

SCOPE 2006  
Annual Report

## Mission

▶ To Engage our community in planning for excellence through a process of open dialogue and impartial research, to establish priorities, propose solutions and monitor change to enhance the quality of life in Sarasota County



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## Dear SCOPE Friends,

What are the silver bullets?

In the next several pages you will read about where we have put some of our fingerprints this year. We'll talk about points of pride for the community and about topics, past and present that are starting to move along and others that are crying out for more energy, attention and ownership.

OK, but what changes community? What makes it better? What reflections do we have after five years?

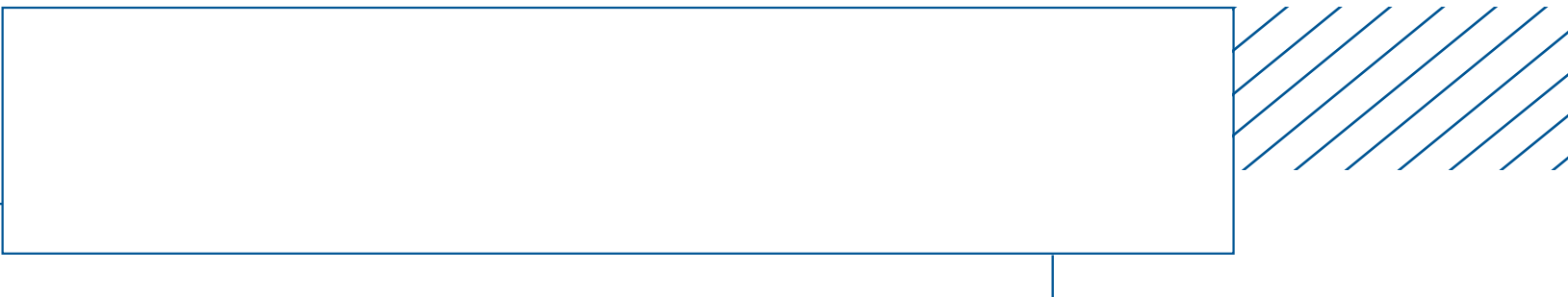
Clearly, the answer is that there are no silver bullets, but that's a good thing. We have all come to think that any problem is overcome by data, applying technology or having some charismatic savior take care of it. While those things often help, decades of national research and now the past five years of experience in Sarasota County lead us to a simple and elegant response: real change and improvement happens when the breadth of the community has a way to contribute their skills, talents and abilities. It's simple, well, maybe not simple but it's possible.

So what can make a difference? Our reflections:

- Each person has an emotional need to matter to others.
- Invite someone to dinner that you don't really know well and talk about your hopes for community and family.
- Institutions (government, business, not-for-profits) are only a part of the solution to most issues. Partner with them but don't expect them to fix everything, you can fix many things.
- Everyone has talents and capacities and everyone has deficits. The cool question is how can we mobilize the capacities of as many people as possible?
- Join a club or association, you will live longer.
- Listen like it matters to you.
- Public policy is different when more voices are heard.
- We all have choices.

Let us mention a couple of ideas and possibilities that are a part of the conversations going on in the community. They range from the tangible to the sublime. What if:

- There was a "model" home that demonstrates all the design and technology approaches that would allow people to age in their homes.

- 
- There was a thoughtful and intentional way of bringing more unheard voices to the public dialogue.
  - Communal and co-housing were commonplace and attainable.
  - A coalition of like-minded associations and individuals began to make racism and discrimination culturally unacceptable.
  - People no longer able to drive could donate their cars to help them secure transportation services.
  - Neighbors knew all the other neighbors who could help them with things they cannot do.
  - Our community created a way of spending resources that really improved the mental and physical health of individuals.

Some of the above are starting to happen and all are possibilities. Keep reading to discover the difference and to see how to connect with the one(s) that you care about.

What about the next five years? Or ten? Or twenty? Our crystal ball says that we, the community, are the right scale and we have the potential to really push the envelope toward an inclusive, equitable, and just place for everyone. SCOPE's role, maybe the biggest and yet barely visible part we can play, is to be a community connector, a "gapper," knitting the pieces together so that we are a place with a healthy soul and a growing purpose.



Janice Mee  
2005-2006 Chair of the Board



Tim Dutton  
Executive Director



## SCOPE'S Social Capital Toolkit

If you've ever been to a SCOPE meeting you've probably heard us mention that communities with lots of social capital— strong relationships and trust between people— are healthier, safer, and smarter. "They've got higher test scores in school, less crime, even fewer heart attacks and colds" we love to report. Now, we all can probably agree that sounds like a great place to live, but how do we get there? What are the tools we use to build social capital?

