



For Immediate Release

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Manatee County Sheriff's Office Enhances Community Service With New Resource Guide

(BRADENTON, FL) — Nearly 300 deputies at the Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO), headquartered in Bradenton, Florida, will receive a new tool to help them connect people in need with local resources to assist them.

The Community Connections Resource Guide, compiled by nonprofit Making An Impact, Inc. (MAI), is a handy, pocket-size reference guide that lists and describes over 250 agencies that provide essential services in Manatee and Sarasota counties. Agencies are color-coded by location and organized alphabetically in 17 categories ranging from Addiction Treatment to Veteran's Benefits and more.

Beyond equipping current deputies with the Resource Guide, MCSO is considering sharing copies with incoming trainees, Manatee Correctional Facilities (for newly released inmates), and Child Protection Center staff and clients. "We are excited about this opportunity to partner with Making An Impact," said Sheriff Rick Wells. "It's an added benefit every time our deputies are able to help people in our community get the resources they need."

According to Victoria Kasdan, MAI Board Chair, "One of the biggest barriers to securing needed social services is simply knowing where to find them. By causing so many to seek assistance, the devastating and prolonged COVID-19 pandemic has greatly expanded this problem. The more communities can connect people with the resources they need, the better things are for everyone. Making An Impact created the Guide to help reduce disparities due to the absence or gaps in information, resulting in reduced access, resource under-utilization, and poor outcomes. MAI is grateful for the opportunity to share this timely resource with the men and women at MCSO, who besides fighting and preventing crime, often find themselves in the role of directing residents to social services for help."

In addition to Manatee County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement and first responders using the Guide include the Sarasota Police Department, the Homeless Outreach Department of Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, and the Longboat Key Police, Fire, and CARE Program.

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Making An Impact, Inc. (MAI) is a 501 (c)(3) charitable nonprofit established and incorporated in April 2020 in response to the growing need for information and access to community resources.

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