A Letter from your Executive Director

Dear ELC Friends,

We are so grateful for our hard-working staff, board and committee members, and daily volunteers. Our members, donors, guests, and program participants are a cherished part of our ELC family. Our 64 acres of wild Florida habitat is uniquely situated in the heart of the Indian River Lagoon. The ELC is committed to providing quality, engaging, and relevant environmental education for all ages of community members, from toddlers to teens to seniors. We strive daily to enhance our offerings and beautify our campus for our visitors. While much has been accomplished this year and it is important to reflect on those achievements, we remain focused on the vast amount of work to be done to restore, preserve, and improve this special campus. Please join us in an even bigger way this year to help us achieve these ambitious goals.

The Fiscal Year 7/1/22-6/30/23 was another year of growth for the ELC!

- Educational Program Participants nearly doubled (from 4,145 to 7,860 participants)
- Program hours increased by 15% (from 4,347 to 4,974 hours)
- Visitation increased by 18% (from 20,802 to 24,513 visitors)
- Pontoon guests increased by a whopping 71% (from 3,054 to 5,210 passengers)
- Membership increased by 24% (from 727 to 894 memberships)
- Scholarships increased by 27% (289 to 368 recipients)
- ~6,500 volunteer hours were contributed (for a total value of over $200k!)
- All 3rd and 4th-grade public school students visited campus for hands-on feet-wet learning.
- Many other grade levels took field trips to the ELC, too.
- We hosted a myriad of memorable community gatherings at our unique event venue.
- Our outreach programs continue to expand.

Please reach out to me to discuss how you can be a change-maker in our community. There is no gift or skill that is too big or too small and it takes us all working together to make the seemingly unachievable a reality. Please join us, at the very heart of our community, to create the future of our dreams.

In appreciation and service,

Barbara Schlitt Ford
Executive Director
Barb@DiscoverELC.org
What We Offer

Not only do we educate people about these issues, the ELC’s goal is to empower people to be a part of the solution. Because everyone deserves a healthy planet.

Using the lens of the Indian River Lagoon, the ELC fosters community awareness, appreciation and concern for the environment. We promote the use of 21st century knowledge and skills to make informed decisions, solve current environmental problems and prevent new ones.

Not only do we educate people about these issues, the ELC’s goal is to empower people to be a part of the solution. Because everyone deserves a healthy planet.

Our Mission

Our mission is to educate, inspire and empower all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being.

Our Vision

The ELC is an attractive destination for people of all ages to frequently return to for adventure, learning and wellness. Our visitors will experience and appreciate the benefits of immersion in nature, understand the value of a healthy environment and be inspired to create a sustainable world.
At the Environmental Learning Center, we are proud to say that we are at the heart of environmental education for the Indian River community. During this past fiscal year, we once again received almost 25,000 visitors to our campus, conducted over 500 guided tours, and hosted over three hundred summer campers. These numbers include a field trip for every third and fourth grader in the Indian River County School District. This is an immersive experience that opens their eyes and hearts to the natural wonders of the Indian River Lagoon.

We depend upon twenty professionals and over one hundred volunteers to provide these programs seven days a week. They are led by Barbara Schlitt Ford, who works tirelessly to provide these services, and my heartfelt thanks go out to her and the staff for all they do.

My thanks also extends to the many donors who give to the ELC. Each year we must raise close to $2 million dollars to support our programs and preserve the campus infrastructure. Your financial contributions enable us to keep it all going.

In addition, we have just completed a new master plan that is designed to provide ELC with a blueprint for the future. We are all excited about the programs we have in place, the projects that are planned for the future, and the significant work that we are doing to help make a difference for our community and the health of the fragile ecosystem of Indian River Lagoon.

I encourage you to come visit the ELC campus, and please do not hesitate to reach out to Barb or me to learn more about what we do and the ways that you can help.

Respectfully,

Richard P. Brennan
OUR ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Highlighting the successes of our purpose-driven mission

Looking Back
Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

24,513 Visitors
4,974 Educator Run Program Hours
368 Scholarship Fund Beneficiaries
5,210 Pontoon Boat Passengers
894 Members
7,860 Educational Program Participants Served

More than 6,500 hours volunteered

You Can Make a Difference!
Volunteer Opportunities Include:
- Aquaria Touch Tank & Discovery Station Docent
- Campus Maintenance/Gardening
- Outreach & Hospitality
- Pontoon Boat Guide
- Guest Services & Greeter
- And more!