For the past year, SCOPE has been combining some new and different tools to help residents of Sarasota County make an impact on critical issues that will shape the future of our community. At the core of this work is our belief that we are a stronger community when more voices are heard, when people can talk to each other about their hopes for the future, and when we can all contribute in some way to creating that future, together.

- We have developed new ways of getting people together to learn and talk about their community. We do this by creating meaningful invitations that clearly state the importance of gathering with other community members who are passionate about an issue. When we meet, we ask that people sit in small groups, face to face, to build relationships and trust with each other.
- We have transformed the language we use in conversations about our community, focusing not only on the problems, but on possibilities for the future of Sarasota County. We shift from blaming others for problems in the community to asking what we, as people working together, can do.
- We have begun to create opportunities for people to identify their talents and skills and to share them with their neighbors. People have discovered that a good way to make a difference in their community is to start in their very own neighborhoods. SCOPE is working with neighborhood groups to conduct surveys that identify the talents, skills, and gifts of neighbors that can be put to use in neighborhood-based projects.

This is SCOPE's toolkit for building social capital. As we continue our work, we will always look for new tools to add and new ways to engage the residents of Sarasota County.

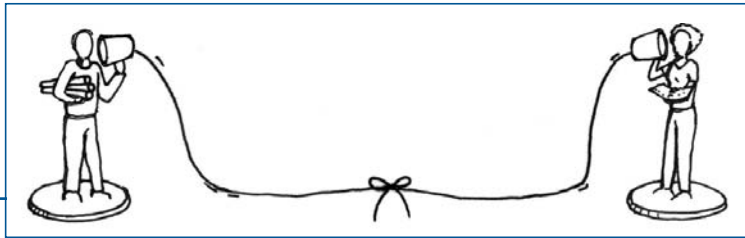


Illustration: Neil King [www.earthcadet.com](http://www.earthcadet.com)

## What You Can Do

**Offer** to help out at your local recycling center

**Read** the local news and watch local news faithfully

**Fix** it even if you didn't break it

**Pick** it up even if you didn't drop it

**Organize** a social gathering to welcome a new neighbor

**Donate** blood (with a friend)

**Start** a Community Garden

**Mentor** someone of a different religious or ethnic group

**Attend** your children's athletic contests, plays and recitals

**Give** to your local food bank

**Join** or start a carpool

**Host** a block party or holiday open house

**Ask** neighbors for help and reciprocate

**Return** a lost wallet or appointment book

“...Successful aging requires much more: having adequate finances, housing that suits our physical condition, bringing balance to our life, keeping our body in shape, participating in life’s dance and I do mean dance”

--Aging Initiative participant

## Aging: The Possibilities

SCOPE spent the past year convening and facilitating discussions around possibilities for how our community can support and nurture healthy, lively and successful aging in Sarasota County. The title of the initiative – *Aging: The Possibilities* reflects that aging is not a problem to be solved but a host of opportunities to be realized. Sarasota County is unique, with more than 30% of our residents over the age of 65. The purpose of this community study is to explore ways we can build on our distinctive demographic and consider what is possible for the future of Sarasota County. In the coming years, SCOPE will partner with community members and public and private institutions to develop strategies and pilot projects that improve the quality of life for all our residents. Sarasota County has the opportunity to be on the leading edge of transforming the way communities around the nation maximize the wisdom, experience and talents of people of all ages.

The May release of the Interim Report on *Aging: The Possibilities* provides a chance to reflect on community work over the past year and shed light on the directions that have potential. A participant in the initiative shares their excitement about the possibilities for Sarasota County:

“...the goal for all of us is to age successfully. To age successfully means that regardless of circumstances, you are squeezing the most juice out of life.”





Directions to explore include:

- Outreach campaigns that increase community awareness of resources for older adults. This includes resources related to essential needs, health and wellness, independence, and civic and community engagement.
- A Center for Community Aging that helps older adults explore their next life's stage, offers a place for retirees to connect to meaningful employment and volunteer opportunities, and provides a laboratory for community-based research and academic study related to the needs and desires of older adults.
- Housing models and community design regulations that help seniors remain independent in their own home and stay connected to the community at large.
- Neighborhoods that have a great feeling of community because neighbors connect and care for one another in meaningful ways, share their gifts and better their neighborhood. Ideas include checking in on homebound seniors, helping neighbors have a hurricane-preparedness plan, and identifying how each person can contribute and share their skills in the neighborhood.

