

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.WILDBLUECHARITABLENEIGHBORS.ORG

UPCOMING EVENTS

See details in the **CALENDAR** on our website.

Volunteer Opportunities

► Interfaith Charities

A fun, fulfilling morning serving at our local food pantry. Carpool from the amenities center.

Thursday, September 24
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

► Dubin Center — Memory Catchers

Guide participants in crafts, gentle games, music and one-on-one interactions.

Friday, September 25
Wednesday, October 21
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

National Family Volunteer Day

Saturday, November 21
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. • Card Room

Families of all types and ages:

- Fill hygiene bags for Interfaith Charities
- Crafts — beaded bracelets and bookmarks
- Write notes and affirmation cards

A message from our founders

Welcome to another season of giving, gathering and having a little fun along the way!

As WildBlue opens another season, we're excited about all that lies ahead. Our calendar is filling with opportunities to give back—and have fun doing it. From our upcoming fundraising and “fun-raising” event in December to our golf tournament in May, there are plenty of ways to come together, meet new neighbors and make a difference right here in our community.

And while events are important, volunteers are the heart of WildBlue Charitable Neighbors. We are especially grateful for the many neighbors who continue to give their time, energy and talents to make our programs and events possible. This month, we're shining a spotlight on one of those remarkable volunteers. If you haven't volunteered with us yet, we hope you'll consider joining your neighbors. There's a place for everyone—and it's a wonderful way to become more connected to the community.

We're also delighted to welcome our newest Community Business Sponsor and grateful to all of the local businesses that support us. Their generosity helps us do more for the nine Lee County charities we support. Be sure to take a look at all of our sponsors and, when you can, support the businesses that support our community.

Finally, as you think about your charitable giving this year, take a look at our “Three Ways to Plan Your Giving” feature. It offers a simple look at some of the changes in the 2026 tax law and ways they may affect charitable giving.

Thank you for being part of WildBlue Charitable Neighbors. Whether you volunteer, attend an event, support a local business sponsor, spread the word or make a donation, every contribution of time, talent and treasure helps us do more together.

We look forward to seeing you this season!

Melissa & Debbie

Founders, WildBlue Charitable Neighbors

Together We Can Do More!

Together we...CELEBRATE

Mark your calendars — the 2026/27 season is here.

An Evening of Celebration, Gratitude & Giving

DEC
7
2026

Dinner, entertainment, casino-style gaming and a special paddle raise, honoring our donors, volunteers, sponsors and 2026 grantees.

Pickleball Tournament

JAN
10
2027

Fun, friendly competition for men and women — all benefitting charity!

Wine School Dinner

JAN
25
2027

An evening of wine education with our Italian hosts, Tenuta Torciano, who donate 10% of wine sale profits back to WBCN.

BamBird Benefit — Mah Jongg

FEB
9
2027

Our second annual Mah Jongg fundraiser — open play, lunch, raffle baskets and door prizes. Net proceeds benefit The Dubin Center.

70's Dance Party

MAR
1
2027

A fun-filled evening of games, dinner, dancing and plenty of nostalgia. Bring your best 70's spirit.

Tee It Up for Charity

MAY
1
2027

Our annual golf tournament — grab your foursome for a day of golf, camaraderie and great food.

Our mission is to unite our neighbors to extend a helping hand to local charities and non-profits by raising awareness, fundraising and volunteer service. **Together we can do more!**

Together we...VOLUNTEER

A job description — volunteers are the heart of WildBlue Charitable Neighbors.

Now Hiring: Enthusiastic Volunteer

Interfaith Charities Food Pantry | Volunteer | Zero Dollars + Unlimited Gratitude Per Hour

About the Role

Interfaith Charities is seeking enthusiastic do-gooders to join our Thursday crew. Upon arrival you will be greeted with the traditional welcome cry — "Our favorite day, WildBlue day!" — which never gets old, mostly because we refuse to let it.

