

THE SENIOR SLANT



SENIOR COLLABORATIVE
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

The Newsletter of the Senior Collaborative of Indian River County **1st Quarter 2021 Issue #7**



“Your Source for Senior Solutions”

Our goals and vision:

Navigation Program - Our Navigation program connects older adults, family members or their caregivers to senior services in our area. Our staff offer guidance on:

- Housing
- Food & Meals
- Health & Medical
- Government Agencies
- Transportation
- Financial Assistance
- Recreation
- Arts & Entertainment

**Search for free on line at:
Senior ServicesIRC.org
or call 772-469-2270**

Livable Indian River - In July of 2019, Indian River County was designated by AARP as an Age Friendly Community. Although Age Friendly is the designation, a Livable Community is the outcome. We are currently in process of doing a community assessment. The next step will be developing an action plan and finally we will advocate to make Indian River County an even more “Livable Community”. See the Livable Indian River article on page 3.

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Senior Collaborative's Mission Statement

To improve the quality of life of all Indian River County Seniors through a community collaboration of service providers, funders and advocates.

The Chairs Corner



SENIOR COLLABORATIVE INDIAN RIVER COUNTY



Beth Mitchell
Board Chair

As the challenges of a worldwide pandemic have unfolded in front of us, we have naturally drawn together and gathered our collective strength to respond, to solve and to move forward and beyond the threats to our lives. In this current newsletter you will read about the Senior Collaborative of IRC, presented and discussed in more detail by our Executive Director, Randy Riley. Our board and members have answered the challenges this year, through work with the Collaborative, and their own challenging positions in the community. They have come together collectively to provide help to our seniors and the general public and have linked all their talents and resources to try to respond in meaningful ways to meet the needs of our community. We are so much more productive when we work together. And we are so lucky to be in Indian River County! Seniors have been on the front lines of the pandemic, as vaccine hunters, caregivers, patients and the most susceptible members of our society. The focus on the needs of seniors is long overdue, but the unique circumstances of a dangerous pandemic truly has shined a light on the vulnerabilities that seniors face in navigating the healthcare system, the vaccine process and just plain living challenges.

The creation of the Senior Collaborative of Indian River County was fortuitous and is very relevant in 2021. The Collaborative seeks to link seniors and caregivers to the information and services they need with a newly created user friendly website and a collection of comprehensive contact information to help them through whatever challenges they are facing. It could be as simple as “where can I play pickleball?” or as complicated as “do I require an Assisted Living Facility, or can I stay in my home?” The website and database are designed to respond to a broad range of questions and to provide help with all the phases of aging. The service providers who are listed are local, in our community and ready and willing to help. We are embarking on a campaign to raise awareness of this effort, after all what good is a website and data base if people are not aware of it? And we also urge senior service providers to get on board with us so we can share the information our seniors urgently need. There is no cost to be listed on our website and the service providers control their own profile and listing so information is updated, current and relevant. We have future plans as well. We plan to expand our telephone referrals with a bank of trained volunteers who can assist our seniors in their quest for answers to their questions in the near future and we are exploring different methods of delivering information to them.

We hope you will connect with us and join us in ensuring a higher standard of living for Indian River County seniors. We thank all our providers for their dedication to our seniors during this very challenging time and we are grateful for the collaboration!



SENIOR COLLABORATIVE
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

2020 — 2021 Board of Directors

Beth Mitchell — Board Chair, Advocate

Vicki Soule — Board Vice Chair, Treasure Coast Community Health

Meredith Egan — Board Treasurer, United Way of Indian River County

Abby Walters — Board Secretary, Advocate

Karen Deigl — Immediate Past Chair, Senior Resource Association

Theresa Baxter — Gifford Youth Achievement Center

Marie S. Conforti — Law Office of Marie S. Conforti, P. A.

Meg Cunningham — Visiting Nurse Association (VNA)

Peggy Cunningham — Alzheimer & Parkinson Assoc. of Indian River County

Eric Flowers — Indian River County Sheriff

Randee Gabriel — 211 Palm Beach Treasure Coast

Miranda Hawker — Florida Dept. of Health in Indian River County

Paul Minotty, M.D.— New Vision Eye Center

Eileen O' Donnell — Coastal Concierge Home Care

Trudie Rainone — Advocate

Dawn Redstone — SeniorBridge / Humana

Michael Ward — St. Marks Anglican Church of Indian River County

Senior Collaborative would also like to thank Darlene Forage, Louie Hoblitzell and John Porta, Jr. for their past service on the Board.