Read the full *Aging: The Possibilities*, Interim Report – May 2006, available online at [www.scopexcel.org](http://www.scopexcel.org).

“We all may have come on different ships, but we’re in the same boat now”

--Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Race & Cultural Relations

30% - That’s the proportion of White people in Sarasota County reporting a high level of “inter-racial trust.” This figure for the African American/Black and the Hispanic/Latino populations is 14% and 13% respectively (Better Together, 2004, Gulf Coast Community Foundation of Venice.) Perspectives on human relations in Sarasota County may depend on your background and experience. Building relationships between the diverse parts of our community is at the center of SCOPE’s community focus on Race and Cultural Relations.

Participants in the initiative answered the question,

“What possibility has the power to inspire you and transform the community?”

Many ideas were generated: celebrating multiculturalism, addressing economic, educational, health and other disparities, and fostering friendships across racial and cultural lines. Community activities and accomplishments include:

- SCOPE hosted “movie nights” where community members gathered to watch and discuss diversity-themed movies.
- The *Embracing Our Differences* art exhibit featured 39 billboard size images created by professional artists, art students, and school children from across Florida’s Gulfcoast. Their creations reflect their interpretation of the message: “Enriching lives through diversity.”

The following guests visited town to share their views on race and cultural relations:

- Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, priest, professor and author, provided a blueprint for how racially reconciled churches can encourage activism in the community.
- Dr. Deborah Plummer, author and professor of psychology, gave a community presentation on changing race relations through friendship.
- Rev. Damon Lynch shared ideas about how Asset-Based Community Development can revitalize economically depressed areas.



Dr. Porter and the Love Campaign at Vive El Amore  
2.14.06

What is exciting for the future? Unifying our voice on diversity issues, bridging groups with relationships and renewing appreciation for inclusiveness are all hopes for a new organization, the Coalition for Inclusion & Diversity (CID). The CID will be a diverse volunteer-driven organization helping the community capitalize on its many opportunities and successfully address its challenges.

The relationships built today will be the foundation for future progress.



## Arts Conversations

The arts are essential, not peripheral, to creating a strong community. The arts connect people. For example, two people who view a public mural and discuss it have a relationship through a shared artistic experience. From visual art, such as murals and sculpture, to performing arts, such as theater and dance, the arts can:

- Document experiences
- Provoke dialogue and create shared experiences
- Increase understanding and tolerance
- Deepen understanding of complex issues.

As SCOPE focused community attention on *Aging: The Possibilities* and Race & Cultural Relations, we engaged residents in a conversation over the question,

“What artistic endeavors can we engage in that reflect the dreams, hopes, vision, angst, experience, differences and commonalities of our fellow community members?”

One project is *Through Our Eyes*, a community photography project in partnership with the Sarasota Arts Council, which seeks to promote understanding of these issues through photography. Community members representing different generations, races and cultures will photograph their friends, family and community to illustrate what is unique about the people and places where they live. Participants will be from the Phoenix Academy, Venice Art Center, and the Ukrainian American Club of Southwest Florida. Not only will participants learn about photography and deepen their connection to the community, but the photographs will document Sarasota County’s diversity and be a further catalyst for engagement. Look for opportunities to get involved.

Community members are poised to take art to the next level and be recognized for using it to address community issues.

Arts Conversation  
09.05



"The arts have a singular advantage in rebuilding social capital: Cultural activities are enjoyable and fun. Unlike attending meetings or voting- what we call "civic broccoli" because they're good for all but unpleasant to many- artistic performance is akin to civic fruit. We have fun and enjoy the arts, even as they do us good. The enjoyable nature of the arts makes them perhaps the most promising, if neglected, means of building social capital."

--*Better Together*, the report of the Saguaro Seminar:  
Civic Engagement in America



## A Look at Past Studies

While it is necessary that SCOPE move forward to address new community issues, we continue to monitor the progress of past studies. The following are some community actions that took place during 2005-2006.

### Family Violence

A major recommendation from the study has been implemented. The Family Violence Task Force, a group of representatives from the legal and criminal justice system, law enforcement, and service providers, meets regularly to review specific cases, increase communication and eliminate gaps and problems in the family violence system. Implementation efforts continue on another major recommendation, The Family Violence Community Coalition. This proposed group of representatives from various non-profit and government agencies, including Adult Protective Services, The Salvation Army, Senior Friendship Centers, and Sarasota County Government is still in development. The work of forming this group has revealed the difficulties of achieving wide-ranging community ownership of the issue. Ultimately this group would meet regularly to plan awareness-raising events and develop ways to collaborate with other community partners in business, education and the faith communities.

