

# Luminaries

July 30, 2018

Indian River Co., St. Lucie Co., Martin Co.



**'THEY'RE A  
GODSEND!'**



Indian River  
Community  
Foundation  
grants enrich  
Meals on  
Wheels,  
9 other area  
programs

# Indian River County

## COVER STORY

# Meals on Wheels, other programs blessed with grant money

**Maureen Nicolace**

Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Through its Meals on Wheels program, the Senior Resource Association delivers about 250 hot, nutritious meals to homebound seniors five days a week.

Add in the meals delivered to social congregate meal locations, and emergency meals, and that number jumps to 350 a day, equating to 100,000-plus meals a year.

But it's not just about food. It's about helping seniors be able to live in their homes for as long as safely possible. It's a sense of security and a friendly daily wellness check.

"I started receiving Meals on Wheels eight months ago. It's the only hot meal I have during the day. I'm legally blind, so it has been a lifesaver for me," said Randy Miller, a Meals on Wheels client. "They're a Godsend!"

It takes nearly 200 trained volunteers to deliver the meals. With the number of seniors served and the manpower involved, the paperwork can be time-consuming.

Thanks to a \$38,000 grant from Indian River Community Foundation, not only will the paperwork be reduced, but the efficiency and scope of the program will be increased.

The money will help upgrade technology to ServTracker's Mobile Meals Application, a mobile and paperless



**A \$38,000 grant was awarded to Senior Resource Association Director of Programs Shawna Callaghan, left, and President/CEO Karen Deigl, from IRCF President/CEO Jeff Pickering.** MAUREEN NICOLACE/FOR LUMINARIES

software platform using phones, tablets and laptops, according to Karen Deigl, president and CEO of the Senior Resource Association.

The first phase of the program was implemented in late 2016, and the mon-

ey provided in this grant will allow the agency to implement phase two.

"This initiative will enhance our current meal delivery and wellness check processes by providing real-time reporting, and result in improving the

## On the cover

Volunteers Karen and John Pierce deliver a hot lunch to a Vero Beach Meals on Wheels client. When funding is available, Pet Meals on Wheels also are provided to clients with pets. The Pierces have been volunteering since 2015. Photo by Martina Tannery/For Luminaries.

health, safety and well-being of Indian River County's older and disabled adults," said Deigl.

Senior Resource Association is one of 10 nonprofit charitable organizations to receive a combined total of \$260,000 in competitive grants from the foundation's Community Enrichment Fund.

The total list of grants includes the following:

- Indian River County Healthy Start Coalition: \$45,000 for the Healthy Families Program.

- Mental Health Association in Indian River County: \$45,000 for the walk-in and counseling center.

- Literacy Services of Indian River County: \$25,000 for literacy services in North County.

- Substance Abuse Council of Indian River County: \$25,000 for recovery support services.

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# Luminaries

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Katherine Bauman, Luminaries editor  
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The next calendar will appear Aug. 6.

**Please email ALL calendar listings  
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**How to Submit:** Luminaries is published each Monday by Treasure Coast Newspapers, distributed throughout the Treasure Coast and is available online at [TCPalm.com/Luminaries](http://TCPalm.com/Luminaries).

Please submit press releases, photos and calendar items to [TCPalm.com/Luminaries/Submit](http://TCPalm.com/Luminaries/Submit). All subjects in photographs must be properly identified from left to right.

We LOVE photos...the more the merrier! Please make sure your submissions have photos are a minimum of **200dpi/1MB** (check your camera/phone settings). The higher the resolution, the better the print.

The Luminaries staff reserves the right to determine whether and when submitted material are published in any Treasure Coast Newspapers/TCPalm.com print and online products. Publication is not guaranteed.

All submissions will be edited for clarity, grammar and length.

# Indian River County

## Grant

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Childcare Resources of Indian River: \$21,000 for early education outreach coaching.

■ United Against Poverty: \$21,000 for STEP.

■ The Hope for Families Center: \$20,000 for operating support.

■ The Fighting Indians Band Boosters: \$15,000 to perform in the 2019 London New Year's Day parade.

■ LifeBuilders of the Treasure Coast: \$5,000 to prevent homelessness among low-income families who are involved with the 19th circuit court.

■ Senior Resource Association: \$38,000 for technology to improve the efficiency of Meals on Wheels program.

While most of the Community Foundation's grants are awarded by clients through donor advised funds, Indian River Community Foundation's competitive grant program is made possible through the generosity of anonymous donors to several grant-making funds, including the Community Enrichment Fund. These valuable resources support the Community Foundation's mission of building a better community through donor-driven philanthropy.

Indian River Community Foundation was established in 2008. With assets of more than \$45 million in 165 charitable giving accounts, the Community Foundation and its clients have awarded more than \$50 million in grants, mostly to nonprofit charitable organizations located in Indian River County.

Visit [ircommunityfoundation.org](http://ircommunityfoundation.org) to learn more about it.



**Healthy Start Executive Director Andrea Berry accepts a \$45,000 grant from IRCF President/CEO Jeff Pickering.** PHOTOS BY MAUREEN NICOLACE/FOR LUMINARIES



**\$25,000 grant awarded to Literacy Services Executive Director Jessica Schmitt, left, Board Member Donna Remsnyder, volunteer tutor Nik Ruege, student Larry Bass Jr., and North County Coordinator Elida Gomez from IRCF President/CEO Jeff Pickering.**



**Indian River Community Foundation President/CEO Jeff Pickering, third from left, awards a \$15,000 grant to Vero Beach High School Director of Bands Page Howell, Associate Director Brandon Putzke and Fighting Indians Band Boosters President Jim Reamy with the six student Band Executive Officers.**



**\$21,000 grant was awarded to Childcare Resources Executive Director Shannon McGuire Bowman, left, from IRCF President/CEO Jeff Pickering, seated, with Infant Room Teachers Teressa Lynn and Kathy Dor, incoming Board President Susan Donovan, and Board Member Katy Block Healy.**

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