

March 2024

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Our Mission:
To provide competitive scholarships for eligible individuals and to sponsor and/or donate to projects intended to enrich the cultural, intellectual, emotional or physical interests of the residents of Bentley Village or that advance the interests of the Foundation in the greater Bentley Village community and Southwest Florida.

The Foundation is funded by donations and managed by an elected Board of Trustees.

An Invitation from the Board

Each year the Bentley Village Foundation (BVF) seeks financial support from Bentley residents through the annual Membership Drive. The generous financial support of Bentley residents is deeply appreciated. Your donations each year enrich the lives of Bentley residents, employees and other seniors in SW Florida.

I'm often asked how we become a member of BVF. The short answer is to make donations in support of our Scholarship or Program Fund through the annual Membership Drive, the Dollars for Scholars Golf Event, and the Program fundraisers: "*A Taste of Opera*" which was held on January 28, and the "*Boots and Bling*" western night to be held on April 12. Residents can also contribute through Memorial and Tribute gifts honoring others.

Last year, the Membership Drive raised \$259,347 of which \$169,526 was designated for the Scholarship Fund and \$89,821 for the Program Fund. The Dollars for Scholars Golf Event raised \$149,429 for Scholarships. And, \$28,821 was given through Memorial and Tribute gifts honoring others.

The **Scholarship Fund** has provided 99 scholarships to employees and their dependents since 2017. Currently, there are 31 active scholarships. Scholarships follow the students through their educational path including graduate studies. There is no doubt that these scholarship awards have changed the lives of our employees and their dependents.

The **Program Fund** provides funding for special programs including Music Programs for Independent Living, Music Therapy at AL and BCC, Mindfulness Programs at ALR and Independent Living, Belles and Beaus, Bentley Musicians, Ukulele Lessons, the Forum, Seniors Helping Seniors and the FGCU Academy Programs.

BVF currently has a large group of dedicated volunteers. Tom Lynch, who has retired after four years on the Board and two years serving as President, remains an active volunteer. We honor Tom's tireless dedication and leadership to the Foundation.

I join with the Board of Trustees inviting you to give financial support through this year's Membership Drive. A donation form and a return envelope are enclosed for your use. As in the past, all gifts to the Scholarship Fund are restricted to "Bentley Wings" Scholarships.

It is my privilege to serve as your President. Thank you.



Wayne Antworth, President

Enclosures