### School Dropout

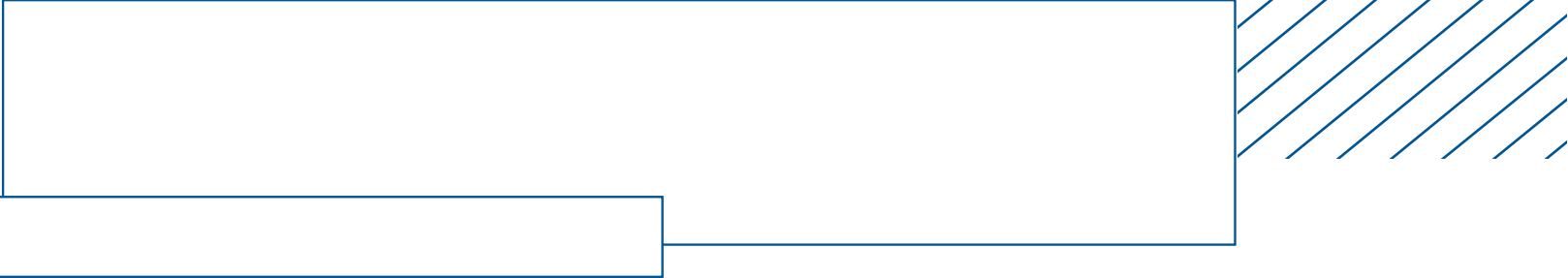
The Sarasota County School Board continues to make this one of its top issues in closing the achievement gap. They are working to improve existing programs and institute new programs to address the dropout issue. The community also came together to address the issue. Through the Mentoring Task Force, Sarasota County now has a “one-stop” for youth and adults to connect to mentoring opportunities. The business community also is rallying to the cause of dropout prevention through the Suncoast Workforce Board’s implementation of its *21st Century Workforce Study*.

### Mental Health

The Community Alliance’s Substance Abuse & Mental Health Stakeholders Consortium meets monthly to promote more collaboration in local service delivery. With service providers, local government and community leaders working together, they found ways to forge partnerships and respond to crises in our mental health care system. Initiatives, started after the study, are now bearing fruit. More than 130 local law enforcement officers graduated from the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Training and can respond more appropriately to situations involving someone with mental illness in crisis.

### Traffic Flow & Congestion

There are two areas that can make a difference. It is still necessary to take a regional perspective in addressing this issue because roads are connected to one another across counties. Effort is still needed to encourage organizations and jurisdictions to make collaborative decisions across jurisdictional



boundaries. Efficiency of existing roadways continues to be priority, as demonstrated in the commitment of both Sarasota and Manatee Counties to invest in Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS). This will maximize the efficiency of existing roadways through the use of technology to monitor traffic and make real-time adjustments in signaling and alerts. Both counties also committed to building a shared Traffic Management Center, making it one of the few multi-county systems in the nation. Manatee County has funding through its share of Skyway Bridge tolls and Sarasota County has secured a TRIP federal grant for half of its \$15 million share.

### Affordable Housing

A big increase in the supply of affordable housing is still outside of our reach. Nevertheless, it is now recognized as a pivotal issue for the whole region. Furthermore, it is acknowledged that this issue requires multi-sector collaboration.

The shift in public perception and organizational commitment is growing and has shown itself in several notable areas. Many employers are providing educational information about homeownership options and services, developing employer-assisted loans/projects, and collaborating with developers on affordable housing site-specific projects.

The City of Sarasota and Sarasota County Government are amending regulations and processes to encourage affordability. The public sector also has the opportunity to increase their explicit partnerships with both for-profit and not-for-profit housing developers.

Public expectations of design, size, of dwelling and lot limit the inclination of the development community to take risks with alternatives that are smaller, more compact, and less expensive. Some of these options may call for changes in zoning and land use.

The non-profit community has also increased its activity and cross-sector partnership discussions. The Community Housing Trust is now operating to assure that a perpetual affordability option is possible and to shepherd this issue forward.

