

newsletter

Harkey House at Riverview update

Just three months after breaking ground, we're excited to share that **Harkey House at Riverview is now fully funded.** This milestone reflects the incredible generosity of our community and a shared commitment to ensuring everyone on our island has access to safe, affordable housing.

Harkey House is named in honor of Bill and Laurie Harkey, whose \$1.5 million leadership gift helped make this project possible. The new building is rising on the site of our former Riverview property, which was nearly destroyed by Hurricane Ian. From that loss came an opportunity to rebuild stronger and more resilient.

The new Harkey House will include 15 modern one-bedroom, one-bath apartments, designed to better withstand severe weather while providing dignified, affordable homes. Construction officially began on September 4 and is expected to take about one year.

Located at 1517 Periwinkle Way in Sanibel, Harkey House stands as a powerful example of what we can accomplish together. Thank you for believing in our mission and helping make this vision a reality.



Jenna's story

Jenna Higginbotham always dreamed of raising a family on Sanibel Island. CHR helped make that dream real.

After Hurricane Ian destroyed their belongings a month after moving to the islands, Jenna and her husband, Timothy, spent three years living in nine different rentals. When Hurricane Milton later flooded their home—the year their first child was born—they knew they needed stability.

"Getting accepted into CHR felt like a weight was lifted," Jenna said. Moving into Centre Place finally gave them a safe, elevated home where they could unpack, breathe, and grow; their second child arrives this year.

"CHR brings such a deeper connection than just affordable housing," said Jenna. **"There's a family dynamic. It's an extra blessing."**

Our Islands REBOUNDING

SINCE HURRICANE IAN:



72%

of hotel rooms are back online



80%

of vacation rentals are operating



90%

of restaurants & retailers
have reopened

(including pop-ups &
temporary sites)

**Sanibel-Captiva accommodations are
nearing pre-hurricane capacity**

*Source: Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of
Commerce, State of the Islands data*



Nicole speaks at State of the Islands

Three years after Hurricane Ian, the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber of Commerce had great news to share at its annual State of the Islands breakfast on Jan. 15. Demand for accommodations, businesses reopening and tourism projections are all on the rise for 2026. CHR Executive Director Nicole McHale was a featured speaker. She briefed attendees on the vital role of affordable workforce housing, progress on the new Harkey House at Riverview (including achieving its \$7 million capital campaign goal), and CHR's ongoing effort to bring more than 100 affordable units online over the next five years.

Becky Boyd named Deputy Director

Please join us in congratulating Becky Boyd, who was named our Deputy Director in January. A lifelong resident of Southwest Florida and part of CHR's staff since last July, she brings over a decade of nonprofit service and leadership to her new role. Here's what Becky has to say:



"I believe deeply in CHR's mission and the impact this organization has on Sanibel and Captiva. I'm grateful for the opportunity to help lead, collaborate and grow alongside such a dedicated team."

"Meeting CHR residents and seeing the genuine relationships the organization has built has been incredibly meaningful to me. Residents feel supported, connected and part of the community."

"I'm encouraged by how island residents, businesses and partners are coming together around quality, affordable housing for the people who keep Sanibel and Captiva running. I'm proud to be part of that work."

CHR launches Ambassador Program

The best way to connect our community to CHR's work is through the power of trusted voices. That's the logic driving a new program called CHR Ambassadors.

"CHR Ambassadors are advocates, connectors and representatives of our mission to provide safe, affordable housing to essential workers and vulnerable residents," said Nicole McHale, CHR Executive Director.

"We're counting on their voices and presence to deepen understanding, expand community support and foster meaningful connections," she added.

CHR recently launched the Ambassador program, complete with training and a handbook. Volunteers are equipped to raise awareness, represent CHR at public events, share inspiring stories, invite people to engage, and develop new ideas to address housing.

"Our CHR Ambassadors are rooted in community care and a firm belief that housing is a foundation for belonging, opportunity and a thriving island community," said McHale.

CHR Ambassadors are:

- Lucy Andres
- Susan Boren
- Allison Goss
- Roger Grogman
- Laurie Harkey
- Ellen Israel
- Terri Kuhl
- Megan Marquardt
- Susan McCallion
- Bruce McDonald
- Jeff Muddell
- Nathalie Pyle
- Chip Roach
- Pam Rosen
- Tom Uhler



CHR community highlights



Becky Boyd, recently volunteered her time through the Sanibel Captiva Rotary Club, Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club assisting with parking during the City of Sanibel's time capsule installation.

A new pirate-themed play set is now in place for CHR families, made possible with support from the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club.



A generous donation from the Minnesota Twins is helping CHR expand outdoor recreational equipment for families and children.



Plans to purchase the former Fish House property at 1523 Periwinkle Way were announced by CHR during the Sanibel City Council meeting on January 13.



CHR was proud to participate in the Volunteer Expo hosted by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands, connecting with community members and sharing the importance of affordable housing on Sanibel.

SAVE THE DATE



SHIP WRECKED

Yacht Rock PARTY

Sunday, April 12th | 3-6p

Featuring The Pontunes playing the coolest Yacht Rock, Tropical & Pop hits of the 70's & 80's. They have more love than Love Boat and more fun than Fantasy Island.

Lady Chadwick Yacht

McCarthy's Marina
11401 Andy Rosse Lane, Captiva, FL 33924

Limited space!

Food & drink for sale • Land and sea, tent and chairs on site • Yacht rock attire
\$100 per person

Register at tinyurl.com/CHRYachtRock



Job Openings

Fleet Manager

Sanibel Carts
Full-Time (\$20-\$24/hr)
Contact Laura: ldebruce@icloud.com



Guest Service Agent

Shalimar Beach Resort
(239) 472-1353



Customer Service

Her Sports Closet Inc.
Afternoons, Weekends, Seasonal
(239) 472-4206

Facilities/Maintenance Professional

The Island Inn
Full-Time (\$17-22/hr)
Contact Chris:
chris@islandinnsanibel.com



Food Service

Huxter's Deli
Full-Time (Paid Tolls!)
Contact Laura: (239) 472-2151



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