



2026 Fiscal Year Agency Needs Assessment Report

Suncoast Charities For Children Contact:

Lucy Nicandri, Executive Director

941-706-3795 | lucy.nicandri@suncoastcc.org

Table of Contents

Special Olympics: Page 3

The Florida Center For Early Childhood: Pages 4 – 6

Children First: Pages 7 – 8

Loveland Center: Page 9

The Haven: Pages 10 – 12

Miracle League of Manasota: Page 13

Inclusion Revolution: Pages 14 – 15

Oak Park School: Pages 16 – 17

St. Mary Academy: Page 18

Venice Challenger Baseball League: Page 19



Special Olympics Florida proudly serves more than 2,000 individuals with intellectual disabilities, ranging from age 2 to over 50, across Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto Counties. Through our programs, athletes are empowered to build physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and share their talents and achievements with their families, fellow athletes, and the broader community.

Our mission is to deliver high-quality, meaningful experiences that support each athlete's growth and success. To achieve this, we are committed to providing proper equipment, safe and accessible training facilities, comprehensive programming, and wide-ranging opportunities that enrich the lives of every participant.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A - Medals & Ribbons

- **Purpose:** Reward athletes with medals and ribbons for their efforts at Area Exhibitions and Regional Competitions. We give medals and ribbons to all participants at competitions.
- **Request:** \$1000
- **Impact:** Getting a medal or a ribbon gives our athletes a sense of accomplishment as they have trained for months to see these results. This has a direct impact on our athletes who compete in every sport we offer in the area (15 sports).

Option B – Softball Equipment

- **Purpose:** Outfit softball team with new uniforms, catchers gear, bats and balls.
- **Request:** \$1,000
- **Impact:** 10-15 athletes

Funding Needs - Above \$5,000

Option A - Camp Shriver *2026 Camp Funding Confirmed

- **Purpose:** Provide a free one-week camp for Special Olympic athletes and Unified partners in the summer.
- **Request:** \$10,000
- **Impact:** This camp provides up-to 20 athletes and 20 Unified partners with a week-long camp full of sporting activities, arts & crafts, snacks and lunch at no cost to them. Many of our families do not have options to send their child with an intellectual disability to a camp where they feel accepted. At Camp Shriver, all are accepted and it changes lives.



The Florida Center for Early Childhood serves more than 4,000 children—from the prenatal period through age 12, and up to age 21 through its specialized FASD Clinic—who are facing developmental delays, disabilities, and mental health challenges. The majority of families served are working but struggling to make ends meet, with more than 75% considered ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed). Through nurturing environments, expert therapeutic care, and highly individualized programming, The Florida Center helps children with complex needs build the foundation to learn, grow, and thrive. Services extend across Sarasota (headquarters), Manatee, Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Escambia, and Orange counties, as well as statewide through the FASD Clinic and Training Institute.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A – Therapy Support

- **Purpose:** Increase access to high-quality outpatient services for children with delays, disabilities, and behavioral health needs.
- **Includes:** Provides funding support for medically necessary mental health, speech-language, and occupational therapy services as payor of last resort for families who cannot afford to pay.
- **Request:** \$3,600
- **Impact:** Provides 1 child will access to weekly high-quality therapy services (mental health or developmental) for 6 months (\$150/hour).

Option B — Family Basic Needs Support

- **Purpose:** Provide essential supplies that reduce financial stress for families of young children with developmental delays or other vulnerabilities.
- **Includes:** Diapers, bus passes/transportation, and basic care items.
- **Request:** \$4,000
- **Impact:** Supports 80+ families in maintaining stability so they can focus on their child's development.

Option C — Foster Care Wellness & Support Packages

- **Purpose:** Support caregivers and young children with delays in the child welfare system through wellness and stabilization resources to address trauma and anxiety for young children with delays during placement transitions.
- **Includes:** Comfort items, books, journals, personal keepsakes, wellness kits and supportive materials.
- **Request:** \$3,000
- **Impact:** Benefits 120+ children and their caregivers by promoting stability and resilience.