## Community Indicators

SCOPE has been a resource for data about Sarasota County since the publication of our first *Community Report Card* in 2001. We are not just a resource; we believe in taking extra steps to bring data to the public's attention in fun and interesting ways. After all, even the most fascinating information is worthless if it is not used. Our work in 2005 focused on four main areas:

- **Outreach** – For local events and festivals, SCOPE packaged community indicators in fun “did you know” facts about Sarasota County data. Also, the SCOPEXHIBIT, a traveling art exhibit featuring SCOPE indicators alongside insightful sketches by Ringling School of Art & Design students, premiered last year. Since its debut, it has been seen by over 600 people in places such as the Senior Friendship Centers, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, the School Board, and Metro Café and Wine.
- **Resource** – Every month, SCOPE staff field calls from residents, agencies, and media seeking data about Sarasota County. In addition, SCOPE staff participate in several local government and nonprofit agency committees who use local data to set policy.
- **Classes** – In 2005, SCOPE gave its first annual class on community indicators through the Nonprofit Resource Center. In 2006, SCOPE customized community indicators classes for the Grassroots Leadership Initiative and conducted a special class for candidates for elected office.
- **Engaging the community** – Nearly 100 people were involved in SCOPE committees to learn about and shape community indicators work or to promote the published reports.

This year, our *Community Report Card* will be completely re-evaluated and we need your help. Get involved in measuring what matters in Sarasota County.





**64%** of Blacks and **66%** of Hispanics  
and **85%** of White students entering  
9th grade graduated in four years.

—2004-2005 Four-year High School Graduation Rate  
Indicator used in the *Community Report Card*.



## Boundary Crosser Award

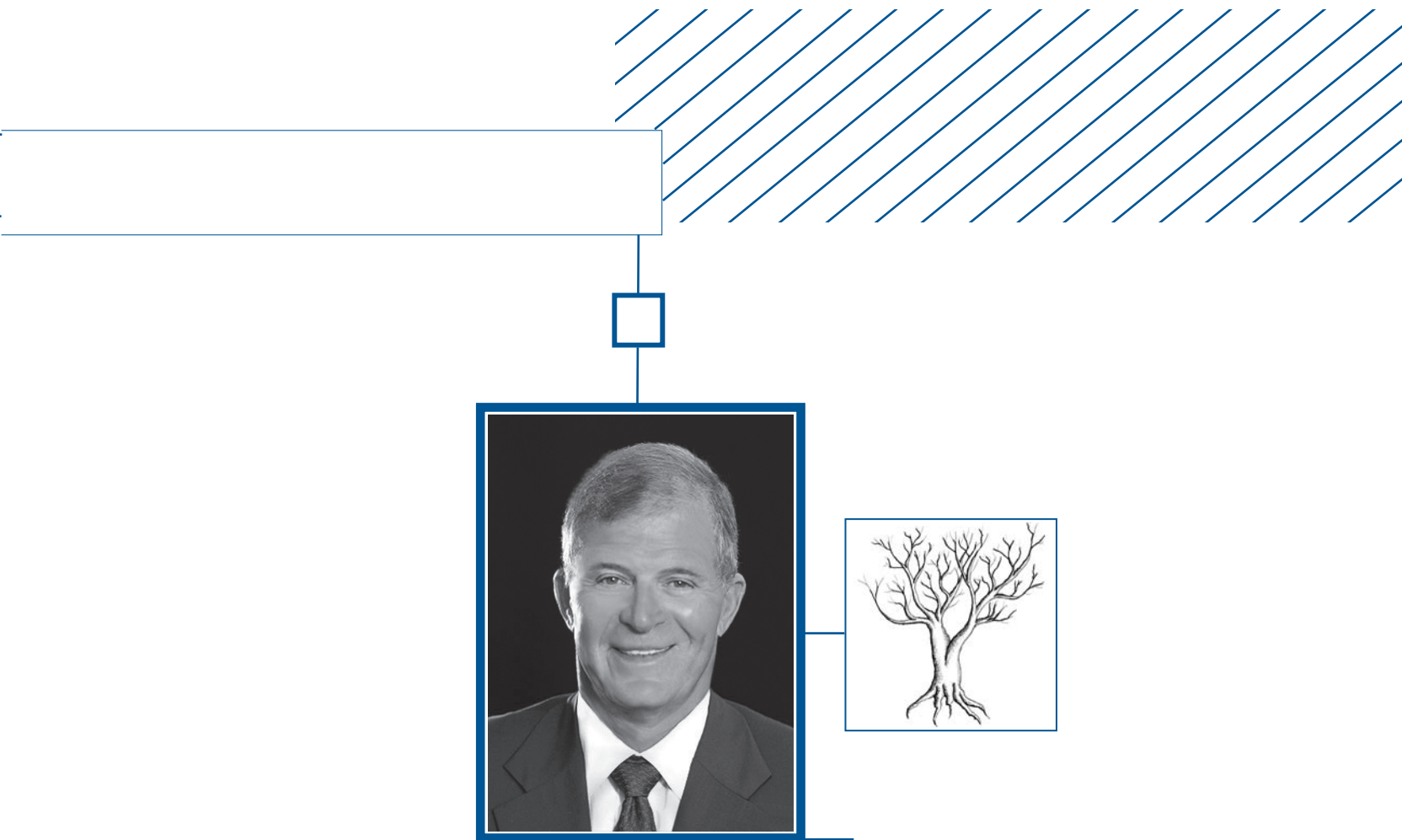
The second annual Boundary Crosser award honors Bob Richardson. Like Syd Adler, the first recipient of the award, Bob's footprints are found in all corners of the community.

