

newsletter

From Loss to New Beginnings at the Harkey House

September 28th marked four years since Hurricane Ian changed our islands forever. At Riverview, the storm destroyed a building that had provided much-needed housing. **Today, the Harkey House is rising in its place, bringing 15 new affordable apartments to Sanibel.**

Inside, the building is beginning to feel like home. Beautiful wood-like flooring is going in throughout the apartments, and the tiled showers are adding a lovely finishing touch to the bathrooms. With the air conditioning running, crews have been able to move ahead with interior finishes, and cabinet installation is next. Work on the elevator and exterior is progressing, too.

For CHR, this project represents more than replacing what was lost. It's a chance to welcome more of the people who help our islands thrive into a place they can call home. We're looking forward to celebrating the Harkey House with a grand opening and sharing what our community's support has helped make possible.



Sanibel Honors Commissioner Kevin Ruane

At its September 14 meeting, the Sanibel City Council recognized Lee County Commissioner Kevin Ruane for his decades of dedicated service to Sanibel and Southwest Florida.

Throughout his time as Sanibel's Mayor and now as a Lee County Commissioner, Ruane has been a strong advocate for our island community. **His leadership has been instrumental in supporting CHR, advancing affordable workforce housing and ensuring Sanibel's recovery and long-term resilience remain priorities.**

We are deeply grateful for Commissioner Ruane's continued leadership, partnership and commitment to the people who live and work on our islands. His support has helped CHR move our mission forward and create greater housing stability for the workforce that keeps Sanibel thriving.





Madelyn's Story

For Madelyn Baty, a home in paradise came with a slice of pizza. Community Housing & Resources played a pivotal role in that journey. Madelyn was living in California and would visit her parents in Sanibel, where they moved after the COVID-19 pandemic. "I've never been somewhere so special," said Madelyn. "I love the environment, the conservation, all of it."

Meanwhile, Madelyn was enduring a tough job search despite her degree — a medical assistant's license — and a passion for helping the underserved. Then the phone rang. "My parents let me know that they were going to start a new pizza business here on the island," she said. "We've had restaurants in the past, but I never thought I'd be back in the world of pizza."

Madelyn and her husband agreed to relocate. With their help, Scooters Pizza Kitchen served its first Detroit and New York style pizzas in March. At the same time, Madelyn's parents connected her with The Salty Stethoscope, a direct-pay concierge and medical practice. That's allowed Madelyn the chance to job-shadow as part of her path to becoming a physician assistant.

These pursuits meant Madelyn needed affordable housing close by. CHR made that possible. "Once they had availability, I got a call. We met our neighbors very quickly when moving in... they're super sweet and super kind! It's definitely been a warm welcome, which is really nice," said Madelyn. **"I never would have thought ever in my life that I'd be living and working on an island and having the pleasure of being so close to my family."**

CHR community highlights

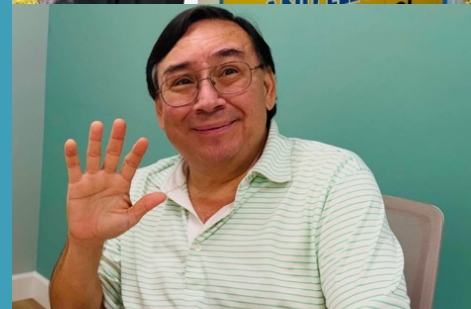


Community Housing & Resources Executive Director Nicole Decker-McHale, along with staff members Dorothy, Becky, and Bonnie, attended the Waves of Remembrance ceremony at the Sanibel Community House. CHR was proud and honored to be part of this important gathering as Sanibel came together to remember the lives lost on September 11.

CHR residents and staff recently gathered for coffee, donuts and great conversation—a simple and special way to connect as a community.

Thank you to Sanibel Air & Electric for sponsoring and helping make the event possible!

If your business would like to sponsor and attend our next residents' luncheon, call us at 239-472-1189.



