

# GULF COAST COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Teri A Hansen**  
**President | CEO**

Teri A Hansen manages the daily work of Gulf Coast Community Foundation as, together with its donors, it transforms our region through bold and proactive philanthropy. She has served as President | CEO of Gulf Coast since 2002.

Under Teri's leadership, Gulf Coast recently surpassed \$150 million in grants invested in the community. Teri oversees Gulf Coast's creation and funding of catalytic community initiatives, such as a policy study of Florida's 9-1-1 system that helped improve public-safety throughout the state. Current Gulf Coast initiatives include Feeding Hungry Families, a project to assess, map, and improve the hunger-relief system in our region; CareerEdge, an award-winning workforce-development collaborative; and GulfCoastGood.org, an online portal for citizen philanthropy that connects community members with opportunities to donate or volunteer.

Teri also volunteers her leadership nationally, statewide, and regionally. She is a member of the Council on Foundations' Community Foundations Leadership Team, a past president of Community Foundations of Florida, a member of the Florida Philanthropic Network, and a board member of the Florida Chamber of Commerce Foundation. She also serves on the USF Sarasota-Manatee Community Leadership Council and has held numerous leadership positions focused on economic development in Sarasota County.

Teri is a member of the International Women's Forum Suncoast Chapter, and in 2007 she received the IWF's "Women Who Make a Difference Award." In 2010, she received the President's Award of Distinction from State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, and was named a "Best Boss" in the Sarasota-Manatee region by *Biz941* magazine. Teri was named one of the "50 Most Powerful People on the Gulf Coast" by *Gulf Coast Business Review* in 2011. She also received the Tampa Bay Partnership Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism and the Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County "She Knows Where She's Going" award.

Prior to joining Gulf Coast, Teri was vice president for gift planning and donor relations at The Cleveland Foundation, the oldest and one of the largest community foundations in the United States. She also worked as vice president of external relations for Central Indiana Community Foundation and was the founding president of Legacy Fund of Hamilton County (Indiana).

A San Diego native, Teri earned her bachelor's degree in journalism from San Diego State University. Upon graduating, she served as a public affairs officer in the U.S. Air Force. Teri is an alumnus of Harvard Business School, having completed its Advanced Management Program.

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## Awards and Recognitions

*Gulf Coast Community Foundation and its president/CEO, Teri A Hansen, have been honored recently with the following awards and recognitions:*

### **Gulf Coast Community Foundation**

- Outstanding Humanitarian Award, America's Blood Centers (2014)
- Stephen H. Goldman, M.D. Keystone Award – Lay Organization, Center for Building Hope (2013)
- Best NonProfit Organizations to Work For, *The NonProfit Times* (2010)
- Best Companies to Work For, *Florida Trend* magazine (2010)

### **Teri A Hansen**

- Community Youth Development Leadership Honoree (2014)
- Women in Business Leadership Circle, *SRQ Magazine* (2014)
- Civic Achievement Award, AJC – West Coast Florida Region (2013)
- "50 Most Powerful People on the Gulf Coast," *Gulf Coast Business Review* (2011)
- "She Knows Where She's Going" Award, Girls Incorporated of Sarasota County (2011)
- Chair's Cup for Excellence in Regionalism, Tampa Bay Partnership (201X)
- President's Award of Distinction, State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota (2010)
- "Best Boss," *Biz941 Magazine* (2010)
- "Women Who Make a Difference Award," International Women's Forum (2007)

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## **Teri A Hansen Council on Foundations Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination**

Teri A Hansen was honored by the American Jewish Committee with its Civic Achievement Award in 2013. Here is a video that was produced to be shown at the awards dinner to recognize her contributions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pjyq4k3zC1s&list=FLfZ9rNKc6NFZSeRxmYV3HZw&index=2>



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[Philanthropy] Wanted: Agents for Action

Teri A. Hansen

Published on Saturday, January 18, 2014



Suzette Jones has fielded more than 140 business ideas from aspiring local entrepreneurs who she matches with coaches, mentors and other resources through BIG—Bright Ideas on the Gulf Coast. Bob and Lin Williams, Sarasota philanthropists who built a successful manufacturing company, have funded 15 technology-rich STEMsmart classrooms in Sarasota middle schools. Karin Barbito helped convene 120 volunteers from faith communities in Venice last week to begin strengthening the support network for homeless families.

Each of these folks is an “Agent for Action” in the Gulf Coast Community Foundation family. While their focus might seem relatively specialized, all contribute to a bigger-picture objective: to live in the best community we can. To see just how well these efforts strategically align, I invite you to read Gulf Coast’s 2014 Agenda for Action.

This publication is our annual statement of commitments for the coming year. An “anti-annual report” of sorts, it honors accomplishments of the past by charting how we aim to build on that progress—and inviting you to work with us toward greater goals.

