serving lunch in the Sam's Community Café & Kitchen, stocking pantry shelves, assisting clients at monthly mobile food pantries, and weeding and harvesting in the Able Garden.

For more resources and information on how to get involved, contact Holliday at Tami@CommunityCooperative.com or call (239) 332-7687 ext. 125. Monetary donations are always welcomed and can be made directly on their website at CommunityCooperative.com, or mailed to: Community Cooperative, P.O. Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33902.

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