A “boundary crosser” is a citizen leader who extends past familiar territory to get people talking and working together across lines that traditionally diminish and divide community. Bob is a boundary crosser. Bob puts the community agenda first and does so with passion.

Crossing the boundaries of his life in commercial real estate, Bob was a founding member of the Friends of Myakka River State Park Board and a past President of the Sarasota Manatee Sierra Club while being on the board of the Argus Foundation. He has also served as President of the Board of the Downtown Partnership and is a past President of the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. Before the establishment of the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) and the Herald Tribune's “April 22nd Group,” Bob was inviting developers and environmentalists to find common ground. Bob was instrumental in raising funds for the Environmentally Sensitive Lands tax to protect our community's natural habitat.

He is also passionate and eloquent about providing youth with the opportunities that could change their lives. He has led nine backpacking trips for Inner City Outings and co-organized a trip to Peru for Boys and Girls Clubs and Girls, Inc. Bob is also the President and a founding member of Florida Children's Lobby, a co-initiator of the Citizens for Better Schools campaign, and is the Chairman of the Goodwill Industries Board.

Whether it is helping to make Sarasota County a state leader in environmental protection or creating a brighter future for our children, Bob knows no boundaries in creating a community for us all.



Bob Richardson


The award is a sculpture of a tree. Like a tree, boundary crossers branch out, both root and limb, to find unmarked territories and new possibilities for the future.



## Grassroots Leadership Initiative

Grassroots Leadership Initiative (GLI) helps emerging leaders in Sarasota and Manatee Counties develop personal capacity and connections to add their voices to the local leadership equation. The 13-month program of monthly leadership workshops, networking sessions and mentor meetings is focused on leadership in the context of community at the grassroots level. Up to twenty participants, named GLI Fellows, commit to over 60 hours of development.

The GLI Fellows are local residents who are inspired to provide leadership around important community issues, but who lack access to appropriate programs to develop their leadership skills or to encourage their growth and success. These potential leaders often are not sought after by existing leadership programs because they may not hold positions traditionally associated with leadership.



In 2003, the Herald-Tribune Media Group, United Way of Sarasota County, University of South Florida, SCOPE and others formed a committee to create a leadership development program to bring new voices to the table. In January 2006, the inaugural class of 14 GLI Fellows and their mentors were chosen from a pool of 36 applicants.

The year started with orientations and mentor matching prior to a successful series of leadership workshops and networking sessions. These early sessions were aimed at gaining a better understanding of the Manatee/Sarasota region and learning how to build community through collaboration. The initiative will continue with workshops that address individual leadership development and organizational skills plus networking sessions with existing local leadership and their organizations. The year will end in January 2007 with final presentations of individual and small group community projects and the Fellowship Graduation.

Our goal is to acknowledge, affirm and activate leaders from all segments of our community to help them make a difference in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.



Class of 2006 GLI Fellows

The Grassroots Leadership Initiative offers a deliberate strategy for connecting people into a supportive foundation and empowering them to act.



## Sharing SCOPE's Tools with the Community

One of SCOPE's goals is to share our tools for helping shape the future of Sarasota County. The tools include issuing invitations and designing gatherings in ways that build relationships and trust. Shifting the conversation helps community members change their language from one focused on problem-solving the past, to one focused on working together to generate ideas and action for the future. We also help organizations and individuals identify their talents and skills and use them in ways that will change the community. We continue to look for new ways to engage individuals in our community.