$206,700 Estimated Total Value of Volunteer Service

Want to become a volunteer?
Email Volunteer@DiscoverELC.org or call 772-589-5050
Fill out our online application at DiscoverELC.org/volunteer
Leadership

Fiscal Year 2022-2023
Environmental Learning Center Board

John Daniels, Chair
Don Barr, Vice Chair
Tyler Puttick, Secretary
Tarik Kawi, Treasurer
Rich Brennan, Director
Tim Buhl, Director
David Griffis, Director
Carol Lincoln, Director
Shirley Nichols, Director
Megan Osteen, Director
Carly Barnes Witteck, Director
Barbara Schlitt Ford, Ex-Officio

2023-2024
Environmental Learning Center Board

Rich Brennan, Chair
John Daniels, Vice Chair
Tyler Puttick, Secretary
Tarik Kawi, Treasurer
David Griffis, Director
Carol Lincoln, Director
Shirley Nichols, Director
Megan Osteen, Director
Barbara Schlitt Ford, Ex-Officio
# Financial Statement of Environmental Learning Center, Inc.

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023 (Unaudited)**

## Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>$1,327,474</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs/Special Events</td>
<td>$161,228</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$60,280</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,548,982</strong></td>
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## Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational Programs</td>
<td>$1,292,161</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support Services</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>$124,553</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
<td>$180,426</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,597,140</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>($48,158)</strong></td>
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## Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net Assets Beginning of the Year</td>
<td>$4,693,878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets End of Year</td>
<td>$4,822,533</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$128,655</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
Ways to Give

Your gift is important.
Support the Environmental Learning Center.

Make a gift. Your donation supports our important work of educating, inspiring, and empowering all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being. Gifts of appreciated stock or a charitable distribution from your IRA are also welcome.

Visit campus. Become a member, bring a friend, or host an event at the ELC.

Volunteer. We are always looking for volunteers for guest services, touch tank, events, grounds, etc., or talk with us about opportunities to serve on a committee, council, or board.

Corporate Partners. There are multiple opportunities for you, your family or your business to sponsor an event, or donate to help us continue the work we are doing.

Tribute gifts. Make a donation in honor or in memory of a friend, loved one, or event (birthday, wedding, anniversary).

Planned giving. Remember the ELC in your will and make a lasting impact.

Email Give@DiscoverELC.org or call 772-589-5050 for more information.
A Letter from our
Director of Philanthropy

Exciting Plans Ahead – Your Support Makes It Possible!

I want to take a moment to express my wholehearted gratitude for your unwavering support of our organization over the years. As you can see from the extensive listing in this report, there are many involved in sustaining the Environmental Learning Center. Your generosity has been instrumental in helping us achieve our mission, and we are excited to share our plans with you.

As a new staff member, I am excited to look ahead and am filled with enthusiasm for what the future holds. Some of our near-term priorities include:

- Strengthening our education and event offerings – making the most of our incredible 64-acre campus, outdoor education pavilion, paddle and pontoon excursions, classes, and programs for kids through adults
- Continuing to maintain financial integrity and strength – making the most of each dollar donated
- Striving to maintain our reputation as a fantastic place to visit and work
- Building and enhancing our volunteer base (including board and committee members) to drive community funding for a thriving ELC

None of these goals would be attainable without the continued donations of dedicated individuals and organizations. Your contributions have made a tangible difference in the lives of countless individuals, and we invite you to be a part of our exciting journey forward.

Once again, thank you for your steadfast commitment to our cause. I look forward to working with you to achieve remarkable things and bring positive change to the heart of your Indian River Lagoon.

Warm regards,

Heidi Leone Royals
Director of Philanthropy
Heidi@discoverELC.org
The Society for Environmental Education is our prestigious group of major donors with exclusive benefits. ELC is the heart of Environmental Education in Indian River County, and by joining SEE with an annual unrestricted gift of $1,000 or more, you are standing alongside us in our crucial mission. Together, we are educating, inspiring, and empowering all people to be active stewards of the environment and their own well-being. To find out more about how you can join this group, please contact the Philanthropy team.