Schedule

Thursdays, 8:30 a.m. sign-in to 1:00 p.m. Home in time for lunch, and you'll have earned it.

Qualifications

- Ability to lift a box, or at minimum, encourage someone else who is lifting a box
- Comfortable being thanked repeatedly by strangers
- Must enjoy the company of neighbors (we typically have 3–4 WildBlue neighbors alongside about 8 volunteers from other communities — no reported conflicts to date) and sporting your WBCN swag (optional)

Responsibilities

Assigned on arrival. Training included, no experience necessary, no résumé required.

Unloading & Sorting — for those who like their cardio disguised as a good deed.

Drive-Thru Distribution — hand out groceries, wave at cars, become the most popular person in the county for approximately four hours.

Canned Goods Sorting — the storage room. Quiet, air-conditioned, deeply satisfying. Tetris enthusiasts, this is your calling.

Compensation & Benefits

Payment is issued in smiles, appreciation, and love. Benefits include the genuinely excellent feeling of helping serve up to 75 people, a legitimate excuse to skip the gym, and the specific kind of friendship that only forms while sorting green beans next to someone who lives four doors down.

To Apply — two quick steps: 1. Email wbccharitableneighbors@gmail.com to get on the shift list. 2. Register on the Interfaith Charities website as a WildBlue volunteer. Then just show up — that's it!



Barb Bartelt

WBCN Service Committee

Volunteer Spotlight — Barb Bartelt

A member of the WBCN Service Committee since its inception, Barb Bartelt has been a constant and enthusiastic presence in our volunteer efforts. And while she is one busy person, somehow, when there is an opportunity to help, Barb always seems to show up. Whether she is volunteering at an event, helping with planning, sharing a great idea, or simply jumping in wherever she is needed, Barb brings the same thing every time: a beaming smile, a contagious laugh, and a genuine desire to make a difference.

What makes Barb so special is not simply the number of events she volunteers for or the countless hours she gives. It is *how* she gives. She is selfless, engaged, encouraging, and always ready to contribute. She brings fresh ideas to the table and has a wonderful ability to make others feel excited about getting involved.

Barb is the kind of volunteer who reminds us that service is about more than checking a box or filling a need. It is about showing up with your whole heart — making connections, inspiring others, and finding joy in giving back. We are incredibly grateful for Barb's years of service, her enthusiasm, her creativity, and — of course — that unforgettable smile and laugh that brighten every event.

To join our list of volunteers and get notifications for volunteer opportunities, email wbccharitableneighbors@gmail.com.

Together we...PARTNER

Sponsor Spotlight — David and Ariel Burnham



David and Ariel Burnham
Community Business Sponsor

WBCN is proud to welcome **David and Ariel Burnham**, a husband-and-wife real estate team serving Southwest Florida, as our newest Community Business Sponsor.

David's path into real estate began with a visit to Dallas, where a close friend and mentor introduced him to the industry after college. He started out flipping houses all over Southwest Florida but found the work unfulfilling — it felt more about profit than people. A stint in sales at Lennar changed that: David discovered how much he loved helping families move into new homes. After three years, he set out on his own, drawn by the freedom to run a business grounded in his values and faith. Ariel came to real estate from a similar place, trading the service industry for a career built on the same love of people and desire to serve.

Today the Burnhams work together with buyers, sellers, and investors across the Southwest Florida market. Ariel, a Cape Coral native, brings deep local knowledge of her hometown, while David focuses on WildBlue, Estero, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, and occasionally Naples.

David describes his role as putting together a puzzle: buyers and sellers bring the pieces — budget, location, lifestyle, priorities — and his job is to fit them into a beautiful picture that makes sense for everyone involved.

“We are commanded to give” — through time, resources, and a willingness to serve, not just financially.

For the Burnhams, becoming a Community Business Sponsor is a natural extension of their Christian faith. They point to the example of the early church, where believers gave generously so that no one among them was in need, as a model still worth living out today.

Being part of WildBlue Charitable Neighbors, they explain, is a chance to make their personal values visible in their professional life.

