



Family Spotlight

The Creech Family

Candice, a devoted mother, found herself facing the unexpected challenge of displacement when hurricane Ian swept through Venice, disrupting the tranquil lives she, her daughter Brittany, and grandsons London and Silas had built in their beloved hometown. Forced to leave their familiar surroundings behind, they sought refuge with a family member in Spring Hill.

Despite the setbacks and uncertainties they faced, the family remained resilient. Their perseverance paid off when, after months of searching, they finally secured an apartment on Venice Island in September 2023. They settled into their new surroundings, grateful for the opportunity to start afresh.

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However, just as they began to find their footing, adversity struck once again. The flu swept through their household, leaving Candice and Brittany incapacitated and unable to work for several days. The financial strain caused by their absence from work threatened to destabilize their newfound sense of security, casting a shadow of uncertainty over their future.

Candice reached out to Family Promise and with compassionate support and assistance, Family Promise was able to alleviate some of their burdens by providing crucial aid in the form of one month's rent, allowing the family to remain stably housed and focused on overcoming the obstacles that lay ahead.

Mardi Gras Celebration



Mardi Gras Success!

Thank you for attending and supporting our first Mardi Gras! The weather was perfect and we enjoyed some amazing food from Shuck N' Ale. We loved our Mardi Gras themed tunes of Nick Sperry from the Tin Can Brass Band and the Campbell Brown Blues Band. We held three fantastic raffles with people winning cash from our 50-50, a Yeti cooler filled with 16 bottles of liquor, and a three-night vacation for two!

In the News



New Affordable Housing Community Coming to Arcadia

Camila Pereira reported on this new endeavor on January 30th this year.

This affordable housing project is a great example of the wonderful collaboration it takes to enable these kinds of projects to take flight. This project will provide twenty-three units with three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and other great amenities. The better news is for working families who may

We would like to send a special thank you to all of our sponsors! We could not do this without your support!

Mardi Gras Sponsors

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Food: Shuck N' Ale

Drink: British Open Pub

Music: Sun Events, Inc.

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be in a position to afford these \$650-\$900 per month in rent and find that housing stability they desperately need.

At the time the article was published, 13 of the 23 units had already been rented.

The article mentions another similar project popping up soon for other Southwest Florida areas, including Fort Myers.

Check out the link below to watch the segment and read the article.

[Click to Read Full Article](#)

Mardi Gras Picture Gallery

Enjoy!



From the Director



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Jennifer Fagenbaum is a member of Sertoma Club of Venice, and together with Fox Lea Farm, is excited to announce the **3rd Annual Fox Lea Community Charity Challenge!** This exciting event will continue to bring Charities from around Venice together in a lighthearted Ride/ Drive Relay Competition on **March 1st** at Fox Lea. We would like to invite YOU to be a part of it!

Here's how it works:

Each charity will choose a celebrity driver and navigator to drive a relay course in a golf cart. Again this year, Family Promise SSC's **Driver is Michael Bacon and our Navigator is Chad Fagenbaum.** Each charity is paired with a horse and rider from Fox Lea to complete their Ride/ Drive Relay Team. The relay teams will each be timed on the Show Jumping course and ranked according to finish times. 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and last place teams will receive prize money and bragging rights!

We invite you come out and to join the festivities, cheer us on, and "Play the Ponies"!

Schedule of Events on March 1st:

2:30pm Gates Open- \$10 per person admission

3:30pm \$10,000 USHJA Int'l Hunter Derby

6:00pm Ride/ Drive Charity Challenge

7:00pm \$24,999 Grand Prix Under The Lights

Each charity will receive a minimum of \$500 for participating. Guests will be able to "Play the Ponies" at the event and those funds will also be divided up among participating and winning charity teams. There will be a special BONUS to the Charity who has the most supporters "Playing" their Pony!

So come out and have some fun with us for a good cause!





We'll be sharing our team members and our Board members with you so you can get to know who is working so hard to protect children from becoming homeless. We work tirelessly to provide the best care, programs, and plans for our families.