In 2014, our Agents for Action are approaching our region’s most exciting opportunities and pressing challenges from three directions:

**Innovation economy.** A thriving community owes its dynamic energy to success in disparate areas. Our agents have banded together to catalyze growth and progress by: creating more high-quality, career-path jobs and a more fertile environment for start-ups; better preparing area students to fill those high-skilled jobs; and enhancing the cultural and lifestyle amenities that attract young professionals and new retirees alike.

**Opportunity for all.** A community cannot be said to have laid a proper foundation if it can count among its members even a few for whom the most basic needs are not being met. Two diverse and enterprising groups are pooling their resources—and recruiting more—to support vulnerable children and families who lack access to adequate, nutritious food and safe places to sleep at night.

**Foundation strong.** The measure of a community is the faith we put in just that: measuring the community. The accuracy of data must be prerequisite to any action based on it. Gulf Coast is committed to convening experts, engaging community members in research and analysis, strengthening nonprofits to reach their potential and uniting skills we already have in our region with needs we want to banish from it.

Flipping through our Agenda, I just counted photos of 120 of the most compassionate, committed members of our community who are working together to improve it. And that’s but a fraction of the Agents for Action across our region—donors and volunteers, public servants and nonprofit leaders—who collaborate with Gulf Coast.

Can you see yourself or your team engaged in this enterprise? What’s *your* agenda? Ours is online at [www.GulfCoastCF.org](http://www.GulfCoastCF.org). I invite you to read it and then act on what moves you. We want to hear how you can help us, together, make our community the best it can be.

SRQ Daily Columnist Teri A Hansen is president and CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation

[2014 Agenda for Action](#)

More From SRQ Daily...

This story came from SRQ Daily, you can read the [entire issue](#) in the [archive](#).

# Sheltering families requires a foundation of leadership

**T**om Tryon's Sunday column looked at a critical community issue: homeless children and families. It was preceded Nov. 5 by a news story highlighting the latest, distressing data on area families — often unseen in the broad-brushed picture of homelessness — with no permanent place to stay at night. Readers who are willing to join us in reducing these numbers should understand the work that Gulf Coast Community Foundation has been leading to improve the safety net for these families, as well as the funding we have provided to fuel services and successes noted in the two pieces.

In a February guest column on these pages, I wrote that the first requirement to effectively address the very real issue of homeless children and families is “credible countywide data, so we know things like how many families are



TERI A. HANSEN  
GUEST COLUMNIST

homeless, how many hotel rooms and other emergency beds are available, and what it really costs to successfully help a family.” For months before that and ever since, Gulf Coast has convened the agencies that compiled this recent data and worked with them to close gaps through which the families they serve can slip.

The 40 recent hotel stays provided by Community Assistance Ministry to homeless families in southern Sarasota County were funded through our Homeless Children and Families initiative, as were others provided by Resurrection House in the north. Emergency child care through the Early Learning Coalition is another gap service in which Gulf Coast in-

vested. You can read about the extensive work we've been doing with Schoolhouse Link and its many partners to help homeless students stay in their “home” school by going to [GulfCoast-CF.org](http://GulfCoast-CF.org) and searching “homeless.”

But at Gulf Coast, we know that motel vouchers and temporary bus routes alone won't put our neighbors into stable housing with permanent jobs and the wraparound services they need to stay there. That's why our initiative has always had a dual strategy: Fill short-term gaps to aid families who need help now while providing the leadership and coordination to transform a system that allowed those gaps to open in the first place. My February column asserted that “courageous leadership” is required to sustain a meaningful, long-term initiative to better serve homeless families. If you know Gulf Coast, you know we

will not shy away from that responsibility.

As Mr. Tryon noted, raising awareness is vital, and that's why Gulf Coast recently published our first magazine, called PROACTION, which focuses on homeless children and families in the inaugural issue. The magazine profiles the diverse faces of homelessness in our community, highlights model programs in place now, and recommends ways that every community member can help. You can read it on our website or call (941) 486-4600 for a printed copy.

In less than two weeks, Dr. Robert Marbut will release his findings on services for the homeless in Sarasota County. We believe his report and recommendations will bring more focus and straight talk to the issues that Gulf Coast has been working on and the agencies we are working with. We

have a charitable fund in place — the Homeless Children and Families Fund — which is already fueling short-term family aid and long-term systems change. Our board committed \$250,000 to this effort, and proactive philanthropists are now adding to it.

As Dr. Marbut said at his first Herald-Tribune “Hot Topics” forum back in July, “Homelessness is complex, but it isn't complicated.” At Gulf Coast, we have worked hard to unravel and help others understand the unique challenges faced by homeless children and families and the different solutions they require.

Moving forward, you can count on at least one simple thing: Gulf Coast is ready to lead the way in making permanent homes come true for struggling families in our community.

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Teri A. Hansen is president and CEO of Gulf Coast Community Foundation.