Executive Director's Notes

Randy Riley



Our County Senior Population

Did you know:

- **Median age is 53.5**
- **33.8% is 65 plus**
- **15,000 + are veterans.**
- **6th oldest County in the Country**
- **20% of seniors are at 120% of poverty level or below.**

Data from 2019 census estimates



SENIOR COLLABORATIVE
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY

Dear Members and Friends,

To say the least, with the challenges of Covid, it was an interesting but rewarding year for Senior Collaborative. We made great strides with our Navigation Program, with the launch of our website in August and telephone referrals in December. The navigation program is fully functional with over 500 provider listings on the database and more being added daily. You can search for providers by domain, name or keywords.

We added Elizabeth Gerrald to our staff. Elizabeth is responsible for the website and database. If you are a provider of a senior service in Indian River County, please contact Elizabeth to be added to our website. Both Membership in the Collaborative and a basic listing on the website are complimentary. Marketing and outreach for the program are under way.

The Livable Indian River program released a community assessment. We are asking all adult residents of Indian River County to provide their input. The results of the assessment will lead to an action plan that will allow us to better advocate for programs and services. You can find out more information about Livable Indian River, including the survey links on page 5 of this newsletter.

We completed our first CPA review for our organization. The financial statements from the review are provided on pages 6 & 7. The Senior Collaborative finished the year financially sound, with sufficient reserves to provide programming for the next year. The Board is committed to making Senior Collaborative even more sustainable in the future, to provide for our continued growth and ability to serve all seniors of Indian River County.

Covid has not established new issues for seniors but it has certainly emphasized greater need for services and communication of the existing services. In 2016 as we strategized how Senior Collaborative would provide information to seniors, their loved ones and caregivers. The website and telephone referrals were two means chosen. The third was a facility where seniors could come to obtain information, with a library of provider information and a case worker to assess need and make referrals to providers and services. I am pleased to say, we have recently created a task force for Senior Collaborative's Connection Center. We will be developing the Center over the next two years. We will keep you informed of the progress in future newsletters. We are also looking for members who would like to serve on this task force. If you have an interest, please contact me.

I would also like to thank the tireless efforts of our Board and volunteers. We thank all our members but want to acknowledge our funding partners below. We also thank those individuals who have given us feedback on our programs. Helping seniors has been a very rewarding experience. Whether it is helping a family member find the right housing alternative for their loved one, helping an elder stay in their home or the gratitude of someone getting their vaccine appointment. You are the reason Senior Collaborative exists and is "Your Source for Senior Solutions".

Thank You to our Funding Partners





Livable Indian River Update

Abby Walters, Core Team Chair



A crucial part of our work during the first 18 months of Livable Indian River is to secure feedback from residents. We want to know what they need to help them stay active, engaged, healthy, and live with dignity and enjoyment throughout life. Our goal was to hold listening sessions and conduct surveys of residents to learn the areas they believed to be excellent or that need improvement. When launching Livable Indian River on February 19, 2020, none of us imagined the advance of Covid-19 or impending lock downs, yet we continue to adapt. The Livable IR Core Team, which includes representatives from business, government, nonprofits, and older adults, met by Zoom. A survey for county residents was released electronically in September of 2020, with the subsequent release of a Spanish survey. Listening sessions have been limited, yet we held a few on Zoom.

The Core team and Senior Collaborative members have spread the word about the survey. We are especially grateful to staff of Treasure Coast Community Health for disseminating paper versions of the survey at vaccine sites. More than 600 people chose to complete the survey in the waiting period following their vaccines, which gives us a total of 1100. We continue with the surveys to ensure representation from different parts of the County. Surveys and collection sites can be found at the Information Desk in Indian River County's main library and the North Branch in Sebastian.

An area that came to the forefront in surveys is Community and Health Services. Livable Indian River established a domain team of professionals and older adults to begin review of current services and gaps in the County. Domain teams will also be established for other domains that emerge from the surveys. While there are eight domains of livability, each community picks one or more domains on which to focus on the three-year plan.