Option D — Therapy Clinician Kits

- **Purpose:** Equip traveling & in-office clinicians with tools to deliver effective therapy in both settings.
- **Includes:** Portable therapy materials and intervention tools.
- **Request:** \$4,500
- **Impact:** Strengthens service delivery for 700+ children receiving in-home support.

Option E — Starfish Academy Classroom Enhancements (Creative Play)

- **Purpose:** Support developmental growth through structured creative play.
- **Includes:** Art materials for both preschool locations.
- **Request:** \$4,000
- **Impact:** Benefits 120 children with improved engagement and developmental learning.

Option F — Teacher Technology Support (Per Unit)

- **Purpose:** Strengthen instructional delivery through classroom technology.
- **Includes:** One laptop for teacher use.
- **Request:** \$1,000 per unit
- **Impact:** Enhances learning environments for preschool classrooms.

Funding Needs - Above \$5,000

Option A — North Port Playground Inclusion Enhancements (Starfish Academy)

- **Purpose:** Strengthen inclusive outdoor learning for children with delays and disabilities attending Starfish Academy's North Port campus.
- **Includes:** Adaptive outdoor playground equipment
- **Request:** \$14,000
- **Impact:** Improves gross motor development, prosocial skills, engagement, and developmental outcomes for 120 children annually.

Option B — Comprehensive Therapeutic Services Supply Fund

- **Purpose:** Ensure clinicians have the materials needed to deliver high-quality, evidence-based therapy across programs.
- **Includes:** Assessment tools, testing materials, therapy supplies, books, journals, and specialized equipment (e.g., mock hospital room, travel kits).
- **Request:** \$15,000
- **Impact:** Supports 1,300+ children with developmental delays and disabilities through improved assessment, treatment, and engagement.



Option C — Expanded Mental Health & Developmental Services Support

- **Purpose:** Increase access to high-quality outpatient services for children with delays, disabilities, and behavioral health needs.
- **Includes:** Provides funding support for medically necessary mental health, speech-language, and occupational therapy services as payor of last resort for families who cannot afford to pay.
- **Request:** \$15,000
- **Impact:** Expands access to high-quality mental health/behavioral & developmental health support for 1,300+ children.

Option D – Family Engagement & Support for Children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

- **Purpose:** Strengthen families caring for children with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) by providing education, connection, and hands-on support through structured engagement events and ongoing resources.
- **Includes:** Family engagement events and workshops (in-person and/or virtual); Caregiver training on FASD-informed strategies (behavior regulation, routines, advocacy); Therapeutic activities for children during events; Family support materials (visual schedules, sensory tools, take-home resources); Opportunities for peer connection and support networks
- **Request:** \$12,000
- **Impact:** Supports 150+ children with FASD and their caregivers; Increases confidence and reduces family stress & isolation; Improves child outcomes



Children First serves families across Sarasota County, including North Port, Venice, and Sarasota, providing comprehensive early childhood education and family strengthening services to those facing the greatest barriers. We support pregnant women, expectant families, and children from birth to age five, with continued engagement through our RISE program into elementary school.

For eligible families, services are provided at little to no cost, ensuring access for those who need it most. 98% of families are experiencing financial instability, with many facing additional barriers, including single-parent households (66%), homelessness (8%), teen parenthood (8%), language barriers (38% English Language Learners), and limited education (33% yet to earn a high school diploma or GED). Additionally, 12% of children have a diagnosed disability, requiring early, specialized support.

Through our multi-generational approach, Children First provides more than early education - offering over 50% of each child's nutritional needs, parent education through the Families First Institute, crisis support, sensory-rich learning environments, and safe, well-equipped classrooms.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A — Full Tummies, Flourishing Minds Nutrition Program

- **Purpose:** Provide healthy, consistent meals for children across our Venice, North Port, and Sarasota campuses, supporting nutrition, focus, and overall well-being throughout the school day.
- **Request:**
 - \$5,000 provides 4,405 nutritious meals for the 335 children we serve, ensuring consistent access to the fuel they need to learn and grow.
 - \$2,500 provides 2,252 nutritious meals for the 335 children we serve, helping sustain daily nutrition and classroom readiness.
- **Impact:** Children receive reliable, healthy meals that support physical development, improve concentration, and strengthen school readiness outcomes.

