“FOR GENERATIONS, WE HAVE BEEN TAKING FROM THE SEA. NOW, IT’S TIME TO START GIVING BACK.”

— WILLIAM R. MOTE, MOTE BENEFACTOR AND NAMESAKE
At Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium, our impacts are global. Mote’s innovative marine science has touched every ocean on Earth to empower conservation, solve grand challenges and safeguard humanity’s quality of life. Our science education programs connect people of all ages, backgrounds and locations with our mission. All the while, Mote has never forgotten where it came from—the communities that generously nurtured us along and the leaders who pushed our organization to the forefront.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I reflect often on what former Chairs accomplished and what those who are no longer with us might think about the organization as it is today. This year, my thoughts have given special attention to one former Chair, our namesake, Bill Mote, who led the organization as Chair and President from 1967 until 1986 and continued as President until July 2000.

Mr. Mote was a visionary. He envisioned a future where Mote would extend its scientific reach across all seven continents, and his passion for our science was perhaps only matched by his passion to share our discoveries with the world as a public service.

As I look forward to the coming year, I am most excited that we will complete construction of our new Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA). This 110,000-square-foot facility will continue in the grand tradition of the Marine Science Center—offering the world a window of discovery into the globally significant and impactful research conducted by Mote scientists. I hope Mr. Mote would be proud of what we have accomplished, the strides we have taken to fulfill his vision, and that when we dedicate Mote SEA, we will dedicate a facility that not only belongs to the people of Sarasota, but to all people.

Sandi Stuart
Chair, Mote Marine Laboratory Board of Trustees

During the last 68 years, Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium has grown into a global powerhouse of diverse marine research and science education. What began as a meager one-room laboratory has thrived on the synergy of Mote’s three foundational pillars:

- **Passion** for science and marine conservation that began with our Founding Director, Dr. Genie Clark, and continues to flow through the veins of our entire Mote family of 300 staff, 1,300 volunteers, 10,000 members, and the world’s greatest Board of Trustees.
- **Partnership** that began with that of a local shark fisherman and now extends around the world to local communities, commercial, recreational and subsistence fisherfolk, private enterprise and entrepreneurs, and other nonprofits and academic institutions.
- **Philanthropy** that began with Anne and Bill Vanderbilt who provided that initial one-room laboratory in Placida for Genie, followed by the powerfully productive philanthropic embrace of Mr. William R. Mote from 1967 to 2000.

Since then, philanthropic support for Mote has grown more significantly through thousands of private foundations and individuals like you. As a direct result of your support, especially over the last decade, Mote has achieved dramatic growth and impact with our national and internationally respected innovative research, experiential science education and public outreach. From our base of operations right here on Florida’s Gulf Coast, we now conduct research and engage in partnerships in all the world’s oceans. Mote scientists are leaders in collaborative discussions between our US Harmful Algal Bloom Control Technologies Incubator and Japan, Chile and Korea; in Global FinPrint, the world’s largest reef shark survey in 58 nations, which has resulted in new international trade regulations for these species; and in the collaboration of Mote’s International Coral Gene Bank with global Coral Biobank Alliance partners in the Philippines, Australia, Monaco, Indonesia, and French Polynesia. Mote is conducting research around the world—from Belize, on Earthwatch’s Shark and Ray Conservation expedition, to Ilha do Fogo (Fire Island) off the coast of Mozambique on the first science-based assessment of these remote coral reefs and turtle nesting habitats.

Many of our research partnerships around the world are encompassed within Mote’s International Marine Science Diplomacy Initiative. The Mote-Israel Cooperative Marine Research program serves as a regional focal point for not only conducting important research, but for also helping to bring people from different nations and cultures together. Mote has established coral reef research partnerships in this region with the University of Jordan and King Abdulaziz University in Saudi Arabia, as well as a joint aquaculture effort with Israel, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. In 2023, we received an invitation to serve as an advisor and
partner for establishing a new marine science and technology hub and aquarium in Aqaba, Jordan, that is modeled on Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium. I have since met with His Majesty, King Abdullah, to agree on Mote assistance with capacity building and educational exchange programs, including applied marine science and technology development, and helping develop a new Aqaba Aquarium—an exciting future collaborator for our new Mote Science Education Aquarium. While I was leading the Red Sea Marine Peace Park partnership initiative between Israel and Jordan 21 years ago, I was invited to Taiwan to lead an international workshop on the potential use of the Red Sea Marine Peace Park model for international marine science partnerships in that region. I am pleased to report that those collaborations have now enabled Mote and the Taiwan National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium to partner on innovations for coral reef research and restoration, along with joint science education programs and exhibits in our respective aquariums.

Speaking of international marine research and science education partnerships, I want to thank all of you who have supported our Oceans for All campaign to create Mote’s new Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA). We know that Mote SEA will not just be a landmark for our region—it will positively transform our region’s economy and science education for our schools. It will also advance our International Marine Science Diplomacy Initiative, as each year hundreds of thousands of visitors from around the world will experience the wonder of Mote SEA and its live science-education connections to our sister aquariums in Israel, Jordan, Taiwan and beyond. When we open the doors to Mote SEA in a little more than a year, we will transition into a new era of Mote’s globally significant marine research, science education and public outreach.

Mote is pushing forward the frontiers of marine science and technology. We are expanding our research, science education, and policy programs to positively impact the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, healthy habitats, and natural resources in Florida and around the world. Philanthropy is the fuel for Mote innovation that makes this all a reality. Please join us in achieving Mote’s vision of Oceans for All that will strengthen our impacts and partnerships across oceans and cultures.

Dr. Michael P. Crosby
President & CEO

Mote is expanding the frontiers of marine science and technology. We are expanding our research, science education, and policy programs to positively impact the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, healthy habitats, and natural resources in Florida and around the world. Philanthropy is the fuel for Mote innovation that makes this all a reality. Please join us in achieving Mote’s vision of Oceans for All that will strengthen our impacts and partnerships across oceans and cultures.

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President & CEO

This past year has seen significant growth in Mote’s International Marine Science Diplomacy Initiative. We are partnering with scientists in a growing number of nations to exchange ideas and methods for the good of our oceans and society.

“We continue expanding our marine research, science education and public outreach programs to positively impact the restoration, conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, healthy habitats and natural resources in Florida and around the world,” said Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote.

The ocean provides over half the planet’s oxygen, food and jobs for billions, new medicines, recreation and more. However, our ocean faces severe challenges—overfishing, the loss of essential coral reefs, harmful algal blooms and more—that threaten marine life and humanity’s quality of life worldwide.

The countries coping with these challenges have national boundaries, but ocean ecosystems do not. To heal the oceans, marine scientists worldwide must work together.

Uniting the best and brightest scientists is our specialty at Mote—allowing us to uncover solutions for urgent ocean issues. Here is a snapshot of the research Mote advanced with international partners this year.

Above: Red Sea Ecosphere Conference Keynote Speaker Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO of Mote, with His Royal Highness Prince El-Hassan bin Talal in Aqaba, Jordan, during November 2022
Mote scientists are leading the world’s largest reef shark and ray survey, Global FinPrint, partnering with local scientists, fishermen and others at 19 new sites worldwide. These sites represent the second round of FinPrint research. The first round began at Florida International University and transformed into successful conservation efforts led by Mote. The first FinPrint survey deployed 22,000 baited, remote, underwater video stations on about 400 reefs in 58 nations and territories. Findings led to most reef shark species being listed as being threatened with extinction by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, as well as new international trade regulations under the Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Mote has a long history of marine science partnerships in the Middle East, where diverse nations border a common natural treasure: beautiful coral reefs of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba.

In the early 1950s, Mote Founding Director Dr. Eugenie Clark conducted groundbreaking fish research in the Red Sea. She later became a champion of conservation for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aqaba. Mote President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby’s focus on the region—including his leadership of U.S., Israeli and Jordanian partners in the Red Sea Marine Peace Park Cooperative Research, Monitoring and Management Program—has laid groundwork for longstanding partnerships including the Mote-Israel Cooperative Marine Research Program (MIC). Today, Mote and Israeli scientists continue collaborating to study the resilience of Red Sea corals facing ocean acidification, disease and other challenges.

Mote scientists have also partnered with Jordanian scientists to study Red Sea coral reefs. Earlier this year, Mote was invited to serve as an advisor and partner for establishing a new marine science and technology hub and aquarium in Aqaba, Jordan, modeled on Mote. Dr. Crosby has since met with His Majesty King Abdullah II to discuss Mote’s involvement with capacity building, educational exchange programs, applied marine science and technology development.

