

Melbourne Regional Chamber puts on event at Eastern Florida State College for nonprofit organizations

By Meaghan Richey
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Melbourne Regional Chamber

The Melbourne Regional Chamber's Nonprofit Council recently hosted a newly created conference — "Meet the Money (Learn the Secrets to Getting Fully Funded)" — to support, build and recognize the exceptional services provided by nonprofit organizations throughout the Space Coast and beyond.

Held July 23 at the Student Union at Eastern Florida State College's Melbourne campus, more than 100 agencies attended the event representing services that spanned healthcare, homelessness, sports, education, veteran services, religious affiliations, first responders, infant, adolescent and adult services, animal welfare, mental health, arts and culture, emergency services, rehabilitation, conservation — virtually everything that contributes to improved quality of life and exceptional communities.

As a leading business Chamber in Central Florida,

the Melbourne Regional Chamber moved away from the traditional academics of nonprofit management and provided a collaborative, experiential learning environment where nonprofit management inclusive of staff, board and volunteers could gain the knowledge, resources and introductions needed to achieve the next stage of growth.

Jeannette Kraar, CEO of Performance Management International LLC, and chairwoman of the Melbourne Regional Chamber's Nonprofit Council, set the objectives for the conference. "We wanted to provide an interactive learning experience, to raise the visibility of nonprofit organizations, and to build relationships and opportunities for collaborations between nonprofits, funders and the business community."

Julie Boynton, public relations manager with Brevard Family Partnership, shared her feedback on the event. "This was by far the best Chamber event I have attended. The storytelling workshop had great information on how to hone your nonprofit's story, and ways to find and reach people in a better way. I'll be back next year."

To enhance this event experience, the ROI Campaign for Community Partnerships in Support of 501(c)(3) agencies, located in Brevard County, was created. Without selecting a specific mission, agency or individual, more than \$7,000 was raised over a six-week period. While all agencies benefited from focused breakout sessions and an expert panel of funding professionals, nine agencies received these unrestricted funds that were awarded through a surprise raffle.

In addition, a \$10,000 media package was awarded by Everythingbrevard.com and "Brevard Business News" gifted more than \$5,000 in advertising space.

These agencies received the ROI Campaign donations: LEAD Brevard, Brevard Family Partnership, Sea Turtle Preservation Society, Neighbor Up Brevard, South Brevard Sharing Center, Candlelighters of Brevard, Florida Wildlife Hospital, Family Promise of Brevard, and Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute.

Presented by Clary Construction and Champion Home Health Care, this was the first event of its kind. Contributors to the ROI Campaign included Brent Peoples from Raymond James, Debbie Goode from Carr, Riggs and Ingram, Josh Adams from Rock Paper Simple, Alexis McGuire from Nationwide Medical Licensing, Natasha Spencer from Shelter Mortgage, Barbara Wall from Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Realty Florida, David Cable from RE/MAX Elite, Gordon Hampden from JIPA Network, and Susie Wasdin, philanthropist.

Conference registration included participation in Business After Hours that immediately followed the conference. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the conference speakers, panelists and funders.

Junior League of South Brevard is seeking donations of trees, wreaths and raffle items for Festival of Trees

The Junior League of South Brevard will host its annual Festival of Trees from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 23, at the Viera Regional Park Community Center on Judge Fran Jamieson Way.

This family oriented event is a community fundraiser that allows Junior League of South Brevard to continue improving the county through financial and volunteer commitments.

Through the years, this event has kicked off the holiday season in Brevard.

What can you look forward to seeing?

- You will fall in love with the beautifully adorned trees and wreaths donated from talented patrons throughout the community. These are available for purchase via a silent auction.
 - Stop by the "fabulous" vendor marketplace for early holiday shopping.
 - Order festive poinsettias to decorate your home this holiday season.
 - Don't forget to buy a ticket to win one of the exciting raffle packages.
 - Bring your children to take photographs with Santa Claus.
 - Register your children online for "Cooking with Mrs. Claus," a free event sponsored by Junior League of South Brevard's Kids in the Kitchen program.
- Junior League of South Brevard is seeking donations of trees, wreaths, and raffle items. Additionally, it is accepting vendor applications for its marketplace. For donation forms, visit JLSB.org or contact Kelsey Pike or Savanna Robinson at FOT@JLSB.net.

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