Option B — Family Crisis Support

- **Purpose:** Provide immediate, flexible financial assistance to families facing urgent crises, including emergency medical and dental expenses, rent, temporary housing, and utility payments—helping stabilize households and prevent deeper hardship.
- **Request:**
 - \$5,000 supports 10 families in crisis, providing critical assistance to maintain housing, access care, and meet essential needs.
 - \$2,500 supports 5 families in crisis, helping prevent eviction, utility shutoffs, and disruptions to children's stability and well-being.
- **Impact:** Families receive timely support during moments of crisis, reducing stress, preventing displacement, and ensuring children can remain in safe, stable environments where they can continue to learn and thrive.



Option C — Every Sense, Every Child, Every Opportunity (Sensory Classroom Enhancements)

- **Purpose:** Equip classrooms at our Venice campus with sensory tables, chairs, and swings that support regulation, engagement, and inclusive learning environments for all children.
- **Request:** \$5,000 (supports sensory enhancements for 4 classrooms at our Venice campus)
- **Impact:** Children benefit from improved classroom environments that support emotional regulation, increase focus, and strengthen developmental growth and school readiness.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A — AED Implementation for Health & Safety

- **Purpose:** Equip all Children First locations with Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) to strengthen health and wellness protocols and enhance our Emergency Response & Recovery Plan, ensuring rapid response in life-threatening situations. Staff across all sites will be trained in proper AED use.
- **Request:** \$15,000 (9 AED machines and staff training for all locations)
- **Impact:** All Children First sites are equipped with life-saving devices and trained staff, significantly improving emergency preparedness and response, and helping protect the health and safety of children, families, and staff.

Option B — Families First Institute (Parent Education & Family Strengthening)

- **Purpose:** Expand access to parent education classes and workshops that strengthen parent–child relationships, build financial stability, and promote healthy, sustainable family practices across our multi-generational services.
- **Request:** \$10,000 (supports curriculum expansion, class materials, and instruction for approximately 50 families)
- **Impact:** 50 families gain the tools to improve parenting skills, increase economic stability, and build healthier home environments, creating lasting, multi-generational impact for children and caregivers.



The Loveland Center serves over 180 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Loveland provides diverse and complex programming to increase independence and build life skills. This programming requires specialized materials, environments, and programming to support the behavioral and functional growth of our participants within Sarasota County, Manatee County and Charlotte County.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A - Supplies for Adult Day Training Programs

- **Purpose:** Supplies for the daily operation of our art, theater and woodshop programs, which teach life skills development and promote independence. Supplies include props, costumes, canvases, paint, canvases, wood etc.
- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Impact:** 180+ participants in the Loveland Center Adult Day Training Programs will directly benefit from this funding.

Option B - Support for Outings

- **Purpose:** Funding to purchase tickets and passes for group outings that provide vital community integration opportunities. This includes group tickets to sports games, theater performances, art gallery shows etc.
- **Request:** \$3,000-\$4,000
- **Impact:** 180+ participants in the Loveland Center Adult Day Training Programs will directly benefit from this funding.

Option C - Assistive & Sensory Support Tools

- **Purpose:** Practical accommodations that reduce anxiety and increase independence (visual schedules, timers, noise-reduction headphones, fidgets, sensory tools, etc.).
- **Request:** \$2,000–\$4,000
- **Impact:** 50+ participants in the Loveland Center Adult Day Training Programs will directly benefit from this funding.

Funding Needs - Above \$5,000

Option A - Groceries and Cooking Supplies

- **Purpose:** To support a year of the Loveland Center Hearty Kitchen Academy cooking program. The cooking program teaches practical cooking and life skills including budgeting, kitchen safety and more. Supplies include weekly fresh groceries and cooking tools.
- **Request:** \$10,000-11,000
- **Impact:** 50+ participants in the Loveland Center Adult Day Training Programs will directly benefit from this funding.