Mote is collaborating with many other countries on different projects. Mote scientists are working with Japan, Chile and Korea to test technology to mitigate the impacts of harmful algal blooms. In Mozambique, Mote scientists are assessing remote coral reefs and turtle nesting habitats. In Belize, we’re leading Earthwatch’s Shark and Ray Conservation expedition. Most recently, Dr. Tung-Yung Fan visited our Florida campuses to discuss his coral restoration work conducted at the National Museum of Marine Biology & Aquarium in Taiwan. Mote and the Museum are implementing new partnerships in coral research, restoration and marine science education.

Mote scientists have also begun building harmful algal bloom research collaborations with Japanese, Korean and Chilean scientists—for example, by presenting promising technology for red tide mitigation during the 20th International Conference on Harmful Algae in Hiroshima, Japan. There, Mote and partners from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution highlighted their discoveries that modified clay can remove red tide cells and decrease the concentration of their toxins. Mote’s research focuses on the Gulf of Mexico’s red tide algae while adding to the growing scientific literature on mitigation options for harmful algae around the world.

Mote scientists from different nations work together, we build trust by sharing knowledge and involving many segments of society in our common mission to safeguard the ocean. Even when international relationships are tense or limited, marine science can open doors to collaboration and communication for the good of our shared waters.” — Dr. Michael P. Crosby
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our societal leaders have invested millions of dollars & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby. “We are deeply grateful that algae mitigation scope nationwide, “ said Mote President Atmospheric Administration to expand our harmful tide, and we’ve been selected by the National Oceanic partnerships for restoring seagrass and mitigating red by the State of Florida to lead game-changing R&D “In the last five years alone, Mote has been selected toughest challenges. unite the best and brightest minds to solve the ocean’s federal leaders to Mote—recognizing our ability to partner, research enterprises entrusted by state and Initiative is the latest of several massive, multi- Development Initiative (403.93344 Florida Statutes) to administer the Seagrass Restoration Technology To recover these vital marine plants, Mote was selected to administer the Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative (403.93344 Florida Statutes) in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP’s) Aquatic Preserve Program and the University of Florida (UF). Seagrass meadows worldwide have shrunk about 29% since the late 1800s. Severe recent declines in Florida’s Indian River Lagoon have left manatees starving. The Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative is the latest of several massive, multi-partner, research enterprises entrusted by state and federal leaders to Mote—recognizing our ability to unite the best and brightest minds to solve the ocean’s toughest challenges. “In the last five years alone, Mote has been selected by the State of Florida to lead game-changing R&D partnerships for restoring seagrass and mitigating red tide, and we’ve been selected by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration to expand our harmful algae mitigation scope nationwide,” said Mote President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby. “We are deeply grateful that our societal leaders have invested millions of dollars and immense trust in our mission to restore marine ecosystems, strengthen the blue economy and improve communities’ quality of life.” Through these and other major initiatives, Mote and partners develop science-based solutions and intellectual property and transfer them to agencies and industries best suited to scale them up. THE ROOTS OF SEAGRASS RECOVERY

Seagrass meadows worldwide have shrunk about 29% since the late 1800s. Severe recent declines in Florida’s Indian River Lagoon have left manatees starving. To recover these vital marine plants, Mote was selected to administer the Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative (403.93344 Florida Statutes) in partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP’s) Aquatic Preserve Program and the University of Florida (UF). Mote and Initiative partners are working to develop, test and implement innovative, effective, cost-efficient and environmentally sustainable technologies and approaches for restoring coastal seagrass ecosystems. As fiscal year 2023 ended, Mote was planning a new seagrass research nursery and preparing a request for proposals to recruit our best and brightest peers in seagrass genetics, resilience, sustainable production and other restoration essentials. Going forward, Mote, UF and DEP will create a 10-year statewide strategic plan for Florida seagrass restoration. Mote also aims to develop, with private foundation support, a market for “blue carbon” offsets—using seagrasses’ natural ability to capture carbon dioxide and mitigate climate change. RED TIDE MITIGATION: FROM COAST TO COAST

Red tides kill fish and other wildlife, cause respiratory issues in people and drain millions of dollars from Gulf of Mexico economies. Other devastating harmful algal blooms (HABs) affect people worldwide. The good news? This year, Mote’s R&D initiative to mitigate red tide in the Gulf has sparked a national-level sister program.

• Gulf of Mexico: The Florida Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative—led by Mote in partnership with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)—has screened more than 300 potential compounds for effectiveness since 2019 and has 35 projects completed or ongoing, all focused on mitigating the Gulf of Mexico’s severe red tides, blooms of Karenia brevis algae.

• National: The U.S. HAB Control Technologies Incubator (US HAB-CTI) was announced in October 2022 as a partnership between Mote, University of Maryland’s Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which provided a $7.5-million grant. So far, US HAB-CTI leaders have awarded $1 million in competitive funding to partners testing HAB mitigation technologies for salt- and freshwater systems nationwide.

Mote’s HAB and seagrass initiatives use a rigorous, tiered R&D process to advance new technologies from the lab to real-world application. This process also includes assisting partners with field implementation regulatory processes and managing intellectual property to provide revenue for the next wave of scientific solutions.

“Mote is using the best practices found in academia and research to develop intellectual property and generate sustaining revenue through tech transfer,” said Mote Chief Innovation Officer Dr. Alex Beavers. “Tech transfer is widespread in some fields but is a new and emerging area for marine science. Mote is quickly becoming a global leader.”
DETECTIONS OF MOTE’S +100 PARTNERS monitoring network—a key part of a statewide Program this year—a Red Tide Research Mote-FWC* Cooperative. Clay binds to and sinks red tide (II") might be able to treat red tide without impacting adult blue crabs. Mote-FWC* Florida Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative as of fall 2023. About a dozen promising mitigation options were identified, including the development of a new glider Dora this year—our longest ever—to monitor offshore conditions relevant to red tide research. 3 autonomous gliders are now collecting ocean data for Mote.

NEW EFFORT TO SAVE SEAGRASS: Mote launched the Seagrass Restoration Technology Development Initiative this year. Worldwide, seagrass meadows have shrunk ~29% since the late 1800s. Severe recent declines in Florida’s Indian River Lagoon have left manatees starving. Science-based restoration is needed.

2 NEW SEAGRASS STUDIES published by Mote and University of Florida scientists this year improved our understanding of how to support healthy seagrass meadows.

131 MICROBIAL ISOLATES from the ocean were screened by Mote for their ability to fight pathogens (sources of disease, including antibiotic-resistant bacteria). 18.3% of these isolates can fight one or more pathogens.

CANCER-FIGHTING PROTEINS FROM SHARKS are one big step closer to being purified and available for medical research to improve human cancer therapies. Mote scientists used 3 antibodies to help separate these proteins from a natural mix of compounds produced by shark immune cells. The newly separated protein is estimated to have 400 times greater cancer-fighting activity than the original mixture if compared milligram for milligram.

5 OF 6 SURVEYED SPAWNING SITES HAD FEWER GOLIATH GROUNDER in 2022 vs. 2013, signs of possible declines revealed in Mote’s peer-reviewed study published this year in the journal Fishes. This study was supported by NOAA and partners who have collected video from 575 commercial reef fish fishing trips in the Gulf of Mexico since 2016 to support sustainable fisheries.

200,000 FISHERY CATCHES DOCUMENTED late 2023 by Mote scientists and partners who have recorded video of 575 commercial reef fish fishing trips in the Gulf of Mexico since 2016 to support sustainable fisheries.

16,337 WATER SAMPLES analyzed for red tide algae by Mote’s Cooperative Red Tide Research Program. Some promising mitigation options were discussed.

296 STRAINS of microbe life isolated from deep-sea sediments and marine species and added to the Mote Microbial Library. Mote scientists mine these microbial isolates for new potential sources of medicine.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

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+300 RED TIDE MITIGATION OPTIONS tested to date by the Mote-FWC* Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative as of fall 2023. About a dozen promising mitigation options will move into controlled, permitted field testing to decrease red tide impacts.

1ST PEER-REVIEWED STUDY published as a result of Mote-FWC* Red Tide Initiative

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+100 PARTNERS joined Mote in a new national program: the U.S. Harmful Algal Blooms Central Technologies Incubator (US HAB-CTI) focusing on nationwide saltwater and freshwater algae.

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83 COASTAL SITES IN 5 STATES monitored by Mote’s Beach Conditions Reporting System (visitbeaches.org) as of late 2023, including 23 new sites added this year. University of South Carolina, North Carolina State University, and Eastern Florida State College contributed.