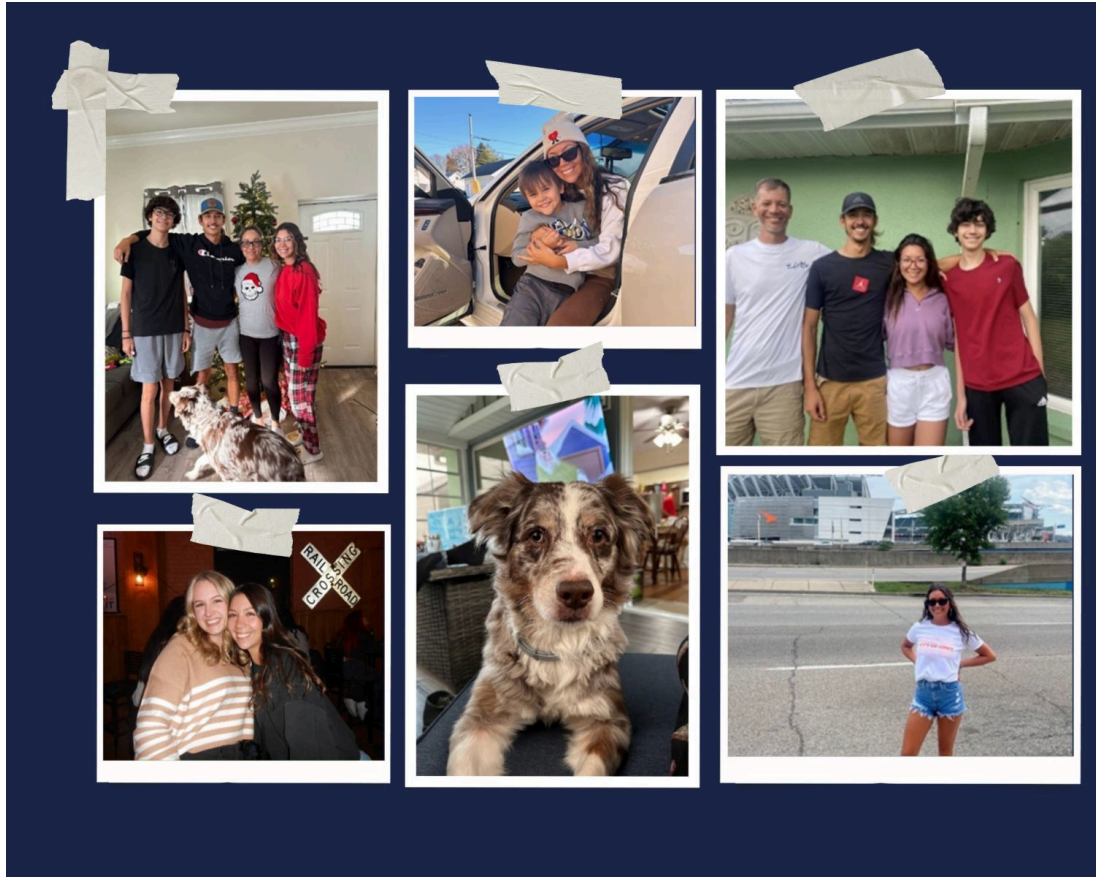
Who is Alleyna Collins?

My name is Alleyna Collins, and I am the administrative assistant at Family Promise of South Sarasota County. I am from Lima, Ohio and moved to Florida in October 2023 for this opportunity! Thankfully, I have many other family members that have also moved to the Venice area over the last few years. Those including my dad, brothers, cousins, and grandma who visits during the winter months.

With most of my free time, I am probably at home relaxing with my dog Romeo. But when the weather allows it, I will spend a lot of time at the beach. Whether it be swimming in the ocean, soaking up some sun, or just sitting by the water. I enjoy diving into new books, I'm intrigued by all things beauty, and I love to stay active!

The staff and volunteers here at FPSSC have been so welcoming, patient, and

understanding with me as I am beginning my new journey here. It is comforting getting up each morning and knowing I get to work with these amazing people every day!



By the Numbers

STATISTICS 2015 - PRESENT

BRIDGE HOUSING 112 families
190 children

138 families 247 children DIVERSION &
EARLY INTERVENTION

RENT ASSISTANCE 238 families
462 children

16 families 27 children PATHWAYS HOME

OTHER SERVICES 441 families
622 children

57 families 66 children HOME GOODS PANTRY

CHILDREN SAFE AT HOME 1,614
FAMILIES STABLY HOUSED 1002
TOTAL PEOPLE SERVED 2,844

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Mark Your Calendar



3/19/2024 - 3:30 PM - **Volunteer Training**,
Held at 720 Shamrock Road, Venice

4/9-10/2024 - **Giving Challenge**, Stay tuned
for details!

Volunteer Corner

THANK YOU
SO MUCH

FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING MARDI GRAS!

~30 Volunteers

Over 100 hours of Support

YOU ARE VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

[Volunteer Information & Sign Up](#)

HOUSING HERO

Annual Sponsorships

Do you want your employees to find affordable housing and achieve financial stability?
We can help.

Contact us for more information.

We're securing our 2024 Housing Hero Annual Sponsorships!
There are great benefits and recognition for your business. Click below or contact us at 941-497-9881 for more information.

Become a Housing Hero

Wish List

We are out of some supplies and our families are in need. Please drop off or mail:

Shampoo	Toilet Paper
Conditioner	Paper towels
Mens/Womens Deodorant	Windex
Paper plates	Brooms
Tissues/Kleenex	Toilet Brushes
Comet Bleach Powder	Plungers

FamilyPromise
of South Sarasota County

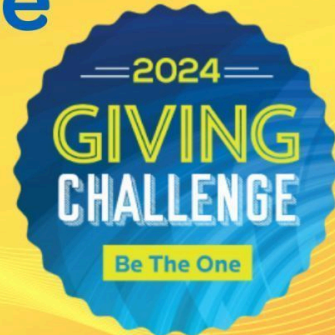
Please drop off/send items to:
FPSSC, 850 Cockrill Street, Venice, FL 34285



Save the Date



April 9-10, 2024
Noon to Noon



Presented by the
Community Foundation of Sarasota County

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BrewBurgers Back Porch
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Christ Venice Church
Church of the Holy Spirit Osprey, Inc.
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Epiphany Cathedral Council of Catholic Women
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National
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United Way of South Sarasota County
Venice Golf and Country Club Foundation

Venice Nokomis Rotary
Venice Police Department
Venice Presbyterian Church
Venice Presbyterian Church Choir
Venice Print Center
Venice United Church of Christ

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Contact Family Promise of South Sarasota County

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