If you have a group that is interested in giving feedback on Zoom, or might complete the survey please email information@livableir.org, or go to the survey at:

English: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07eh31t5kzka1qlgxv/start>

Spanish: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ehbndv99kfh76cyn/start>

The Eight Domains of Livable Communities

1. Housing
2. Transportation
3. Outdoor Spaces & Buildings
4. Civic Participation & Employment
5. Social Participation
6. Respect & Social Inclusion
7. Community Support & Health Services
8. Communication & Information



What Makes a Community Livable

A Livable Community is safe and secure, has affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offers supportive community features and services. Once in place, those resources enhance personal independence, allow residents to age in place, and foster their engagement in the community's civic, economic and social life.

Senior Collaborative of Indian River County, Inc.
Statement of Financial Position
September 30, 2020

Assets

Cash	\$ 55,881
Grants receivable	11,813
Prepaid expenses	696

Total Assets	\$ 68,390
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Liabilities

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -
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Net Assets

Without donor restrictions	68,390
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Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 68,390
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See independent accountants' review report and notes to financial statements.

Senior Collaborative of Indian River County, Inc.
Statement of Activities
Year ended September 30, 2020

Revenue

Grant revenue	\$ 72,114
Public support	7,976

Total Revenue	80,090
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Expense

Program services	36,313
Management and general	10,452
Fundraising	349

Total Expense	47,114
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Increase in net assets without donor restrictions	32,976
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Net assets without donor restrictions, beginning of year	35,414
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Net assets without donor restrictions, end of year	\$ 68,390
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See independent accountants' review report and notes to financial statements.



Senior Collaborative of Indian River County, Inc.
Statement of Functional Expenses
Year ended September 30, 2020

	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Salaries and wages	\$ 23,924	\$ 6,748	\$ -	\$ 30,672
Payroll taxes and benefits	3,067	865	-	3,932
Dues and subscriptions	-	250	-	250
Professional fees	-	1,000	-	1,000
Insurance	-	1,589	-	1,589
Direct fundraising expense	-	-	349	349
Data processing	7,471	-	-	7,471
Supplies, utilities, and miscellaneous	1,851	-	-	1,851
Total Expenses	\$ 36,313	\$ 10,452	\$ 349	\$ 47,114

See independent accountants' review report and notes to financial statements.

Senior Collaborative of Indian River County, Inc.
Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended September 30, 2020

Cash flows from operating activities:	
Increase in net assets	\$ 32,976
Adjustments to reconcile increase in net assets to net cash flows provided by operating activities:	
(Increase) decrease in:	
Grants receivable	1,312
Prepaid expenses	(166)
Net cash provided by operating activities	34,122
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	34,122
Cash, beginning of year	21,759
Cash, end of year	\$ 55,881

See independent accountants' review report and notes to financial statements.



BEWARE OF SOCIAL SECURITY PHONE SCAMS

The Social Security Administration and Office of the Inspector General continue to receive reports of scammers impersonating SSA employees over the phone, to request personal information or money. Imposters may threaten you and demand immediate payment to avoid arrest or legal action. Do not fall for it!

- SSA employees will NEVER threaten you for information, or promise a reward or resolution in exchange for personal information or money.
- Do not use caller ID to verify that the caller is a government employee. Many scam calls “spoof” official government numbers, such as SSA’s National 800 Number, the Social Security Fraud Hotline, local Social Security field offices, SSA press offices, or local police numbers.
- Impostors may use legitimate names and phone numbers of SSA employees.
- If the caller demands sensitive personal information, payment via gift card or pre-paid debit card or wire transfer, it is a scam.
- If the caller makes threats when you do not comply with their request, it is a scam.

If you receive a suspicious call:

1. Hang up!
2. Do not give them money or personal information
3. Report the scam at [OIG.SSA.GOV/REPORT](https://www.oig.ssa.gov/report)

The goal of a Livable Community is for people of all ages to...

1. Feel safe in the community
2. Participate in community activities.
3. Be treated with respect
4. Have access to safe, appropriate and affordable housing and transportation
5. Have access to recreational opportunities and health services
6. Know what services and activities are available and have access to information by a means they prefer
7. Be active, vital contributors to the economic, civic and social life of the community
8. Receive appropriate support if they can no longer look after themselves

Limited advertising space is available in upcoming editions of the Senior Slant. If you would like to place an advertisement for your organization or event. Please contact Randy Riley at (772) 469-2270 — option 2