30-DAY MISSION completed by Mote’s underwater glider Dora this year—our longest ever—to monitor offshore conditions relevant to red tide research. 3 autonomous gliders are now collecting ocean data for Mote.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

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3-RAY VENOM SCREENED from spotted eagle rays, Atlantic stingrays, and common rays, to screen the venom’s potential to fight 3 human disease cell lines by Mote and University of South Florida. Studying venom can lead to discovering novel drugs.

INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

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Coral reefs in the Florida Keys experienced record-breaking heat waves this summer—with temperatures exceeding 100 degrees Fahrenheit, higher-than-normal salinity and low oxygen water from Florida Bay.

In response, Mote Marine Laboratory immediately began an unprecedented evacuation of thousands of stressed and dying corals from our four offshore coral nurseries, with the help of over 70 staff members, six Mote research vessels, and immense support from the Florida Keys community.

In a matter of days, Mote carefully transported thousands of corals from our offshore nurseries in Sand Key, Looe Key, Islamorada and Key Largo to our three land-based coral nurseries in Summerland Key, Key Largo and Islamorada, along with our 200-acre Sarasota-based Mote Aquaculture Research Park (MAP).

After nearly three months of supportive care to help the corals recover, Mote’s expert coral reef restoration scientists began the multi-step process of reintroducing thousands of healthy corals back into our underwater nurseries.

Throughout the return effort, Mote is following strict protocols outlined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). These protocols include a veterinarian health certification of all evacuated corals before they can be returned to offshore nurseries. Corals are closely examined to prevent any potential diseases or pests that could spread on the reef.

Once cleared and reintroduced to the offshore nurseries, the corals undergo a strict, 30-day observation period. Then they are reassessed by Mote staff and cleared for restoration purposes such as microfragmentation—cutting corals into small pieces that grow up to 50 times faster—and eventual outplanting to restore Florida’s Coral Reef. Our normal cycle of coral restoration operations are projected to resume early in 2024.

Mote’s immediate goal is to continue to gather and analyze data from this stress event, apply what was learned to future data-driven restoration techniques, and use our proven microfragmentation techniques on the coral genotypes that did well during this event.

These resilient individuals and other diverse native corals will rebuild our offshore nurseries, power successful restoration and pass their beneficial traits on to the next generation of diverse, resilient corals on Florida’s Coral Reef.

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As part of our holistic, science-based approach to coral reef restoration, Mote researchers look forward to releasing hatchery-reared Caribbean king crabs produced from Mote’s new Florida Coral Reef Restoration Crab Hatchery Research Center to sites in the Keys.

These crabs play crucial roles in maintaining the delicate equilibrium of coral reef ecosystems by grazing on algae. As algae populations surge due to ecological imbalances, they can smother and weaken coral structures, leaving them vulnerable to disease and bleaching events. Caribbean king crabs have emerged as champions in the fight to mitigate algae overgrowth and rescue threatened coral reefs.

The crabs’ positive impacts were previously masked by their low abundance. Increasing their numbers will decrease overabundant algal cover, which will facilitate coral growth, settlement, survival and recruitment. These positive impact will dramatically improve coral reef restoration outcomes and reinforce coral reef resilience against the mounting challenges of human effects and environmental stressors.

About two months after the ribbon cutting for Mote’s Florida Coral Reef Restoration Crab Hatchery Research Center, the facility has produced 467 broodstock crabs with 182 hatched clutches that have produced about 110,888 juveniles.

Once the juvenile crabs reach about 1-inch (30 millimeter) carapace width, about three to five months after hatching, the Mote team will release them onto various reef sites. Over three months, beginning in the first quarter of 2024, approximately 300 crabs will be released at three separate reefs sites off Key West (100 crabs per reef site).
2,344 SEA TURTLE HATCHLINGS received rehabilitative care at Mote this summer.

860 CALLS ANSWERED by Mote’s 24-hour hotline for stranded marine animal response (858-345-2335) this year, (340 calls about manatees, 284 about sea turtles, 74 about dolphins and whales, 167 others).

16 +6 RAY SPECIES being studied by Mote scientists to aid conservation. For example, Mote monitors trends of longnose stingrays and endangered Atlantic chubfish with fishers in Belize.

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3 DOLPHIN CALVES RESCUED from life-threatening entanglements by Mote and partners. Each rescued bottlenose dolphin benefits the conservation of its population, PARTNERS: CLEARWATER MARINE AQUARIUM, FWC*, SDRP*, SOUTHERN RESEARCH, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA. SUPPORTED BY NOAA FISHERIES, JOHN H. PRESCOTT MARINE MAMMAL RESCUE ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM.

4,284 SEA TURTLE NESTS documented by Mote scientists and volunteers on beaches from Longboat Key through Venice, Florida, this summer, including 4,091 loggerhead and 193 green sea turtle nests—our highest number of green sea turtle nests documented by Mote scientists and volunteers on Venice, LONGBOAT KEY MONITORED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH KEY TURTLE WATCH.

411 DISTINCT MANATEES were photo-documented by Mote scientists on turtle nesting beaches on Siesta Key, Casey Key, and Venice. Mote researchers collected and released 6,511 hatchlings in 2023.

528 UNIQUE SEA TURTLES TAGGED for identification and 908 turtle encounters documented by Mote scientists on turtle nesting beaches on Siesta Key, Casey Key, and Venice. Mote researchers collected and released 6,511 hatchlings in 2023.

NEW SEA TURTLE PROTECTION ZONE announced this year by Mote: A voluntary zone where boaters are encouraged to slow down to avoid striking sea turtles in Sarasota Bay, Florida, waters.

40 YEARS: how long Mote scientists have documented some individual manatees that we photo-documented again this year. In southwest Florida, Mote’s team identified 429 individual manatees.

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This year, more than 63,236 children and adults engaged with Mote Marine Laboratory’s informal science education programs, outreach programs and educational booths—a new record.

Demand for Mote programs is growing—and not just because they’re fun ways to get children into the water and interns into our real working labs. Mote is helping students advance from education to career opportunities in marine STEM (science, technology, engineering and math)—including students facing financial or cultural barriers in these fields.

Many local students will start their journey into marine STEM at Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), the rebirth of our public Mote Aquarium projected to complete construction this coming winter at Nathan Benderson Park near Interstate 75 and University Parkway in southwest Florida.

Mote SEA will have the capacity to provide no-cost education programs to 70,000 local public school students. This year, Mote welcomed Dr. Kristen Ranges to champion these efforts. She’s starting with a needs assessment to ensure K-12 students in local counties will be able to access Mote’s engaging, inclusive and comprehensive science curricula.

"First, we’re looking at logistics and operations—for example, working with the school systems to secure bus transportation and decide which groups of students and how many will visit Mote SEA’s teaching labs at a given time."

The **OCEAN TECHNOLOGY LAB** will feature a 3D printer, laser cutter, LED touch displays and other tools that will help students build and test their own autonomous underwater vehicles and tackle other marine engineering activities.

The **MARINE ECOLOGY LAB** will feature animal habitats, live animal ambassadors and large murals that will help students explore themes such as connected ecosystems and water quality.

The **BIOLOGICAL/IMMUNOLOGY LAB** will allow students to use tools such as digital microscopes and explore topics like finding new medicinal compounds from the ocean and using DNA to investigate conservation-related questions, such as the paternity of sea turtle hatchlings.

"The Mote research themes for each teaching lab are advanced, but we’ll be working with students as young as kindergartners—so these labs are meant to be super flexible and our curricula will be adjusted to the students’ needs." Dr. Ranges said. "Even within a single grade level, students will come from different schools with different resources for STEM education. We need to meet them where they are."

Dr. Ranges is working to link state education standards with Mote research concepts, and in the coming months, she’ll work directly with local teachers to solidify and test the curricula for Mote SEA.

"We are extremely excited about the cutting-edge learning and research opportunities Mote SEA will be able to provide our students," said Dr. Sarah Burkett, Science Program Specialist for Sarasota County Schools. "The interactive laboratory experiences both inside and outside the classroom will be immersive, supporting student learning in a new, unique way."

Mote SEA won’t just deepen students’ education—it will also help bridge gaps between education and careers through four STEM Workforce Training Labs on the second and third floors: the Aquaculture Lab, Conservation Lab, Coral Lab and Veterinary Clinic & Diagnostic Center.

In these labs, interns and program participants including high schoolers, undergraduates and graduates will gain technical skills, increased science literacy and career-building networking opportunities by working alongside Mote scientist mentors on their ongoing projects. With time, Dr. Ranges and her Mote teammates look forward to building deeper connections among the Teaching Labs, Workforce Training Labs and Mote’s existing school programs. For example, Mote is currently rolling out a partnership with Bayshore High School to introduce and improve access to STEM careers for students in minority populations that are historically underrepresented in marine science.

