



For Immediate Release

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Longboat Key public safety departments beef up service, adds referral guide to CARE program

(LONGBOAT KEY, FL)—Longboat Key first responders recently enhanced services with the addition of a resource guide that puts at their fingertips information on more than 200 essential service providers.

The *Community Connections Resource Guide*, compiled by nonprofit Making An Impact, Inc., (MAI), ensures that people in Sarasota and Manatee counties can identify and connect with essential service organizations. The easy-to-use guide was developed in line with MAI's mission to reduce disparities and unmet needs for disadvantaged people in our community.

“As we have contact with a person in need, whether it be a resident or visitor to our island, we are now able to access this guide as an extra tool from our toolbox to provide and recommend additional assistance,” said Paul Dezzi, Longboat Key Fire Chief.

Community Connections Resource Guides have been placed throughout Longboat Key's Public Safety Complex Administrative offices, and in all 18 of the town's fire and rescue trucks, and police battalion vehicles.

“We have as well incorporated the resource guide in the Town's Community Paramedicine Program called CARE (Community, Assistance, Resource, and Education),” Chief Dezzi added.

“Thank you to the Longboat Key safety and emergency management teams for helping us fulfill our mission,” said Victoria Kasdan, MAI Board Chair. “Partnerships such as this expand our ability to assist people across our community.”

The guide's 200 agencies are organized into 17 categories including addiction treatment, education, food pantries, immigration, mental health, utility assistance and Veteran's services. It is color-coded by location, enabling users to quickly identify resources in their area.

More than 1,000 guides have been distributed throughout Sarasota and Manatee counties. The spiral-bound, pocket-sized guides are being used by the American Red Cross, Sarasota Police Department, Sarasota Sheriff's Office, Tidewell Hospice, Multicultural Health Institute, Turning Points, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, and many other organizations. Also available electronically, the comprehensive guide can be accessed online or ordered at <https://www.Making-An-Impact.org>

Making An Impact, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) charitable nonprofit established and incorporated in April 2020. For more information visit <https://www.Making-An-Impact.org>

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