The Haven is a nonprofit organization in Sarasota, Florida that serves over 600 people, ages 1-through senior hood, with intellectual and developmental disabilities each year. The Haven provides a full continuum of services including preschool, K–12 education, adult day training, residential, and vocational programs, all designed to promote independence and inclusion. On-site therapeutic services such as occupational, physical, and speech therapy, aquatics, music therapy, mental health support, and therapeutic art programs further enhance outcomes for those we serve. The Haven is one of the few organizations in the region offering lifelong support within a single, connected community.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A — Adaptive Physical Education Program (Haven Academy – Amazing Athletes)

Amazing Athletes is an adaptive physical education program that teaches basic sports and motor skills in a fun, inclusive environment. Activities are modified to meet each participant's needs, helping build coordination, confidence, and social skills.

- **Purpose:** Provide adaptive physical education programming through Amazing Athletes, delivered as weekly one-hour classes for five classrooms.
- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Impact:** Supports 50+ students ages 14-22 year old by improving physical health, coordination, and confidence, for 10 months of programming once a week

Option B — Preschool Adaptive Physical Education (Amazing Athletes)

- **Purpose:** Provide adaptive physical education programming for Selby Preschool students 1-6 years old through Amazing Athletes.
- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Impact:** Supports 40+ preschool children by improving motor skills, coordination, and social engagement. for 10 months of programming once a week

Option C - Haven Academy Elementary Classroom Supplies

- **Purpose:** Provide classroom supplies and instructional materials for four elementary classrooms
- **Request:** \$2,500
- **Impact:** Supports 30+ special needs students through enhanced learning and life skill development. School year runs from August to May. 10 Months of classes.

Option D – Therapeutic Art Program Supplies

- **Purpose:** Provide art supplies to support therapeutic and creative programming.
- **Request:** \$2,500
- **Impact:** Supports all clients on campus with special needs ages 1 through seniorhood through improved emotional expression and sensory regulation. Our therapeutic art program is open to participants across our entire campus, serving individuals of all ages and ability levels. This inclusive approach creates opportunities for creative expression, social connection, and skill-building throughout all of our programs.



Option E – Selby Preschool Curriculum (Learning Beyond Paper)

- **Purpose:** Implement the Learning Beyond Paper curriculum at Selby Preschool to enhance early childhood education through structured, developmentally appropriate, and engaging learning experiences tailored to children with diverse learning needs.
- **Request:** \$3,600
- **Impact:** Supports 40+ preschool children ages 1-5 by strengthening foundational skills in communication, early literacy, social interaction, and school readiness through a comprehensive and inclusive curriculum. Our program would utilize the Beyond Learning Beyond Paper curriculum year-round, providing consistent, hands on learning experiences for all participants. As Selby Preschool operates 52 weeks a year without closures, this ensures continuity in development, routine, and skill building.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A — Selby Preschool Therapy Scholarship Fund

- **Purpose:** Provide scholarship support for children at Selby Preschool to access critical therapeutic services, including mental health counseling, occupational therapy, speech therapy, aquatic therapy, physical therapy, and music therapy.
- **Request:** \$7,500
- **Impact:** Supports 20–25 children ages 1- 7 years old by improving communication, motor skills, emotional regulation, sensory processing, and overall developmental outcomes. Scholarships are given on an as need basis.

Option B — Community-Based Instruction & Inclusion Program

- **Purpose:** Provide structured community-based instruction for Adult Day Training (ADT) and residential clients, including outings, transportation, and real-world skill building.
- **Request:** \$10,000
- **Impact:** This funding would support transportation and community outings for over 200 adult participants in our Adult Day Training and residential programs. It helps cover the cost of getting individuals into the community where they can practice real life skills like ordering food, shopping, volunteering, and navigating public spaces. Rather than a one time outing, this funding supports ongoing, weekly opportunities that build independence, confidence, and meaningful community connections over time. Instructors can request access to funds for outings as they schedule them.

