

Each year, the Community Foundation of Collier County honors ten local women leaders who, through their leadership styles, are an inspiration to all women seeking to make a difference through philanthropy and civic engagement.



Emily James

says she was “born an artist”, and has created artwork all her life. Receiving numerous awards and honors for her talent, Emily is featured in collections throughout the world. She has exhibited at Atlanta’s High Museum, selected an Outstanding American Women in the Arts, and chosen as artist for the Master’s Golf tournament. She paints landscapes, seascapes, portraits, and contemporary pieces on display at her gallery which was recently voted Best Gallery.

Emily has generously shared her art in the community in a variety of ways, working with school children at Manatee Middle school through

the Champions for Learning, taught art classes at the Sara Ann Drop-in Center, and each year hosts gallery visits from the Boys and Girls Club.

She has donated artwork for fundraising for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Naples Art Association, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Baby Basics, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Naples Woman's Club, Young Life, St. Matthews House, United Arts Council, Florida Cancer Specialists, NAMI, and The Garden of Hope and Courage at Naples Community Hospital.

Emily and her husband John co-chaired the fundraising gala for the Marco Island Center for the Arts in 2017, and 2018.

Emily and John have two children and five grandchildren.