

BECAUSE THEY CARE

Waste-collection event results in success

Lee County Solid Waste partnered with Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties during the Cape Coral household chemical and bulk waste collection event held earlier this month. Residents donated 36 items to Habitat for Humanity for reuse, diverting about 500 pounds of waste.

Donated items included ceiling fans, light fixtures, furniture, rugs, beach chairs, a bicycle and a kitchen sink. The Lee County Solid Waste Department saw an opportunity to divert items from the waste stream and partner with Habitat's ReStore to promote donation and reuse.

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties has four ReStores, which are nonprofit thrift stores and donation centers that sell new and gently used items. One hundred percent of the profits from its four locations in Lee County contribute to Habitat's mission of building homes, communities and hope.

Learn more about Habitat for Humanity's Restore and how to donate new and gently used unwanted items at www.ReStoreLee.org.

New Mental Health Professionals Scholarship Fund established

Local philanthropist Jerry F. Nichols has donated an undisclosed amount to establish and endow in perpetuity a mental health professionals scholarship fund through Kids' Minds Matter and Lee Health Foundation. The Mental Health Professionals Scholarship Fund will be used to support multiple and renewable annual scholarships to Southwest Florida health care professionals who are pursuing advanced education in pediatric mental and behavioral health.

Scholarships will be available to professionals who are employed by or partner with Golisano Children's Hospital for professional development opportunities including scholarships, training, certifications and other needs related to mental and behavioral health. The application process for these funds will begin in the fall of 2025.

More donations are needed to expand this fund and others designed to help with the community's mental health needs. Visit KidsMindsMatter.com or call Lee Health Foundation at 239-343-6950 to learn about opportunities to support the lifesaving health care mission in Southwest Florida.

Jennifer's hosts annual food drive

Jennifer's women's boutique is collecting canned goods for Community Cooperative throughout the month of June. Shoppers who donate a minimum of 10 items in June will receive 20% off their entire purchase.

Suggested donation items include canned tuna, chicken, ham and beef, beans (all varieties), whole wheat pasta, pasta sauce, brown rice (family-size bags), cereal, hamburger, chicken or tuna helper, canned fruit and vegetables, soup, macaroni and cheese, canned milk, child-friendly snacks, and allergy-free food items. No glass containers, please.

Last June Jennifer's collected 975 pounds of food for Community Cooperative. This year's goal is 1,100 pounds.

Jennifer's (13251 McGregor Blvd., Suite 111-1, Fort Myers, in the Design Center) is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Call (239) 481-8582, text (239) 223-8512 or visit Jennifer's online at jennifersfortmyers.com or on Facebook and Instagram.