"At Mote SEA, and throughout our communities, our goal is to give students multiple entry points into marine STEM and build their knowledge along with their sense of belonging, science identity, self efficacy and confidence around STEM," Mote Associate Vice President for Education Aly Busse said. "At Mote SEA, and throughout our communities, our goal is to give students multiple entry points into marine STEM and build their knowledge along with their sense of belonging, science identity, self efficacy and confidence around STEM."
28 BRIEFINGS for local, state & national government leaders were provided this year by Mote President & CEO Dr. Michael P. Crosby and fellow Mote scientists, a key way that we translate & transfer our knowledge to inform societal decisions vital to the ocean’s future.

105,000 FOLLOWERS on Facebook, 54,500 on Tiktok, 52,000 on Instagram, 19,000 on X (twitter), and 13,379 on LinkedIn connected with Mote’s mission this year.

100 PEOPLE FROM 15 STATES attended the Women of the Water Conference at Mote. This event allowed industry, research, academia, and government professionals to share experiences and address challenges facing U.S. aquaculture through research, community and collaboration.

4,600 NEW DONORS & MEMBERS joined Mote’s ever-growing family this year, helping to champion our marine science, conservation and education mission.

1,377 MOTE VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED 159,796 HOURS of service across every facet of Mote this year, including some exciting new roles: 33 dedicated volunteers helped educate visitors at Mote’s new Education Outreach Center at Anna Maria City Pier and 55 volunteers assisted in Mote’s coral restoration efforts through our new citizen science program—Outreach Center at Anna Maria City Pier and 33 dedicated volunteers helped educate visitors at Mote’s new Education Outreach Center at Anna Maria City Pier and 33 dedicated volunteers helped educate visitors at Mote’s new Education Outreach Center at Anna Maria City Pier.

368 SUPPORTERS—including donors, corporate sponsorships and public contributors—are powering the completion of Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), which is anticipated to open in winter 2024. The Gulf of Mexico exhibit began coming to life in summer 2023 as huge acrylic windows weighing 27,900 pounds and 22,200 pounds were installed—one of several big moments in the construction of our new hub for marine STEM education. Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), which is anticipated to open in winter 2024.

2,000 MOTE SUPPORTERS engaged with our fundraising events this year, empowering Mote to achieve more for our oceans locally and globally.

54 MILLION: combined reach of Mote’s Facebook, Instagram, X (Twitter) and LinkedIn. Together Mote’s profiles on these social platforms also had 5.1 million impressions and an engagement rate of 5.37%.

14,419 MOTE MENTIONS in news media stories this year—twice as many as last year—allowed Mote to share our mission of marine science, conservation and education with more people worldwide.

73 HIGH SCHOOLERS participated in the teen volunteer program, which provides students with an opportunity to volunteer during the school year. Engaging Mote visitors throughout Mote Aquarium, each interpretive station features hands-on learning activities and focuses on Mote research. Teen volunteers also assist in programs conducted by the Mote Education Department, including camps, special events, and outreach.

5.51% rate of 5.51%. were awarded to Mote this year by Charity Navigator. This means that Mote is a highly effective nonprofit organization and our supporters can give with confidence. This event allowed industry, research, academia, and government professionals to share experiences and address challenges facing U.S. aquaculture through research, community and collaboration.

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SUPPORTING OUR BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Mote is dedicated to nurturing the best and the brightest minds in marine science and technology fields—a key priority in our Beyond 2020 Vision & Strategic Plan. Mote offers the following awards and fellowships—made possible by philanthropic support—to deserving members of its research staff. Below each award is a list of this year’s recipients.

MOTE POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS ▼

These three-year fellowships provide 100% salary support, research start-up, supplies, equipment and mentorship to postdoctoral scientists conducting outstanding work early in their careers.

NEW IN 2023:

- DR. JAMILA ROTH
  Seagrass Ecosystem Research & Restoration

- DR. KATIE FLOWERS
  Ray Biology & Conservation

- DR. KIRSTIE FRANCIS
  Marine Microbiology

FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS WHO CONTINUED IN 2023:

- DR. JENNIFER TOYODA
  Ecotoxicology

- DR. BETH BRADY
  Manatee Research

MOTE SCHOLARLY & SERVICE AWARDS ▼

These two-year awards provide 25% salary support for scholarly and service activities that further Mote’s mission, consistent with Mote’s Beyond 2020 Vision.

NEW IN 2023:

- DR. SUMIT CHAKRABORTY
  Staff Scientist in the Phytoplankton Ecology Program

- DR. HANNA KOCH
  Staff Scientist in the Coral Reef Restoration Program

- DR. JAKE LASALA
  Manager of the Sea Turtle Conservation & Research Program

- DR. RYAN SCHLOESSER
  Manager of the Fisheries Ecology & Enhancement Program

- DR. JASON SPADARO
  Manager of the Coral Reef Restoration Research Program

SCHOLARLY AND SERVICE AWARDEES CONTINUING IN 2023:

- DR. NATE BRENNAN
  Staff Scientist in the Fisheries Ecology & Enhancement Program

- DR. EMILY HALL
  Manager of the Ocean Acidification Research Program and the Chemical & Physical Ecology Program

- DR. JIM LOCASCO
  Manager of the Fisheries Habitat Ecology & Acoustics Program

- DR. VINCE LOVKO
  Manager of the Phytoplankton Ecology Program

- DR. NICOLE RHODY
  Staff Scientist in the Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research Program

- DR. TRACY SHERWOOD
  Staff Scientist in the Environmental Laboratory for Forensics

- DR. CATHY WALSH
  Manager of the Marine Immunology Program & Manatee Research Program

- DR. DANA WETZEL
  Manager of the Environmental Laboratory for Forensics

HONORING MOTE’S NEXT GENERATION

With more than 300 staff members, including 45 Ph.D. scientists, Mote Marine Laboratory is full of sea stars. Here are just a few of our next-generation scientists who put their best fins forward this year, working diligently to find innovative solutions to ocean issues.

DR. KATIE FLOWERS

As a Mote Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ray Biology and Conservation, Dr. Flowers investigates how sharks, environmental factors and human pressures influence stingray abundance and behavior in Caribbean coral reef ecosystems. Today, she is monitoring coastal ray abundance in Belize with the local fishing community. More specifically, she’s searching coastal waters for smalltooth sawfish and winged stingrays, two critically endangered species that are potentially extirpated from the Mesoamerican region. Dr. Flowers and her team pay local shark fisherfolk to conduct ray research, reducing the number of days they fish for sharks. “We’re searching for stingrays to save sharks,” said Dr. Flowers.

In the future, she aims to expand standardized ray abundance monitoring throughout the Greater Caribbean, especially in ray fishing nations, and build local capacity for ray research and species management with Mote.

DR. KIRSTIE TANDBERG FRANCIS

As a Mote Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Molecular Microbiology, Dr. Francis studies natural products produced by marine microorganisms with potential for drug discovery. This year, Dr. Francis and a team of NOAA and USGS scientists ventured over 2,000 meters deep into the Gulf of Mexico using a deep-sea multi-corer to sample sediment. Relatively understudied, deep-sea habitats could hold potential for new discoveries.

“Exploring new and unique places allows us to find new organisms, which may produce new chemistry,” Dr. Francis said.

Dr. Francis has isolated microorganisms from the deep sediments she sampled and extracted substances that lead to the death of cancer cells and other pathogens. In 2024, she plans to isolate the compounds responsible for the biological activity and study their potential medical applications, adding to Mote’s history of marine biomedical success.

DR. JENNIFER TOYODA

As a Mote Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Ray Biology and Conservation, Dr. Toyoada studies ecotoxicology. More specifically, she studies how natural toxins and human-made chemicals affect marine ecosystems.

Recently, Dr. Toyoada has been collaborating with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to study red tide toxin (brevetoxin) accumulation in shellfish. She’s investigating the molecular mechanisms of how toxins are biotransformed and how shellfish detoxify. Her work will help natural resource managers and shellfish farmers predict and understand the risk of neurotoxic shellfish poisoning.

In the future, Dr. Toyoada plans to continue studying how inhaled toxins from sea spray affects human and wildlife health, as well as the ecological factors that contribute to red tide bloom progression.

DR. SARA WILLIAMS

As a Staff Scientist in Mote’s Coral Health & Disease Research Program, Dr. Williams uses innovative modeling and statistical analyses to study coral health and resilience. By combining and analyzing data from past coral expeditions, Dr. Williams helps Mote predict what reefs will look like under future ocean conditions and helps inform coral restoration practices for more resilient reefs.

This year, Dr. Williams and Mote colleagues have focused on testing non-antibiotic, antiviral coral cure ointments in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). The treatments are currently about 60% effective at stopping stony coral tissue loss disease progression and 100% effective for black band disease.