Option C — Summer Camp Scholarship Fund

- **Purpose:** Provide scholarships for Haven Academy summer camp. The cost of camp is \$275 per week per child and is not covered by state scholarship funding.
- **Request:** \$5,500
- **Impact:** This grant would support 20 weeks of summer camp scholarships for students ages 14–22 from families in need, ensuring access to meaningful and inclusive programming. These scholarships remove financial barriers, allowing participants to build life skills, social connections, and independence through engaging community-based experiences.



Option D — Adult Adaptive Fitness Program (Bloom Fitness)

- **Purpose:** Provide adaptive fitness programming for Adult Day Training participants through Bloom Fitness, an inclusive fitness program designed specifically for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It focuses on building strength, endurance, and overall health through adapted exercises led by trained coaches. The program also promotes confidence, independence, and social engagement in a supportive, accessible environment.
- **Request:** \$5,500
- **Impact:** Supports 200 adult participants ages 19 through senior hood by improving physical health, mobility, and overall well-being.

Option E — Specialized Art & Music Program (ADT)

- **Purpose:** Provide specialized visual arts and music programming for Adult Day Training participants led by Kat Sjogren (Visual Arts) and Chuck Davis (Music).
- **Request:** \$10,000
- **Impact:** Supports 100+ adult participants ages 19 through senior hood enhancing creativity, communication, emotional expression, and confidence while fostering meaningful social connections.



The Miracle League of Manasota is dedicated to providing an opportunity to play baseball for 165 differently-abled children, teens, and adults (ages 5-80 years old) in the Sarasota/Manatee county area. Athletes with physical and/or cognitive challenges, play on a first-class synthetically-surfaced baseball field that was built especially for these athletes at Longwood Park here in Sarasota.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A – New Uniforms For Athletes *2026 Uniform Funding Confirmed

- **Purpose:** Provide new uniforms and hats for individuals with physical and cognitive challenges in Sarasota and Manatee County.
- **Request:** \$7,500
- **Impact:** 165 Athletes. Providing opportunities for differently-abled individuals to participate in the sport of baseball.



Inclusion Revolution provides an integrated jobs program that includes learning labs, job coaching, employer support, transportation, and “whatever it takes” to get someone with intellectual and developmental disabilities successfully into a real job. Average age of participants is 22 - 55 within Manatee and Sarasota County.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A — “Work-Ready Kits” for new job placements

- **Purpose:** Remove common first-day barriers (uniforms, non-slip shoes, basic supplies, IDs/name tags, etc.).
- **Request:** \$3,750 (15 participants @ \$250 each)
- **Impact:** 15 adults with IDD show up prepared, confident, and employer-ready.

Option B — Transportation Support (first-month “Job Launch” rides)

- **Purpose:** Cover rides / bus passes so a new hire can reliably get to training and shifts during the critical first weeks.
- **Request:** \$4,500 (approx. 150 one-way rides @ \$30 average, or equivalent passes)
- **Impact:** 8–12 adults with IDD maintain attendance through the “make-or-break” start period.

Option C — Job Coaching “Boost Hours” (on-site support when it matters most)

- **Purpose:** Provide targeted on-site coaching during onboarding, new tasks, and early performance coaching with supervisors.
- **Request:** \$4,800 (96 hours @ \$50/hour all-in)
- **Impact:** 6–10 participants receive intensive support that increases retention and employer satisfaction.

Option D — Assistive & Sensory Support Tools

- **Purpose:** Practical accommodations that reduce anxiety and increase independence (visual schedules, timers, noise-reduction headphones, sensory tools, etc.).
- **Request:** \$2,000–\$4,500
- **Impact:** 10–20 participants benefit across training and job sites.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A — Paid Internship Wage Pool For Individuals With Special Needs (“Foot-in-the-door” fund)

- **Purpose:** Fund initial wages for short-term, structured internships that often convert into permanent hires.
- **Request:** \$12,000 Example: 6 participants × 8 weeks × 10 hours/week × \$25/hour (wages and payroll burden/coordination)
- **Impact:** 6 adults with IDD complete paid internships; goal is 3–5 converted hires.