As a young couple married just a year, they're candid that generosity isn't always easy or convenient — but they believe it's worth it. Giving, they say, changes the giver: it builds gratitude, compassion, and a habit of putting others first.

Above all, the Burnhams want their community to know that real estate, for them, isn't just a transaction. They see every listing and every closing as an opportunity to care well for the family behind it — and they're grateful for the chance to do that as part of the WildBlue Charitable Neighbors community.

“No one can out-care us.”

— DAVID BURNHAM

Read the full interview

Our complete conversation with David and Ariel is on the website:

wildbluecharitableneighbors.org/f/community-business-sponsor-and-neighbor-david-and-ariel-burnham

Become a Community Business Sponsor

wildbluecharitableneighbors.org > Get Involved > Become a Community Business Sponsor

Together we...GIVE

Three Ways to Plan Your Giving in 2026

As you begin thinking about year-end giving, it is worth knowing that changes under the **One, Big, Beautiful Bill Act** affect charitable contributions beginning in 2026. For taxpayers who itemize deductions, charitable contributions are now deductible only to the extent they exceed **0.5% of adjusted gross income (AGI)**. That makes charitable giving strategy worth discussing with your tax or financial advisor. Here are three options to consider.

1

Continue Your Annual Giving

You can continue making charitable contributions directly to the organizations you support. Your gifts to WildBlue Charitable Neighbors help us provide grants to local nonprofits and make a meaningful difference in our community.

For taxpayers who do not itemize deductions, 2026 also brings a new federal deduction for qualifying cash charitable contributions — up to **\$1,000 for individuals** or **\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly**, subject to applicable rules.

2

"Bunch" Your Giving Through a Donor-Advised Fund

If you typically give about the same amount each year, ask your advisor about bunching several years of giving into a **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)**.

Instead of giving \$5,000 each year, a donor might contribute \$15,000 to a DAF in one year, then recommend grants over the next three. The larger first-year contribution may help an itemizing taxpayer exceed the new 0.5% AGI threshold while still spreading support over time.

Once a contribution is made, the sponsoring organization has legal control of the funds and the donor retains advisory privileges regarding distributions.

3

Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution

If you are **70% or older** and have an IRA, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) may be another option to discuss with your advisor.

A QCD is a direct transfer from an IRA to an eligible charity. When all requirements are met, the distribution may be excluded from taxable income and can count toward a required minimum distribution.

A QCD is not claimed as a charitable deduction.

Give With Purpose

There is no single best way to give. The right strategy depends on your individual circumstances, your charitable goals, and your overall financial and tax situation. Whatever approach you choose, your generosity helps WildBlue Charitable Neighbors continue our mission of supporting local organizations and strengthening our community. **Together We Can Do More!**

Important: This article is provided for general informational and educational purposes only and is not intended to provide tax, legal, or financial advice. Tax laws and individual circumstances vary. Before making a significant charitable contribution, please consult your qualified tax, financial, or legal advisor to determine which giving strategy is appropriate for you and to ensure that all applicable requirements are met.

WBCN thanks our generous
Community Business Sponsors

WildBlue
CHARITABLE NEIGHBORS
PROUD BUSINESS
PLATINUM

Tana Reich, Managing Director
Stifel Reich Yore Jenne Wealth
Management Group

WildBlue
CHARITABLE NEIGHBORS
PROUD BUSINESS
GOLD

Dawn Bray, Luxury Real Estate
Professional and WildBlue
Resident

WildBlue
CHARITABLE NEIGHBORS
PROUD BUSINESS
SILVER

Chris Reetz Group
Straightline Finishing
David & Ariel Burnham

WildBlue
CHARITABLE NEIGHBORS
PROUD BUSINESS
FRIEND

Royal Scoop Estero · Pink
Lagoon Pools · Cloud Building
Sciences · Estate Landscaping ·
Getaway Spa · Salon Amiche ·
Premier Pools