Dr. Williams will return to the USVI in summer 2024 to survey elkhorn coral populations around Buck Island. She will map disease prevalence, test new treatments, and perform coral fertility assessments.
supporters, who have joined Mote’s government supporters to commit more than $100 million combined toward the $130 million goal for creation of Mote SEA.

The windows, weighing 27,900 and 22,000 pounds, will give future visitors an immersive view of sharks, rays, sea turtles, tarpon, snook, red drum, snapper, parrotfish, coral reef formations and many other denizens of the Gulf that Mote is proud to call our blue backyard. One of the windows will also open up into a large multi-purpose room that will host a vast array of educational and community programs.

Heading into 2024, the construction team will begin to install the remaining large-scale acrylic panels for the balance of the main habitats throughout Mote SEA. In addition, a complex network of plumbing and life support systems, necessary to breathe life into the 1 million gallons of habitat throughout the facility, will begin to take shape.

It is anticipated that the certificate of occupancy (C.O.)—a formal approval from Sarasota County certifying that Mote SEA meets all required construction requirements and is safe for occupation—will be applied for in late summer 2024. Once the C.O. is issued, our aquarium biologists can undertake Mote’s transport and acclimation process for the wide array of animals that will ultimately call Mote SEA home.

Perhaps most exciting is the anticipated opening of the facility, which remains on schedule for winter 2024, when Mote will realize its vision for offering a window of discovery into the globally-significant marine science research conducted by Mote scientists across every ocean in the world.

In November, the Sarasota County Commission reaffirmed their financial support for Mote SEA with the Nov. 14 unanimous approval of a reimbursement resolution intended to outline their official intent to commit $20 million, which has been a critical element of support throughout the entire project. The vote marked the final step of the County’s commitment, which began with a Jan. 15, 2020, unanimous vote to provide a letter of commitment for the funds.

In December, Mote staff, supporters and members of the media celebrated with a topping off ceremony—a milestone event where the final structural beam is set into place atop a structure, thus completing its frame. Mote SEA already stands as an unmistakable and unmissable landmark within University Town Center.

Those passing by can now begin to see the building’s iconic shape, as the framework for the exterior aesthetic—aluminum panels creating a sweeping and dynamic look—is hoisted into place and connected to the structure.

Mote SEA’s interior will be just as iconic:

On July 25 and 26, the 400,000-gallon Gulf of Mexico shark conservation habitat—the largest exhibit in Mote SEA—began coming to life as a crane lifted two massive windows made of acrylic (clear, strong, aquarium-grade material) into place.

Mote staff celebrated the installation with a July 25 gathering of our generous individual and corporate supporters, who have joined Mote’s government supporters to commit more than $100 million combined toward the $130 million goal for creation of Mote SEA.

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Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium was pleased to recognize over 220 local science and elementary teachers from Sarasota, Manatee and DeSoto counties at its inaugural Toast to Teachers appreciation event, which took place on Oct. 6, 2023 with support from the Mote President’s Advisory Council. Teachers gathered in Mote’s beautiful courtyard and enjoyed complimentary cuisine, cocktails, dancing, raffle items, and entertainment, all generously donated by local businesses and community members. Donations were also raised to benefit Mote’s Education Department with a total of $60,000 raised for the Toast to Teachers Education fund, which provides local counties with access to Mote’s Education programs. Mote Education provides STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education through a wide variety of on-campus, regional-outreach and virtual-education programs. Mote Education served more than 60,000 people in the past year through our diverse programs and events, including community engagement efforts that improve access to STEM for thousands of underrepresented youths.

On Oct. 28, 2023, more than 500 supporters joined us to celebrate the global mission of Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium during our annual Oceanic Evening gala at The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota. The event adopted an “Around The World” theme celebrating the outstanding research our scientists are working on in numerous countries such as Belgium, Egypt, Haiti, Israel, Japan, Mexico and many more.

SAY CHEESE!
Did you get your photo taken at Oceanic Evening? Mote invites you to visit mote.org/saycheese to check out the 2023 event photos!
**WE ARE MOTE**

306 MOTE STAFF
   67 AQUARIUM STAFF
   26 RESEARCH PROGRAMS LEADING MARINE SCIENCE AROUND THE WORLD
   15 PATENTS HELD BY MOTE AS OF YEAR END, with nine applications pending this year thanks to Mote’s innovative science.
   INCREASE ANNUAL PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENTS SUPPORTING RESEARCH PROGRAMS TO AT LEAST $12 MILLION IN 2030.

**26 RESEARCH PROGRAMS LEADING MARINE SCIENCE AROUND THE WORLD**

- Benthic Ecology
- Chemical & Physical Ecology
- Coral Health & Disease Research
- Coral Reef Restoration Research
- Ecotoxicology
- Environmental Health / Beach Conditions Reporting System
- Environmental Laboratory for Forensics
- Fisheries Ecology & Enhancement
- Fisheries Habitat Ecology & Acoustics
- Florida Keys Marine Field Operations
- Harmful Algal Bloom Mitigation & Ecology
- Marine STEM Education Research
- Manatee Research
- Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research
- Marine Biomedical Research
- Marine Immunology
- Marine Microbiology
- Ocean Acidification Research
- Ocean Technology
- Phytoplankton Ecology
- Sarasota Dolphin Research
- Sea Turtle Conservation & Research
- Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Hospital
- Seagrass Ecosystems Research & Restoration
- Sharks & Rays Conservation Research
- Stranding Investigations

**28 EDUCATION STAFF**

- Animal Encounters
- Breakfast with the Sharks
- Camp programs
- College internships & National Science Foundation-supported Research Undergraduates
- Community engagement & outreach programs
- Endless Oceans adult learning program
- Family programs & events
- Florida Keys programs for school groups and the public
- Florida Master Naturalist Program
- Homeschool programs
- Junior Educators in Training
- Kayaking programs
- Professional development programs
- Project Nature Bridge
- School programs: field trips, classroom kits and outreach
- Scout programs
- SEA Trek and other virtual learning programs
- Special needs programs
- Shark Pups & Grownups
- Youth Ocean Conservation Summit

**67 AQUARIUM STAFF**

- Seaquarium Programs
- Animal Care Programs
- Marine Animal Care Program
- Visitor Services & Public Programs
- Education Programs
- Conservation Programs
- Zoo & Aquarium Programs
- Volunteer Programs
- Facility Management Programs

**45 DOCTORAL-LEVEL STAFF**

- Alfred Goldstein Institute for Climate Change Studies
- Center for Fisheries Electronic Monitoring at Mote
- Center for Shark Research
- Florida Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative
- International Coral Gene Bank
- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation: Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence
- Marine Policy Institute
- Red Tide Institute
- U.S. Harmful Algal Bloom Control Technologies Incubator (US HAB-CTI)

**64 SCIENCE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

- (43 IN PERSON & 21 VIRTUAL) INCLUDING:
  - Animal Encounters
  - Breakfast with the Sharks
  - Camp programs
  - College internships & National Science Foundation-supported Research Undergraduates
  - Community engagement & outreach programs
  - Endless Oceans adult learning program
  - Family programs & events
  - Florida Keys programs for school groups and the public
  - Florida Master Naturalist Program
  - Homeschool programs
  - Junior Educators in Training
  - Kayaking programs
  - Professional development programs
  - Project Nature Bridge
  - School programs: field trips, classroom kits and outreach
  - Scout programs
  - SEA Trek and other virtual learning programs
  - Special needs programs
  - Shark Pups & Grownups
  - Youth Ocean Conservation Summit

**9 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE**

- Alfred Goldstein Institute for Climate Change Studies
- Center for Fisheries Electronic Monitoring at Mote
- Center for Shark Research
- Florida Red Tide Mitigation & Technology Development Initiative
- International Coral Gene Bank
- Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation: Marine Science Laboratory Alliance Center of Excellence
- Marine Policy Institute
- Red Tide Institute
- U.S. Harmful Algal Bloom Control Technologies Incubator (US HAB-CTI)

**66 PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS, BOOKS & CHAPTERS**

- Mote's Beyond 2020 Vision & Strategic Plan, endorsed by our Board of Trustees, charts a course for the success of Mote's mission. Below are the annual strategic goals met or exceeded by our hardworking Mote family this year.

**351,382 SQUARE FEET**

- Total buildings and structures

**$35,759,237**

- OPERATING BUDGET

- DOES NOT INCLUDE BENEFICIAL INTEREST IN MOTE MARINE FOUNDATION

- FROM OCTOBER 1, 2022 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2023
Ur mission of global marine science and conservation is only possible with the support of our dedicated donors, members and volunteers near and far.