### Capacity Building

This year, SCOPE shared these tools with a variety of organizations who care about shaping the future of Sarasota County. Here are some of the groups that SCOPE worked with this year:

- Community Youth Development Staff
- Sarasota County Library Staff
- Community Health Improvement Partnership
- Grassroots Leadership Initiative
- Young Professionals Group of the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
- Literacy organizations were brought together to address the issue of literacy in the community
- Workforce Housing Coalition
- Downtown Partnership Affordable Housing Forum

### Community Outreach

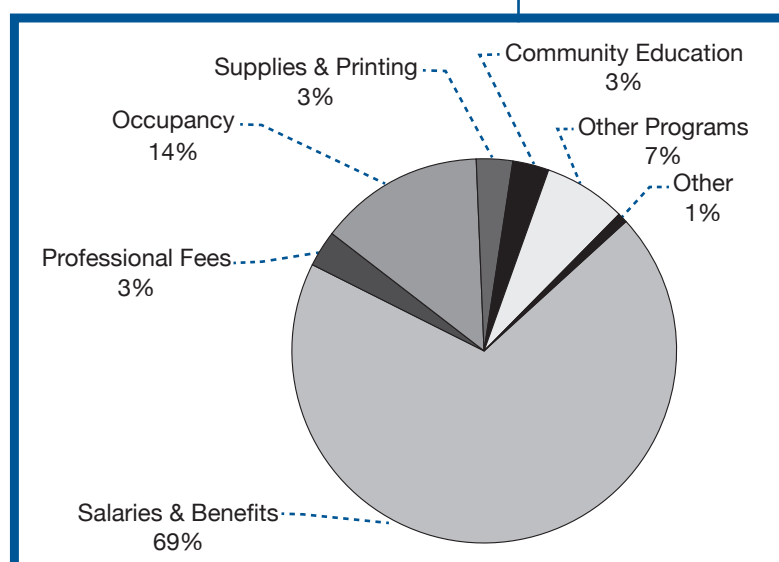
Any opportunity to introduce ourselves to new community members is an opportunity to bring more diverse voices to the table. Here is a sampling of who we visited this year:

- American Association of University Women
- Allapattah Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Connecticut Club
- New College fairs
- Plymouth Harbor
- Reading Festival
- Rosemary Rising Street Festival
- Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota and Venice
- Westfield Works Wonders

## Financial Report

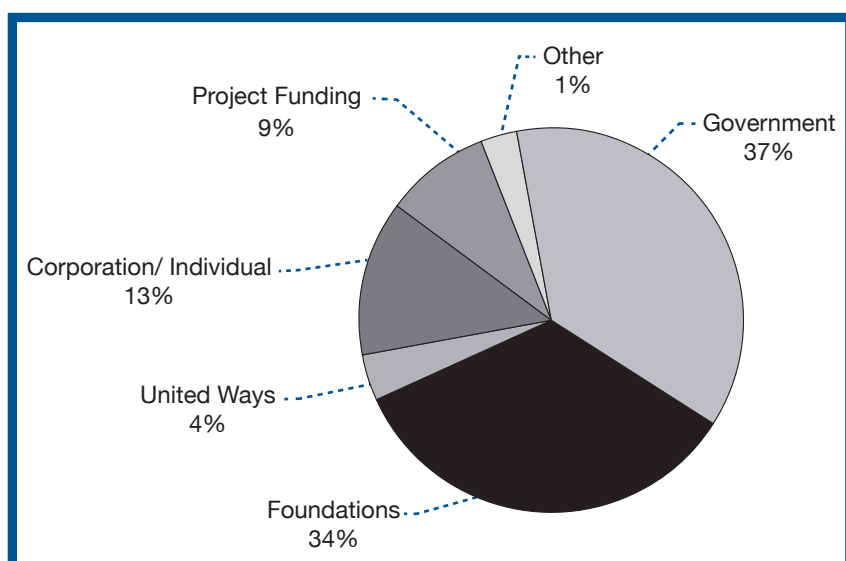
### Expenses

The expenses for 2005-2006 remained relatively steady since last year. As expected, the majority of expenses (70%) relate to salaries and benefits. The second largest line item expense was for occupancy and utilities (14%).



### Income

Sources of income were consistent from the previous period. SCOPE expects that there will be retained earnings of approximately \$60,000. Corporate and individual donations remain steady at 13% and project funding increased slightly over the past year.



