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## NEWS

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Press Contact  
Tim Hennessy, Rivet Brands  
239.675.3120  
tim.hennessy@rivetingbrands.com

**SOUTHWEST FLORIDA COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS ANNOUNCE NEW DATE FOR  
“ON THE TABLE SWFL” INITIATIVE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES  
*March 30, 2023* mealtime conversations seek to unite residents, inspire solutions**

**Fort Myers, FL – November 21, 2022** – Charlotte Community Foundation, Collaboratory, and Collier Community Foundation today jointly announced the rescheduling of the regional civic engagement conversations, [On the Table SWFL](#), for Thursday, March 30, 2023. *On the Table SWFL* will provide a forum for thousands of neighbors, colleagues, friends, and new acquaintances to gather over small, mealtime conversations throughout the region to share their stories and generate ideas to create a more sustainable and vibrant Southwest Florida.

*On the Table SWFL* takes on renewed importance after Hurricane Ian delivered devastating impacts affecting most in the region. Through these gatherings, Southwest Floridians have a place to discuss ideas for solutions to social challenges important to them – issues like the environment, stable and attainable housing, education, workforce development, rebuilding after Hurricane Ian, or anything else on their minds.

“There has never been a more important time in Southwest Florida for all of us to come together and chart our path forward,” expressed Terry Mazany, chief collaboration officer at Collaboratory, speaking on behalf of the three community foundations. “While the stakes are high, the possibilities are even greater and the voice of each and every one of us matters.”



Anyone across the region can host an *On the Table SWFL* session, and everyone is welcome to join the conversation and have their voices heard. The topics, issues, and ideas discussed during each conversation are completely organic, driven by what matters to each group of participants as well as the community opportunities and challenges most important to them. These mealtime conversations can take place in homes, backyards, at local restaurants, schools, community centers, places of worship, libraries, offices, retail establishments – literally, anywhere a host chooses. They can be sit-down, catered, picnic, or potluck – completely up to each host.

The inaugural *On the Table SWFL* initiative, produced by Collaboratory in October 2019, welcomed more than 1,500 participants. In 2023, Collaboratory is partnering with Collier Community Foundation and Charlotte Community Foundation to ensure that even more Southwest Florida voices have the opportunity to be heard.

Following the conversations, Florida Gulf Coast University will survey *On the Table SWFL* participants to capture themes and identify region-wide social priorities in an impact report that will be shared broadly. Moving forward, the foundations pledge to work together on issues identified through *On the Table SWFL* conversations to create a more sustainable and vibrant Southwest Florida.

To learn more about this important civic engagement initiative or to host or join a conversation, visit [onthetableswfl.com](https://onthetableswfl.com). Join the discussion on social media using #onthetableSWFL.

### **About *On The Table***

*On the Table* is an award-winning model that has engaged over 500,000 residents in more than 35 communities across North America, strengthening their connections to each other and bolstering the vitality of their communities. It also provides a unique opportunity for your outlet to more deeply understand the issues and topics of greatest concern to residents in your community.

### **About The Foundation Partners**

#### Charlotte Community Foundation

Charlotte Community Foundation (CCF) envisions a community where all have equal opportunity to thrive. As a Center for Philanthropy, CCF initiatives include grant-making and community partnership development, with an emphasis on higher education. The Foundation focuses exclusively on enhancing quality of life for Charlotte County residents and provides personalized donor services to help establish tax-advantageous charitable funds that support Charlotte County nonprofits.



Established in 1995 as a 501c3, tax-exempt, public, charitable organization, Charlotte Community Foundation's mission is "Connecting People Who Care With Causes That Matter." To learn more, visit [charlottecf.org](http://charlottecf.org) or call 941-637-0077.

### Collaboratory

Collaboratory is committed to coordinating the solving of all of Southwest Florida's social problems on an 18-year deadline including homelessness, poverty, mental illness, racism, illiteracy and more. We plan to do this with the entire community working together including people of all ages, colors, abilities, beliefs, and imaginations across all five counties.

Collaboratory was founded in 1976 as the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. It has made over 96 million in grants since then and is home to more than 650 philanthropic funds. To learn more and get involved, call 239-274-5900 or visit [collaboratory.org](http://collaboratory.org).

### Collier Community Foundation

The Community Foundation of Collier County, DBA Collier Community Foundation™, is a tax-exempt, public, charitable organization established in 1985 to increase and focus on local private philanthropy. Today, the Collier Community Foundation manages more than 850 funds, works with hundreds of nonprofits, holds \$247.4 million in assets, and has granted over \$268 million to nonprofit organizations, community programs, and scholarships, \$43.1 million in FY2022. The Collier Community Foundation is one of Florida's fastest-growing community foundations. Informed giving. Powerful results.™ Learn more at [colliercf.org](http://colliercf.org) or call 239-649-5000.

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### **Assets**

[Downloadable Style Guide](#)

[On the Table SWFL Registration Site](#)