In every way, you mean the world to us.

This year, we welcomed more than 4,600 new donors and members to our ever-growing family, and nearly 2,000 of our supporters engaged with fundraising events, empowering Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium to achieve more for our oceans locally and globally.

We celebrated with you—often in our hard hats—as Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA) rose from the ground and its three stories rapidly took shape, setting the stage for our incredible new wave of accessible marine science education for communities in southwest Florida and beyond.

We also celebrated our philanthropic supporters at Mote’s Guardians of the Sea reception, where more than 300 of you joined us for a truly special evening.

Mote members of all ages joined us for a giant-squid-sized adventure in Voyage to the Deep, an immersive, limited-time exhibit adapted from Jules Verne’s classic “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea.” Nearly 600 members joined us for an exclusive exhibit preview brimming with adventure, science and fun.

Mote volunteers, who include our Board of Trustees and many donors and members, gave the vital gift of their time, expertise and goodwill to every facet of Mote’s mission this year. During our annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony, we offered our deep appreciation and hearty thanks to Mote volunteers reaching milestones of one year to an incredible 40 years of service.

No matter where we travel to lead ocean-saving science, we never leave home without one vital thing: Our deep gratitude for the supporters who put our mission on the map.

Mote’s mission is boundless because of you.
WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

MOTE TRUSTEES & ADVISORS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Sandra Stuart, Chair
Hobart (Skip) Swan, Vice Chair
R. Scott Collins, Treasurer
Dr. Andrew Economos, Secretary
Dr. Michael P. Crosby, President & CEO

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Robert E. Carter, Chairman Emeritus
Maurice (Mo) Cunniffe, Immediate Past Chairman
Frederick M. Derr, P.E., Chairman Emeritus
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Robert Long
Jean Martin

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Edward Hamilton
Paul Hudson
Tyler Hydlop
Joel Johnson
LTC Frances Presley Rice
Alan Rose
Dr. Howard (Sam) Seider, Chairman Emeritus
Dr. Harris Silverman
Jeanie Stevenson

WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

FLORIDA KEYS ADVISORY COUNCIL
Peter Rosasco, Chair
Jill Miranda Baker
Ron Burd
George Garrett
Peter Horton
Commissioner Holly Roschein
Merrill Raschein
Mike Puto
Margie Smith

MOTE SEA DONORS

Thank you to the following generous donors who have contributed to our Oceans for All campaign to create Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), from its inception to December 31, 2023.

MAKO BENEFACTORS

$1,000,000 OR MORE
Anonymous
Anonymous
Bishop Parker Foundation
Dr. Andrew and Dr. Judith Economos
Karol Foss
Anonymous
Anonymous
Manatee County Board of County Commissioners
Sarah, Ling & Michael Markovitz
Ryan and Maureen Martin
Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners
State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous

NAUTILUS SOCIETY

$500,000 TO $999,999
Daniel E. Offutt, III Charitable Trust
Edward D. & Anna Mitchell Family Foundation
Edwin T. Meredith Foundation
Robert and Anne Essner
Event Network
Anonymous
The Metz Family Foundation
Misdey Wrigley and James Mather Miller Charitable Foundation
Paul and Rhoda Morrisroe
James and Christina Price
Nickolas and Jourdan Reinhart
Robert Leverthal Sudakoff Foundation
Steinwachs Family Foundation
Hobart and Janis Swan
William G. and Marie Selby Foundation

SEA EXPLORERS

$250,000 TO $499,999
Eugene and Annabelle Beckstein
Barbara Brizdle
Kenneth and Carrie Cox
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Inc.
Ron and Terri Greenbaum
Henry and Marilyn Taub Foundation
Horan Family Foundation
Helen Johnson-Leipold and Craig Leipold
Judith H. and L. Thomas Melly and Family
Jeanne Leszczynski and Diane Dicarlo
Elizabeth Moore
NextEra Energy Foundation
Perlman Family Foundation
( Ellen Hanson and Richard Perlman)
Dr. William and Betty Petty
Wayne and Grace Rickert
Seaman Paper Company
The Spurlino Foundation
Sandi Stuart and D. Michael Murray
Winnebago Industries Foundation

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Winnebago Industries Foundation
Thank you to the following generous donors who gave to Mote during our 2023 fiscal year (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023).

WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

MOTE CHANGE MAKERS: OUR GENEROUS DONORS

$500,000 OR MORE
Anonymous
Bishop Parker Foundation
Event Network
Karlo Foss
Manatee County Board of County Commissioners
Anonymous

$250,000 TO $499,999
Maurice and Carolyn Cuniff
Andrew and Judith Economos Foundation
Ron and Terri Greenbaum
James Trust Foundation
Ocean Properties Ltd.
Andrew and Judith Economos Foundation

$100,000 TO $249,999
Anonymous
Bank of America
Charitable Foundation
Charles & Margery Baranick Foundation
The Bolger Foundation
Community Foundation of Sarasota County
Vickie and Joseph Crupi
Frank E. Duckwall Foundation, Inc.
Bob and Anne Essner
Charles and Roberta Farrow
Revocable Trust

$50,000 TO $99,999
Paul M. Angell
Family Foundation
Charles T. Bauer
Charitable Foundation
Daniel S. Blakock, Jr.
Charitable Foundation
Donald C. Brace Foundation
Barbara Brizzle
The Brookfield Foundation
Anonymous
Jared and Angeline Chromy
Crisdel Group, Inc.
Richard Davis and Lana Em
Enzymica

$25,000 TO $49,999
Act for NIH Foundation
Anonymous
Franklin G. Berlin
Foundation Fund
Anonymous
W. Dale Brougher Foundation
Buchanan Family Foundation
Al & Nancy Burnett
Charitable Foundation
Cabdettus Foundation
John and Angela Campanella
DaRin Butz Foundation
N. Rogan Donnelly
Enzymica
Ralph S. French
Charitable Foundation
GFP Properties of Sarasota LLC
Dr. William and Sara Gill
Good Day Foundation
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Anonymous
Seaman Paper Company
William Shepard
Ted and Susan Sherman
Dr. Harris and Micheline Silverman
Steve and Mary Smith
Sandi Stuart and D. Michael Murray
Anonymous
Peter and Candice Teuber
Christine and James Uhlein
James and Mary Uhlein
Virgin Voyages
Whitney-Turning
Contracting Company
Terry Whittier

$10,000 TO $24,999
Anonymous
Phibro Animal Health Corporation
Nat P. Ozmon Family Foundation
O'Neill Family Charitable Trust
Phipps Animal Health Corporation
Phoebe Memorial Foundation
PNC Bank
Ron and Kim Police
Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
Raccoon Family Foundation
Arthur and Rebecca Reilly
Duncan and Elizabeth Richardson
Todd and Libby Rieke
David and Sharon Robinson
Edward and Elyse Rogers
Family Foundation
Anonymous
Anonymous
Andrew Sabin
Family Foundation
Carol Sallach
Salt Strong, LLC
Samewitz Foundation
Diane and Rodney Sawyer
Anonymous

The Sexton Family Foundation
Shirley: Making a Difference Charitable Endowment of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Diana Simoni
The Smithsonian Family
Lucinda Sparer
Elizabeth Steele
Anonymous
Angie Sutherland and Haydn Fusia
Hobart and Janis Swick
Bark and Barbara Tafaro
Anonymous
Bill Terry
Susan L. Brown and Robert H Thill Jr. Family Foundation
Nancy and Thomas Tussing
Waters Charitable Foundation
Gwendolyn and Thomas Watson
Michael and Kimberly Wedge
Estate of Miriam “Mimi” Welch
Wells Fargo Charitable Foundation
Whitcraft Foundation
Robert White and Joan Matchette
Steven and Dawn Willoughby

WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

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Mote Scientific Foundation
Diane and Tim Muldoon
Irving & Marilyn Naithid
Family Foundation
Sara Roberts Foundation
Kimberly and Christopher Scaringe
Dr. Howard and Dorene Seider
Stratton Foundation
Christine Szarek
Michael and Mary Taylor
Susan Trempe
Triad Foundation
Norman Vaughan-Birch, Esq. and Erin Vaughan-Birch
S. Jackson Wommack and Edna B Wommack Foundation
$25,000 TO $49,999
Anonymous