Option B — Transportation Fund for Sustained Employment (60–90 days)

- **Purpose:** Extend transportation beyond the first month so employment doesn't collapse due to logistics.
- **Request:** \$10,000–\$15,000
- **Impact:** 15–25 adults with IDD keep jobs while families and employers stabilize routines and long-term solutions.

Option C — “Job Coaching Bridge” to Expand Placements

- **Purpose:** Add capacity for more job sites, more coaching, and faster response when employers need support.
- **Request:** \$15,000
- **Impact:** Supports 200 hours of job coaching and employer coordination enabling 10–15 placements/training starts (depending on intensity of need).

Option D — Learning Lab Equipment & Training Supplies (real-work simulation)

- **Purpose:** Purchase hands-on training tools/supplies that make learning labs feel like “real work with real standards.” We are setting up our Learning Labs at The Haven.
- **Request:** \$7,500–\$15,000
- **Impact:** 20–40 participants cycle through improved training experiences that accelerate readiness and confidence.



Oak Park School serves over 200 students withing Sarasota County from age 5 to 22 (Pre-K through post graduate level) with varying exceptionalities. Oak Park provides intensive academic, behavioral, and therapeutic support (physical, occupational, and speech therapies), as well as vocational training and life skills instruction to meet the needs of its students.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A - Sensory Support Kits

- **Purpose:** Provide students with sensory tools that support regulation, focus, and access to instruction (fidgets, weighted items, tactile supports, noise-reduction tools).
- **Request:** \$3,500
- **Impact:** 30 to 50 students benefit from improved self-regulation, increased time on task, and reduced behavioral barriers.

Option B - Task Boxes and Structured Work Systems

- **Purpose:** Develop individualized task boxes and structured work systems to support independence and differentiated instruction.
- **Request:** \$4,500
- **Impact:** 100+ students increase independence, task completion, and functional academic skills.

Option C - Adaptive Communication and Visual Supports

- **Purpose:** Purchase adaptive materials including communication boards, visual schedules, and social-emotional supports to enhance access to learning. Students benefit from predictability of having visual schedules in multiple school settings: bus, classroom, cafeteria, library, gym. Visual core boards assist students with communication challenges to properly convey their needs.
- **Request:** \$2,500
- **Impact:** Provide support for 100 students to improve AAC (adaptive and augmentative communication – iPads, GRID software), engagement, and participation in daily instruction.

Option D - Student Game Room Setup

- **Purpose:** Create a structured game room space to support positive reinforcement, social skills development, and student engagement through recreational activities. We are seeking support to fund the purchase of TVs, TV mounts, gaming systems, games, and art materials for creative expression.
- **Request:** \$4,000 to \$5,000
- **Impact:** 100+ students benefit from increased motivation, improved peer interactions, and opportunities to practice social and behavioral skills in a structured environment.



Option E - Sensory Room Enhancements

- **Purpose:** Enhance existing sensory spaces with equipment such as crash pads, swings, bubble tubes, lighting elements, and calming stations.
- **Request:** \$3,000 to \$5,000
- **Impact:** 200+ students utilize the space to regulate emotions, reduce anxiety, and return to instruction ready to learn.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A - Horticulture Program Expansion

- **Purpose:** Expand school-based horticulture programming with garden beds, tools, irrigation systems, and greenhouse materials.
- **Request:** \$10,000
- **Impact:** 150+ students engage in hands-on learning that builds responsibility, vocational skills, and independence.

Option B - Vocational Training Equipment and School-Based Enterprise

- **Purpose:** Purchase equipment and materials to support student-run enterprises and vocational training in specialized Structured Work Program classrooms (students on a deferred diploma age 18-22). Students engage in classes with a specific purpose: creation of greeting cards and bookmarks, creation of Oak Park swag with a shirt press and Cricut, growing microgreens and harvesting them to sell, Courtyard Café – operational café on campus where students serve employees and guests coffee and other treats made in house.
- **Request:** \$12,000
- **Impact:** 100+ students gain real-world job experience and develop transferable employment skills.