Thank you to the Kiwanis Club of Sanibel & Captiva for giving CHR the opportunity to share about the importance of affordable workforce housing on the islands.



save the date



Get ready to deck the halls—and your business!

Community Housing & Resources (CHR) invites local businesses to participate in our annual Business Holiday Decorating Contest, a festive way to celebrate the season, encourage residents and visitors to shop local, and support affordable housing for the hardworking employees who help our island communities thrive.

Participating businesses will receive recognition on the CHR website and social media, along with inclusion in a local news media Sponsor Thanks ad. Plus, the community will get in on the fun by voting for their favorite decorated businesses and earning a chance to win a holiday gift basket!

Sign up today and be part of the holiday magic!



Sign up here!



Community Events

SanCap Chamber's Spooktacular Halloween Contest & Best in Boo Awards

Oct. 1 through Nov. 1

Vote for your favorite decorations on the map to turn in by 5 p.m. Oct. 29!

Pink Out Picnic Health & Hope Expo

Tuesday, October 13

11AM to 1:30PM

Price: FREE

Location: The Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

FISH Friendly Faces Luncheon

Tuesday, October 13

11AM to 1PM

Price: FREE

Location: Sanibel Community Church, 1740 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

The Sanibel Community House Annual Fall Festival

Friday, October 30

4:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Price: FREE

Location: 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

The Best in Boo Awards

Friday, October 30

5 to 7 p.m

Location: The Community House, 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel

It's a part of the Annual Fall Festival.

St. Michael's Love Sanibel Back Community Event

Sunday, November 1

12PM to 2:30PM

Price: FREE

Location: Sanibel Recreation Center, 3880 Sanibel Captiva Rd, Sanibel

Community Housing and Resources, Inc. is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Meeting: October 15, 2026



job opportunities



HIRING EVENT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14 FROM 10 AM - 4 PM
AT SUNDIAL BEACH RESORT & SPA

Join us for guaranteed interviews
and on-the-spot hiring!

\$6 toll reimbursement will be given to off-island attendees

Paid Tolls
Paid Time Off
Insurance Benefits
Advancement Opportunities

Competitive Wages
Tuition Reimbursement
401K with Company Match
Travel and Dining Discounts

Can't make it? Scan and apply:



SUNDIAL
BEACH RESORT & SPA

1451 MIDDLE GULF DRIVE, SANIBEL, FL SUNDIALRESORT.COM

Current Openings

HOSPITALITY / RECREATION

Royal Shell Vacations

Guest Services Agent

The Sanctuary Golf Club

Seasonal Snackery Attendant

Fitness Center Attendants - Full-Time/Part-Time

Seasonal Culinary Arts Student Externship

Seasonal Servers & Food Runners

Part-Time Host/Hostess

Casa Ybel Resort

Beach & Pool Attendant

Sundial Beach Resort & Spa

Room Attendant, Houseperson, Housekeeping

Supervisor, Banquet Server, Cook, Dish Steward,

Food Runner, Host, F&B Outlet Manager, Night

Audit, Reservations Sales Agent, Accounting

Coordinator, Recreation Attendant, Pickleball Pro

Tween Waters Island Resort & Spa

Guest Service Agent

PROFESSIONAL / ADMINISTRATIVE

Sanibel Siesta Condominiums

General Manager - Resort & HOA Operations

The Island Water Association

Senior Accountant

RETAIL / CUSTOMER SERVICE

BIG ARTS

Customer Service Associate

HEALTHCARE

Island Therapy Center

Physical Therapist - Outpatient

Talentution

Physical Therapist

FYZICAL

Physical Therapist

ENVIRONMENTAL / COMMUNITY SERVICES

American Conservation Experience / J.N.

"Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge

Visitor Services & Outreach Support Member

DESIGN / LANDSCAPING

R.S. Walsh Landscaping, Inc.

Landscape Architect

GOVERNMENT

City of Sanibel

Various Positions

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sanibel>