$10,000 TO $24,999
Jennifer Adams
Judy Aleman and Steve Bloom
Animal Welfare Institute
Aon - Construction & Infrastructure
James & Maryann Armour
Family Foundation
Axe Inc Technologies
Anonymous
Bank of America
Client Foundation
Anonymous
Bayside Pet Resort
Lynn and Steve Blackledge
David Booth and Jane Garrett
Bosca Family Foundation
Elaine and Bart Boyer
Frank and Marjorie Braisted
Foundation of The Denver Foundation
Bridge Tender Inn Dockside
Bar & Grille
Jenifer Brittel
Kathleen and Travis Brown
V & S Buchanan
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Tim and Lori Crothers
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CVision AI, Inc.
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Ann Doremus and Megg Dekmo
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EcoEd Foundation
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Eppley Foundation for Research
James Ericson
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Robin and William Fetsch
Fiduciary Wealth Advisors
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Florida Underwater Sports
Frederick Derr & Company, Inc.
Robert and Susan Frey
Gecko’s Hospitality Group
Susan and Lauren George
Gold Coast Eagle Distributing
Anonymous
Lisa Holnick
Mohammed Chauqui
Mike and Bonnie Hartley
Jennifer and Patrick Hewitt
Malcolm and Patricia Hickok
Greg Hilders
Christoph and Melanie Holden
Ruth R. Hoyt-Anne H. Jolley Foundation Inc.
Robert and Lynne Huff
Franz and Joanne Hummert
Hunter Family Foundation

2023 Annual Report
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### WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DONOR NAME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wally Adams Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Armour Memorial Foundation</td>
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<td>Family Charitable Foundation</td>
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<td>Clement and Karen Arrison</td>
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<td>Foundation</td>
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<td>James and Kathy Baker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret and Marshall Bartlett Family Foundation</td>
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<td>John &amp; Nellie Bastien Memorial Foundation</td>
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<td>Barbara and James Beard</td>
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<td>Beth Bertossi</td>
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<td>Glick Family Foundation</td>
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<td>Boca Grande Women’s Club</td>
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<td>Welfare Foundation</td>
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<td>Carol Bowen and Vic Bass</td>
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<td>Gloria Bracciano and Angel Rossi</td>
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<td>Capital Group Companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charitable Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>David and April Casali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chip Charitable Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foundation Trust</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carole Chrisman</td>
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<td>Clough Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coastal Wildlife Club, Inc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent Conrad and Lucy Calauti</td>
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<td>Kay Cook and Perry Pogany</td>
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<td>Melisande and Alfred D’ Alessio</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony and Christie de Nicola Family Foundation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linda Deal</td>
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<tr>
<td>James Dean and Stephanie McGowan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth and Robert Odi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry L. &amp; Grace Doherty Charitable Foundation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VISIONARIES

#### $1,000 TO $9,999

- 1-800 Rainbow & A/C of Sarasota
- 30A thang
- 360 Marketing, LLC
- Dawn and Chad Abel
- Stephanie Abrams
- Academy Mortgage
- Paul and Peggy Adams
- Philip and Peggy Adams
- Paul and Mary Ann

#### $10,000 TO $19,999

- Alpha Aqua Farms
- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Anchor Spa & Pool
- Diane Anderson
- Anne C. Andorn, M.D.
- John Andrews
- William and Andrea Andrews
- Joan Angelis and Harold Roberts
- Charles and Heather Annaloro
- Patricia Appold
- Aquatic Equipment
- William Archibald and Jill Hardin
- Arthur Vining Davis Foundations
- Maurice Charit
- Linda and Walter Scherr
- Anonymous
- Betty T and David M. Schneider Foundation
- Shutts & Bowen, LLP
- Smugglers Cove Adventure Golf
- Maureen and Charles Snyder
- Thomas and Cindy Stuley
- Tarnok Family Foundation
- May Tate
- Desiree and Michael Trahan
- Steven Wagner, UBS Private Wealth Management
- Ann Woltman

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This text represents the natural language content of the provided document page. It is formatted as a table for clarity and readability.
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Judith Manoccherian, LLC
David and Iris Julian
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Janet and Stanley Kane Family Foundation
Meghan Kane-Hartnett
MGM Foundation
Brian and Susan Kelly
Rebecca and James Kennedy
Michael Kerr
Alan and Carol Kesler
Mary Ella Kidd and Robert Hough
Su Huhg and Young Cho Kim
Lisa Kleen Karp and Lance Karp
Bradford Klein
Lynd and Kevin Kordick
Kookaburra Foundation
Norma and James Koppel
Tracy and Roy Kretzler
Marily Kucharski
Neil La Belle
Shila Labrecque
Linda and Timothy Lachell
Michelle Lamarca
Derek and Rhonda Lambert
Steve Lanning
Dr. Frank Lasala and Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala
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Janet and Fred Leobener
Mary and Trudo Letechert, Sr.
Bernard Lewis
Charitable Foundation
Stephen Lexow
Anthony and Judith Licita
Lido Key Residents Association
Judith Lindauer
John and Sandra Long
Longboat Key Garden Club
Brian and Susan Kelly
David and Iris Julian

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Jason Lowe
Michelle Lowe
Charles Lubbars
Anonymous
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Mary-Adair Macaire
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Michael and Donna Maddin
Margaret and Frances Magill
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Ed and Susan Maier
Kirk and Rae Malcolm
Christine and Gregory Maldonado
Nancy and Jack Malo
Manatee Gourmet Coffee
Anonymous
Blake and Jennifer Marcoux
Anonymous
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Jean Martin
Douglas and Laura Marty
Bradley and Michele Mason
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Gregory and Lori McMillan
Anonymous
Mesa Family Fund of the New City United
JeffREd Church
Newfoundland Aquariun
James Nichols and Tammi Hall
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Kevin and Valerie North
Adam and Sara Nyan
Andrea and Michael O’Brien
Dorothy O’Brien and Richard Antoine
David and Ellen Odenath
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Keith and Elizabeth Paredes
Jeffrey Parker
Adrienne Patmagrian Evans and Kyle Evans
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Catherine and Michael Perez
Pet Dental Center
Anonymous
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Harold M. & Adeline S.
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Thomas and Robin Murphy
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Sean Murray and Deb Henretta
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Engineering Medicine
Amanda and Jonathan Nehring
Sheila and Charles Nemes
New City United
JeffREd Church
Who We Are: Our Supporters

Mote Marine Laboratory

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David and Iris Julian
Kandace Kaak
Richard P. Kahn Foundation
Janet and Stanley Kane Family Foundation
Meghan Kane-Hartnett
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Rebecca and James Kennedy
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Lisa Kleen Karp and Lance Karp
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Lynd and Kevin Kordick
Kookaburra Foundation
Norma and James Koppel
Tracy and Roy Kretzler
Marily Kucharski
Neil La Belle
Shila Labrecque
Linda and Timothy Lachell
Michelle Lamarca
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Steve Lanning
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Stephen Lexow
Anthony and Judith Licita
Lido Key Residents Association
Judith Lindauer
John and Sandra Long
Longboat Key Garden Club
Peter and Jean Loux
Mote Marine Laboratory

§500 TO $999
99 Bottles Taproom and Bottle Shop
Steven Adams
Michael Adkinson and Mari Lynn Cheatham
William Alexander, IV
Richard and Andrea Amend
Tana and Sean Anderson
Nancy and Bernard Anthony, Jr.
Lisa Ardict
Daniel and Monica Atkins
Nancy Baker
Brenda Barry
The Bark Station SRQ
Jane and James Barrett, Jr.
Ron Bates and Randy Lasley
David and Barb Baughman
Mark Baumgarten and Sandra Appignani
Kristy Beall and Kelsey Larson
Gerald and Karel Beck
Gwenn Behrens
Patricia and Brian Belmont
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Ralph and Susan Berry
Susan Bethke
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Dyan Brasington and Victor Obrieng
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Estate of Dr. Eugene Clark
John and Lorna Clarke
Winfield C & Isabelle K Cook
Charitable Foundation
Judy and Dane Cornell
Michael Corrigan
Michael and Susan Costigan
Peggy Daught and
Peter Remington
Constance Davis
Jay and Jacklyn Dedrick
CawaiLogic Corporation
Thomas and Deborah Degnan
Definitive Logic Corporation
Peggy Daitch and
Michael and Susan Manoccherian, LLC
David and Iris Julian
Kandace Kaak
Richard P. Kahn Foundation
Janet and Stanley Kane Family Foundation
Meghan Kane-Hartnett
MGM Foundation
Brian and Susan Kelly
Rebecca and James Kennedy
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Mary Ella Kidd and Robert Hough
Su Huhg and Young Cho Kim
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Lynd and Kevin Kordick
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Marily Kucharski
Neil La Belle
Shila Labrecque
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Stephen Lexow
Anthony and Judith Licita
Lido Key Residents Association
Judith Lindauer
John and Sandra Long
Longboat Key Garden Club
Peter and Jean Loux
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2023 Annual Report