## Supporters Fiscal Year 2005-2006

### **Institutional**

City of Sarasota  
City of Venice  
City of North Port  
Gulf Coast Community  
Foundation of Venice  
Sarasota County Government  
The Community Foundation  
of Sarasota County, Inc.  
Town of Longboat Key  
United Way of Sarasota County, Inc.  
United Way of South Sarasota County  
William G. and Marie Selby Foundation

### **Civic Champion (\$5,000 and up)**

Annette J. Hagens Memorial Foundation  
Bank of America Client Foundation  
Dennis McGillicuddy  
Michael's on East  
Michael Saunders and Company  
Richardson, Kleiber & Walter  
Roskamp Charities, Inc.  
St. Armand's Key Lutheran Church  
Sarasota Ford  
Sarasota Herald Tribune  
Venice Regional Medical Center

### **Community Steward (\$1,000 to \$4,999)**

Nancy & Charles Bailey, Jr.  
Evelyn Barritt  
Carol Butera-Dutton & Tim Dutton  
Coastal Printing, Inc.  
EarthBalance  
Joesph Hudgins  
Ian Black Real Estate  
New College of Florida  
Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc.  
Tracy Seider

Stephen A. Smith & Associates  
Zefire, Inc.  
**Boundary Crosser (\$500 to \$999)**  
Rita Adler  
John Dart  
Dattoli Cancer Center &  
Brachytherapy Research Institute  
Main Bookshop, Inc.  
Diane McFarlin  
Gordon Michalson, Jr.  
John & Susan Scott  
Muirhead, Gaylor & Steves, PA  
Robert Saltonstall, Jr.  
Ronald Shapo  
Laurey Stryker  
The Bijou Café  
James Tollerton  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Tryon  
TRC Staffing Services  
Mr. & Mrs. Rod Warner

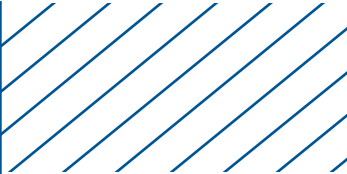
### **Connector (\$100 to \$499)**

Joe Barbetta  
Kathy Baylis  
Jud Boedecker & Wayne Farrell  
Mr. & Mrs. David Bullock  
Mr. & Mrs. Walt Cannon  
Robert Carter  
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The Florida Center for Child &  
Family Development  
Nick Gladding  
Kay Glasser  
Grace Unlimited  
Robert Graetz  
Sally Graham  
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Jan Jung  
Margaret Kennedy  
Kenneth Keihl  
Kerry Kirschner  
Dorothy Kosovac  
Rebecca & Robert Lane  
Lion's Gate Development  
Barbara & Bill Little  
Joan Lowery  
Thomas Luzier  
Andy Maass  
Bob & Mary Magill  
Janice Mee  
Brian & Veronica Meurs  
Jono Miller  
Otterbein College  
Sarah Pappas  
Nancy Pike

Florence Roberts  
Nancy Roucher  
Mary Sassi  
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Melody Trimble  
Jo-Anne Whalen  
John Wesley White  
Westwater Construction  
University of South Florida  
Barbara Zdravecky  
Zoller Associates Architects  
& Interior Designers  
**Friend (up to \$99)**  
Elmer Berkel  
Hope Byrnes  
Lee Byron  
Catherine Clouse  
Sandra Coran  
Mariana Cotton  
Mary Elmendorf  
Stanley Godleski  
June Gordon  
Sarah Gorman  
Suzanne Gregory  
Jane Grundy  
Megan Hart  
Patricia C. Haupt  
Doug Heinlen  
Lynn Hobeck Bates  
Linda Holland





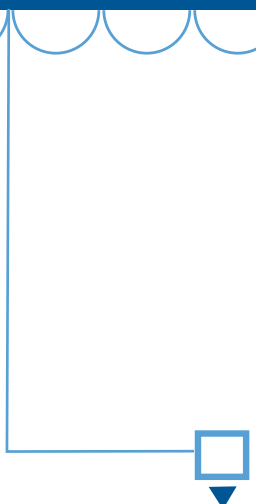
## Supporters- Continued

Jane Icely	Betsy Nelson	Jan & Donald Smally
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Sarabeth & John Kalajian	Chorale & Edward Page	Philip Tavill
Lee Levine	Dr. & Mrs. Louis Robison	James Tollerton
Ken Marsh	Anita Rogers	Ellen Weiss
Richard Martin	Olga Ronay	Nancy Wettlaufer
Eugene Matthews	Bob & Linda Shea	Joy & Philip Yelin
Joe Naroditsky	Eva T. Slane	Caroline & Michael Zucker

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<b><u>Treasurer</u></b> Robert J. Lane		
<b><u>Secretary</u></b> Nancy Roucher		

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Our community focused on our future

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