Society Members Fiscal 2022-2023

Lois Appleby
Jerry & Lynn Babicka
Barbara Baldwin
Donald & Pamela Barr
Christopher & Sue Barrow
William Barrows, Jr.
Robert & Patricia Bauer
John Beckert
Scott & Jennifer Beckwith
Bruce & Mary Beda
D. Theodore & Debbie Berghorst
Richard & Deborah Brennan
Francois & Sheila Brutsch
Timothy & Carol Buhl
J. Christopher & Keena Clifford
William & Margaret Cobb
David Cox & Lorraine Heisler
John & Susan Daniels
Joan DeCrane
Fredy & Olivia Delacruz
John Dobbs
Charles & Carol Dockendorff
Joan Edwards
Richard & Patricia Fava
Barbara Fazekas
Todd & Kathleen M Fennell
William & Laura Frick
William & Susan Friesell
John & Jan Garrison
Philip & Joan Gulley
Ann Hamner
Judith Hansen & Pablo Gonzalez-Menocal
Robert & Rosemary Hausen
Edward B. Hauser
George & Marlen Higgs
Elline Hildebrandt
Robert & Niurky Hildreth
Timothy & Cynthia Hultquist
George & Sandra Kahle
Susan Kasten
Tarik & Patricia Kawi
James & Penelope King
John & Charlotte Klein
Paul & Nancy Knapp
Andrew & Sheila Kostanecki
Robert & Carol Lincoln
Betty MacMillan
Frederick & Margaret Marino
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King & Dace Stubs
William & Carolyn Stutt
Mark & Amy Tercek
Roger & Jo-Ann Titley
Susan van der Stricht
Gilford Walker
Doug Watson & Susan Hunter
Patrick & Carol Welsh
Robert Williams, Jr. & Karen L. Kate
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<tr>
<th>Mike &amp; Allison Abercrombie</th>
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<td>John S. Allexan</td>
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<td>Ella Chabot</td>
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<td>Tammy Barrineau</td>
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<td>Robert &amp; Patricia Bauer</td>
<td>Bruce &amp; Melody Ray Culp</td>
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<td>Shirley Becker</td>
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<td>Terrance &amp; Denise Bees</td>
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<td>Deborah Benjamin</td>
<td>Karen Davis</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Susan Bergeman</td>
<td>Dean Mead</td>
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<td>D. Theodore &amp; Debbie Berghorst</td>
<td>Joan DeCrane</td>
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<td>Jeffrey &amp; Cynthia Berner</td>
<td>Fredy &amp; Olivia Delacruz</td>
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<td>Joseph &amp; April Denny</td>
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<td>Ed Dietrich</td>
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<td>Charles &amp; Carol Dockendorff</td>
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<td>J. Bennett &amp; Tauna Donaldson</td>
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<td>Deborah Bochte</td>
<td>Melissa Dowell</td>
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<td>Boy Scouts</td>
<td>Miriam Drew</td>
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<td>Alexa Bragc</td>
<td>Catherine Dritenbas</td>
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<td>Deborah Brateman</td>
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<td>Richard &amp; Deborah Brennan</td>
<td>Sarah Duquette</td>
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<td>Edward &amp; Sheila Broderick</td>
<td>East Coast Lumber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Douglas Brooks</td>
<td>Edlund, Dritenbas, Binkley Architects, P.A.</td>
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</tbody>
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With Appreciation

Donors 2022-2023

Robert & Nancy Edmiston
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Tamson-Lynn Emanuel
Steven Erie
Bowers & Ann Espy
Steve Schinker, Essential Counsel, LLC
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Donald Houchens
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Stephen & Tori Hume
Charles Hutchinson
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Indian River Community Foundation
Indian River County Bar Association Inc.
Indian River County School Board
iThink Financial
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Lloyd Lasenby
Fran Laserson
Andrew Lavin
Matthew & Margaret Lechowicz
Jack & Susan Ley
Liberty Magnet School
Lisa Lindner
John & Debra Lindsey
With Appreciation Donors 2022-2023

Louis & Adrienne Lower
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Alice Luckman
Gaye Ludwig
Jay Lundy
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Michael Lyster
Betty MacMillan
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David Martin
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John & Diane Musicaro
Opal Nelson
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Susan O'Rourke
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Marion & Susan Oglesby
Tim Voeller & Jane Olson
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Orchid Island Yacht Club, Inc.
Osceola Magnet School
Oslo Middle School
Marion Packs
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Robert Patterson
Paylocity
Pelican Island Audubon Society
Pelican Island Elementary
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David & Leslie Protho
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Elizabeth Riley
Bruce & Mary Rinehart
River’s Edge Urgent Care
Brian & Kim Robbins
Sarah Roberts
Rogers Family Foundation
Lucille Rogers
Randall & Mary Rogers
Randolph & Sandra Rolf
Lisa Rose
Rosewood Magnet School
Alex & Martha Ross
Rotary Club of VB Sunrise Foundation
Laurence & Betty Ann Rubinow
Barbara Ruddy
Susan Rupert
Frank & Mary Rutherford
Art Ryan
Cynthia Ryan
Sharon Sallows
Alfred & Betty Sammartino
With Appreciation