2023 Annual Report
WHO WE ARE: OUR SUPPORTERS

Rob and Liz Durham
Bob Duva and Christy Nolander
Dr. Sylvia Earle
Ann English
Eskew Financial Group
Steve and Kathy Evans
Kristy and Matt Foyle
Jean Fender
Robert Fedder Fund
of Thrivent Charitable
Scot Fischer and
Marimar Saif
Florida Aquaculture Association
Carol Frazer
Andrea Frank and Ron Sivitz
Brian Foster
Florida Aquaculture Association
Scot Fischer and
Robert Fiedler Fund
Jean Fender
Steve and Kathy Evans
Eskew Financial Group
Dr. Sylvia Earle
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Jonathan and Mary Gordon
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Kristin and Michael Goldberg
William and Jodi Goel
Gene Goetz
Kristin and Michael Goldberg
Roz Goldberg
Mel and Jan Goldsmith
Kelly and Bruce Goodwin
Google Matching Gifts Program
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Robert Gosher
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Ehon and Susan Hall
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Hennem Fund at
Vanguard Charitable
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Maureen Maguire
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Robert Nusbaum, Jr.
Mortons Gourmet Market
Richard and Lisa Mueller
Edmond Nass
Kari and Ann Newkirk
Kerstin Nicholson
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Robert Nusbaum, Jr.
Madeline O’Brien
Laura D’Oenell
Robert Overall, Jr.
and Cindy Turner
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Holly Parker and
Howard Hampton
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Nann and Paul Parr
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Randa Paves
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Jennifer Manocheiran
Daniel Marando
Andrew Marine
MarineMax Sarasota
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Louise Mauran Nadler
Jeffrey and Diane Mayer
John and Barbara McCabe
Stephen and Debra McFie
Eleanor and Richard McGrath
Kathleen and Morgan McKown
Meg and James McLane
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Ann Miller and
Jennifer Barkdale
Christine Miller and Stacey
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Stewart and Trudy Moon
Bryan and Laura Moore
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Richard and Lisa Mueller
Edmond Nass
Kari and Ann Newkirk
Kerstin Nicholson
Suzanne and
Robert Nusbaum, Jr.
Madeline O’Brien
Laura D’Oenell
Robert Overall, Jr.
and Cindy Turner
Gregory Pachunka
Holly Parker and
Howard Hampton
Cynthia and Michael Parela
Nann and Paul Parr
Lenore and Jon Patterson, Jr.
Randa Paves
Perlmuter Family Foundation
Janice Likite
Anonymous
Dr. Carl and Rosa Lauer
Gerda Macekonis
Jennifer Manocheiran
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Jacheline Price
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Eliza and David Racanelli
Darby Radmanesh
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Clyde Richardson
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Ross Fund of The Chicago
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Christopher and Joan Seyer
Ronal and Sarah Sekura
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Michael and Becky Shea
John Shehorn and
Christine Welz
Maureen and William Shuman
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Patricia and Norman Sorensen
Southface Sarasota /
GoodUse Sarasota
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Ronald Stanich and
Donald and Marcella Rose
Rick Steele and Donna Hammill
Jeffrey Steinsnyder
Jeffrey and Ellen Steinwachs
Mark and Phyliss Stephens
Shira and Tava Sternberg
Tom and Rhonda Slaughter
Strikforce Communications LLC
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Elmer and Nancy Swartzmeyer
Neil and Roland Tallcott
Tampa Bay Watch
Terri and Amanda Tanielian
Leonard Tavevini and
Mary Younglove
Norman and Mary Therford
Roger and Mary Thibault
Mary Thomas
Susie and David Tietz
Thomas Ticomb
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Erin Trathan
Tom and Sue Van Dam
Ginger and Arnold Vance
Aubrey and Kyle Vealey
Virginia Sea Grant
Giuliana and Adrienne Vittadini
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Deborah and
Harry Weatherholt
Marjorie Webb
Deena Welch
Kevin Werner
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Tim Whaley and Michael Powell
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Katherine Widerborg and
William Ray, Jr.
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Eleanor Wilson Williams and
Hannah Williams
Anonymous
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Marylinne and James Witte
Joseph and Susan Wolters
Robert Yamartino and
Maxine Scliar
Lynne and Helen Yannakis
Richard Yonker and
Rachel Gordon
Eva and Andrew Zaleski
Chester and Susan Zeller
Zildjian Catering - Peak
Performance Catering
Letty and Bob Zook
Jennifer Zuckerman and
Letty and Bob Zook
Chester and Susan Zeller
Eva and Andrew Zaleski
Chester and Susan Zeller
Zildjian Catering - Peak
Performance Catering
Letty and Bob Zook
Jennifer Zuckerman and
George Thomas

CHAMPIONS

$250 TO $499

Tina Ackerman

April Adams and Dinkar Bhaita
Alan and Linda Alkten
Cynthia Alander and
Jonathan Spitz
Mary Alexander and Ford Colley
Debbie Allen and Gary Bales
Brooke Allen-Burnstein and
Bryan Burnstein
Allergy Technologies LLC
Lore Alvarez and Bill Foster
Robert Amero
Linda Anderson
Matt and Rita Andis
Donald and Darla Ary
Bethy Arluck and Chuck Taylor
Matthew Arnett and
Annmaria Lazlo
Elaine and Julian Aresty
David Artz
Annie Aslin Cohen
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Wendy Babic
Ed and Janis Badenell
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Melanie Baird and Tracey Myers
Lawrence Balter, Ph.D.
and Karen Adams
Douglas and Maureen Baltzer
Regina and Ralph Barbato
Candace and Stephen Barnes
Tamara and Christina Barghiner
Richard and Irene Batchelor
Jonah and Pam Bartley
Richard and Samantha Bate
Betsy and Thomas Bears
Brian and Kathleen Beurges
Josiah and Ben Beurer
Jeff Bell and Nora White
Wendy Bendich
Emily and Alice Beran
Berkeley Preparatory School
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Linda Berliner
Ellen and Richard Berry
Laurel Best and Art Abdo
Inna
Stewart and June Beyer
John and Pam Biggart
Frederick and Janet Bishop
Thomas and Tays Blakely
Paul and Marilyn Blankman
Francine Blatt
Samantha Bledstein
Bianna Blis
Blueat Productions
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and Mary Ziegler
Cindi Boulter
Jeffrey and Adam Bomberger
Tamara and Tom Boncorsi
Boston Scientific
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Eileen and Edward Bradbury
Bradon River
Elementary School
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Lillian and Linda Brandshaw
Rogers and Leticia Bresnahan
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Angela Bruguido
Donna Brooks
Elaine and Erik Brown
Steven Brubaker
Ashley and Charles Bubek
Karin Buffett
Elizabeth and Robert Cesar
Anoname
Carole and Joel Campbell
Barbara Carey
Wendy and Patrick Carter
Kris Carpenter
Kathryn Caw and
Martha Angell
Laura Carr
Richard and Ellen Carter
CBIZ Insurance Services, Inc.
Ellisabeth Celentano
Centauri Insurance
The Center for Urgent Care
Lee and Sheila Chapple
Michael and Vivian Chester
Eriin and Richard Ogich
Bridget Cianci
Michael Clark
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Janice States
Anne Steidinger
Elizabeth Stewart
Joe Stewart
Paulette Stewart
Aaron Stordahl
Merl and Jane Strider
Suncoat Technical College
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Lesley Svenson
Ronald and Annetta Swanson
Tang Bay of USVFI
Richard Tanner
Janell Taylor
Rhoda Taylor
John and Michael Tendall
Tervis
Madelyn and Michael Tetmeyer
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Tisha and Constance Thornton
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Rhonda and Wesley Tippett
Dennis and Chelsey Trebing
Thomas and Anne Marie Trew
Dana Treotel
Andrew Troutman

Elaine and Ashlee Trufan
Peter and Frances Tsolinas
Michelle and Tom Tunnell
Cheryl Turner and Ruth Robinson
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Agnes and Alyssa van Ryn
Margaret Veeneeman and Yullia Shaparenko
Sonia Velasco
Mark and Leslie Vestrich
Jessie Vi and Miranda Oswald
Kristy and Cameron Vigil
Susan and Loren Villnow
Jan and Cathy Voights
Peter and Miriam Vollweiler
Markus and Lois Waite
Nancy Walker
Peter and Lucy Walker
Patricia Wallace
Stephanie Wallace
Leigh Walsh
Marcia Ward
Deborah and Mark Wasmund
Denise Watermeier
Cheryl Weeks-Rosten and John Rosten
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Laurie and Stephen Wilbur
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Anonymous
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Melissa Williams and Greg Deeg
Jennifer Wilson-Farley and Iris Farley
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