St. Mary Academy serves 81 students with special needs students with varying exceptionalities such as ASD, ADHD, Anxiety, Speech and Language Disorders, Down Syndrome, SLD, Dyslexia, Other Health Impaired, and other exceptionalities. Our students struggled in a mainstream environment and need specialized teachers, instruction, small class sizes and therapies such as speech and occupational therapy to be successful. We serve students from Port Charlotte, Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A – Occupational Therapy Department *Installation Fully Funded

- **Purpose:** Fund the installation of a therapy swing for the OT Department. This has been a major issue as the ceiling needs to be reinforced. The OT room has been changed to a different classroom and has not had the swing used due to safety issues.
- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Impact:** 40 Students, kindergarten through 8th grade. The swing is important for our students with Autism to help with self-regulation.

Option B – STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Art and Math) Department

- **Purpose:** Purchase equipment such two Chompsaws and practical art items and supplies for the STREAM Department. We need robotic supplies, IPADS, 3D printer, and microscopes.
- **Request:** \$5,000
- **Impact:** 81 students, kindergarten through 8th grade. These items are necessary for the hands-on learning that our students learn best doing. Our student population excels in building, and this class is instrumental to them succeeding with cross curriculum success.

Option C – Audiometer To Support Pathologists *Audiometer fully funded

- **Purpose:** A portable or clinical audiometer is the primary machine used by audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to conduct hearing screenings and diagnostic assessments for students, including those with special needs. These devices test hearing across various frequencies and volumes to identify potential hearing loss.
- **Request:** \$2,500
- **Impact:** 81 students, kindergarten through 8th grade. Would allow the onsite speech pathologist audiologist to evaluate students in real time.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A – Tuition Scholarships

- **Purpose:** We never want a child to not be able to attend our school due to finances. This demonstrates our commitment to helping families get the education their child needs and deserves.
- **Request:** \$8,800
- **Impact:** Provide tuition for 1 student for the entire school year. 83% of students receive scholarship funds in addition to a state unique abilities scholarship.



Venice Challenger Baseball's mission is to provide a safe environment for players with physical and/or cognitive challenges to enjoy the experience of athletic participation and sportsmanship. Embracing community for players and community volunteers that take the field with them. We are currently drawing from 5 counties (Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Charlotte and Lee) We are currently showing 250 participants – and growing.

Funding Needs - \$5,000 And Below

Option A – New Uniforms For Athletes

- **Purpose:** Purchase new uniform shirts, caps, and visors for players.
- **Request:** \$2,000 - \$3,000
- **Impact:** 300 - 400 Athletes. The athletes are proud of their association with Challenger and wear them proudly – on and off the field.

Option B – Camp Challenge

- **Purpose:** A camp for profoundly affected players that provides one on one care and skilled medical support.
- **Request:** \$1,500 per athlete / \$13,500 to send 9 athletes
- **Impact:** 250 Athletes. As an all-volunteer organization, a professionally made video and materials will aid in presenting our message and presence in the community. It will also aid our reach outside of our community as well.

Option C – Automated Electric Defibrillator (A.E.D.)

- **Purpose:** Purchase a required Automated Electric Defibrillator
- **Request:**
- **Impact:** 250 Athletes. Due to the varied ability levels of our players, a recent inspection has indicated the need for a minimum of one of these lifesaving measures.

Option D – Dream Oaks Camp *6 Campers Funded For 2026 Summer

- **Purpose:** A camp for special needs kids (up to age 17).
- **Request:** \$4,500 (\$750 per athlete)
- **Impact:** Sends 6 athletes to camp. Provides recreation, comradery and a much-needed respite for both them and their caregivers.

Funding Needs – Above \$5,000

Option A – 6-Seater Golf Cart

- **Purpose:** Purchase a 6-seater electric golf cart that allows the back seat to lay down in the event of an accident or injury.
- **Request:** \$12,000 - \$15,000
- **Impact:** 250 Athletes and parents. This would also allow much-needed shuttling between the area parking lots for infirm players and their aging parents.