



June 21, 2021

For Immediate release

Contact: Victoria P. Kasdan, Board Chair, Making An Impact, Inc.

Phone: (941) 251-5846 / Email: administrator@making-an-impact.org

Sarasota Police Officers utilize new resource guide to better serve the community

(Sarasota)—The 87 men and women of the Sarasota Police Department’s patrol unit have a new tool to help them serve the community—a comprehensive guide that puts at their fingertips information on programs and services for those in need.

The Community Connections Resource Guide, developed by Making An Impact, Inc., (**MAI**), lists more than 200 agencies providing essential services to residents in Sarasota and Manatee counties. MAI’s mission is to reduce disparities and address unmet needs for disadvantaged people in our community.

“This is an excellent resource for Sarasota Police Officers to have to be able to share with anyone in our community,” said Sarasota Police Chief James Rieser. “It’s a guide that’s in the hands of every Sarasota Police Officer to be easily accessible when they need it.”

“The pandemic and resulting unemployment, food shortages and other occurrences exacerbated challenges for those already in need and resulted in increased numbers of people in need throughout our community,” MAI Board Chair Victoria Kasdan said. “These challenges can quickly deplete resources and increase levels of stress, anxiety and abuse, leaving individuals and families vulnerable. The Community Connections Resource Guide helps residents in need efficiently identify agencies that provide services to address those needs. Equitable access to community resources results in longer, healthier, and happier lives, and we thank the Sarasota Police Department for partnering with us to make a difference in our community.”

The guide is organized into 17 categories of essential services and color-coded by location, enabling users to easily identify resources in their area. More than 1,000 guides have been distributed throughout Sarasota and Manatee.

Police Chief Rieser said that he learned about the guide “literally at a chance and great meeting” with Kasdan and recognized immediately how beneficial the guide would be to the Sarasota Police Department and the community it serves. “We appreciate Making An Impact.”

In addition to the SRQ police department, printed versions of the spiral-bound, pocket-sized guides are being used by agencies including the American Red Cross, Sarasota Sheriff's Office, Tidewell Hospice, Multicultural Health Institute, the Longboat Key Fire, EMS and Police Departments, Turning Points, Boys & Girls Clubs of Manatee County, and many other organizations. The guide, also available electronically, 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 in response to a growing need for information and access to community resources. For more information about MAI and the Community Connections Resource Guide email administrator@making-an-impact.org or visit <https://www.making-an-impact.org>