

# Power of partnership, philanthropy

VENICE — The Gulf Coast Community Foundation has surpassed \$500 million in grants, marking a historic milestone in the foundation's 27 year history.

"In 2010 we celebrated our \$100 million mark in grants made," Gulf Coast Community Foundation president Mark Pritchett said. "Together with our donors, in 12 short years, we have quintupled our impact."

Gulf Coast's \$500 million achievement reflects the power of partnership, philanthropy, and endowment, Pritchett said. Established with an \$85 million endowment from the sale of Venice Hospital, Gulf Coast has grown to nearly 1,000 funds that support a wide range of nonprofit organizations in addition to its own endowment.

Examples of Gulf Coast's impact include:

- In 2016, Gulf Coast supported the creation and expansion of the Legacy Trail by funding initial surveys and engineering. In 2018, Gulf Coast provided a grant to the Trust for Public Land to increase public awareness of the economic, recreational, health, and quality of life benefits of the Legacy Trail and its extension. To date, together with its donors, Gulf Coast has provided over \$300,000 in monetary support.

- Gulf Coast has provided over \$1.5 million in their historic partnership with Venice Area Beautification Inc., including \$400,000 in grants to support the Venice



**The bridge over Deer Prairie Creek is part of the North Port Connector of the Legacy Trail. The Gulf Coast Community Foundation has been a steadfast advocate for the Legacy Trail, providing more than \$300,000 in financial support.**

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Urban Forest.

- Through a five-year, \$18 million collaborative investment in students, Gulf Coast partnered with the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, Sarasota Schools, and generous donors to establish the STEM-smart and 21st Century Schools initiatives.

- Gulf Coast has committed over \$3 million in recovery aid after Hurricane Ian. Through its Hurricane Ian Recovery Initiative, over 50 nonprofit organizations have

been provided with transformational assistance.

- More than \$10 million has been awarded to help students of all ages pursue their dreams of higher education since Gulf Coast established its scholarship program in 1997.

- Over \$6.3 million has been invested by Gulf Coast and its donors since 2012 to support local service providers to help families and individuals overcome homelessness.

*Submitted by Kelly Carlstein*