Donors 2022-2023

Teresa Samperi
Brandy Sanders
Liz Santoro
Schlitt Insurance Services, Inc.
Schlitt | Gonzalez Real Estate Team
Pat Schlitt
Richard Schlitt
Marcia Schoeller
Timothy & Lisa Schuller
William & Daphne Schumann
Dawn Scott
Margaret Scott
Sebastian Eagle Riders 4067
Rob & Wendy Shafranski
Richelle Sheppard
Sihle Insurance Group of Vero Beach
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Martha Small
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Southern Eagle Distributing
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Laszlo & Kristine Szerenyi
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Marisha Taylor
Mark & Amy Tercek
The Benevity Community Impact Fund
The Camp-Younts Foundation
The Jessup Family of the Ayco Charitable Foundation
The Learning Alliance, Inc.
The Mardy Fish Children's Foundation
The Minotty Family Foundation
The Royalty Trust
The Rubel Family Foundation
The Starbucks Foundation
The Ward Family Fund at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo
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Vero Marine Center
Susan Viamontes
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Joan Vinas
William Vincent
Gilford Walker
Laurie Weber
Stuart Weismiller & Frederick John Weismiller
Wellbrook Consulting
Katherine West
Bruce & Josey Wicks
Cindy Williams
Joyce Kschinka Williams
Robert Williams, Jr. & Karen L. Katen

Donations from January 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023

Every effort is made to be accurate in our donor list. If we have omitted or misspelled your name, we sincerely apologize. Please contact Give@DiscoverELC.org or call the ELC at 772-589-5050 so we can correct our records. Thank you for your support.
Little Wonders
Free Toddler Nature Class
18 months-4 Years

Nature Explorers
4-6 Years

Young Explorers K-1

IRC School District
3rd & 4th Grade Field Trips

Literacy on the Lagoon

Biotech Internships

Y-ELC
Youth Environmental Leaders Corps
Middle and High School

Summer Camp
School Break Camp

Paid Internships
High School & College

Community Outreach

Pontoon Boat Tours

Canoeing & Kayaking

Nature Walks

Walking Meditation

Nature Inspired Art Series

Member Events

Custom Programs for Groups
One of the highlights of the 2022-2023 year is the almost completed Pontoon Dock rebuild. The new dock project took several years of planning and permitting before ELC could begin construction. The new dock will provide a more attractive, safe, and efficient facility to support the educational and environmental mission of the ELC.

Ray and Susan Malamet’s lead gift began funding for the rebuild. A donation from Hal and Brenda Reiter, a grant from Florida Inland Navigation District, funding from John’s Island Foundation along with several other individual gifts made the project possible. We also have to thank the staff at Indian River County for coordination with Florida Inland Navigation District and the bidding process. The anticipated completion date is November 15, 2023.
Our Collaborative Partnerships

Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Association of Indian River County
Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Boys & Girls Clubs of Indian River County
Brevard Zoo
Captain Hiram’s River Challenge Triathlon
City of Sebastian
Clean Water Coalition of IRC
Coastal Connections
Coastal Conservation Association
Cultural Council Of Indian River County
Disney Vero Beach
FAU Harbor Branch
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Florida Master Naturalist Program
Florida Medical Entomology Laboratory
Florida Native Plant Society
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Friends of the Spoil Islands
Gifford Youth Achievement Center
Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute
Homeless Children’s Foundation of IRC
Indian River CARES
IRC Recreation Department
IRC Solid Waste Disposal District
IRC Stormwater Division
IRL Aquatic Preserves
IRL National Estuary Program
Indian River Neighborhood Association
Indian River County Chamber Of Commerce
Indian River Land Trust
Jabebo
Keep Indian River Beautiful
Leave No Trace
Master Gardeners UF/IFAS Extension
Mental Health Association
Mental Health Collaborative
Moonshot Community Action Network
ORCA
Pelican Island Audubon Society
Pelican Island Conservation Society
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge
Quail Valley Charities
Saint Edward's School
School District Of Indian River County
Sea and Shoreline
Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce
Sebastian Inlet District
Smithsonian Marine Station
St. Johns River Water Management District
Sustainable Events Network
Sustainable Kashi
The Learning Alliance
The Willow School
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
United Against Poverty
United Way of Indian River County
Vero Beach Museum of Art
Waste Management
Youth Guidance Mentoring Academy