

## 2014 Gage Awards

Reference #	7476626
Status	Complete
Name of hospital or health system	Lee Memorial Health System / Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida
Name of project	Sanibel Swims
CEO name	Jim Nathan
CEO approval	Check here to confirm that your CEO approves of this project being submitted for a 2014 Gage Award
Submitter name (first and last)	Susan Mitchell
Submitter title	Director of Grants
Submitter email	susan.mitchell@leememorial.org
Submitter phone	239-343-6068
Project contact person's name (First and Last)	Michele King
Project contact title	Director Child Advocacy
Project contact email	michele.king@leememorial.org
Project contact phone	239-343-5890
Within which of the two categories does your application best align?	Population Health
1. Provide a brief description of the project. (This section should resemble an abstract for a poster presentation or an abstract for a peer reviewed journal. Include an objective, data sources, study design, findings, and conclusions.)	<p>Miles of sandy white beaches and tropical weather define the paradise of Sanibel Island in Southwest Florida. Thousands of children enjoy this outdoor wonderland every year. The blue green waters of Gulf of Mexico or the cool clear swimming pool are inviting to residents and visitors but they also represent the leading cause of death for children under 5 – drowning. In Florida, drowning is the leading cause of death for children under age 5 and the second leading cause in children ages 5 to 14. A preventable accident, drowning can happen in an instant – the time it takes to answer a quick phone call or move a load of laundry, a child can drown in a pool, spa, bathtub, wading pool, or an unattended bucket. Although children are at greatest risk of drowning, everyone, including seniors, has the potential for drowning, especially with the easy accessible of swimming pools and beaches or other bodies of water in Florida.</p> <p>Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, the Charitable Foundation of the Islands and the City of Sanibel Recreation Center partnered to create the “Sanibel Swims” program for drowning prevention. The program targets children with swim lessons, water safety education, and life-saving techniques. The program creates awareness in the community on the importance of water safety and the dangers of drowning. The program also provides compression only CPR to the community to increase the number of people out there who can be the right person in the right place at the right time to save someone’s life.</p>

<p>1A. Attachment, if applicable (Applicable examples include a peer reviewed journal article, other content published in the literature, or a presentation at a national meeting)</p>	<p><a href="#">SanibelSwimsDrowningPreventionGrant.pptx (6813k)</a></p>
<p>2. Describe the methods use in this project. Include where, why, and how the project was accomplished.</p>	<p>Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida (GCH), with a grant from the Charitable Foundation of the Islands, partnered with the City of Sanibel Recreation Center (Rec Center) to provide swim lessons and compression only CPR to the community of Sanibel. GCH has been providing water safety education and awareness in Southwest Florida for several years through “Safe Pool Parties”, health fairs, schools, and other community events. The partnership with the Rec Center took this one step further by providing swim lessons for children and compression only CPR to adults. The Rec Center is uniquely qualified to provide swim instruction to a captive audience of children. The Rec Center, with certified swim instructors, has over 90 children in the afterschool program. During the 10-week summer camp, the Rec Center has over 85 children each week from kindergarten through 8th grade – some of who are non-residents but whose parents work on the island. In addition to the lessons, children receive information on water safety to take home. GCH and the Rec Center provided outreach and education to the Sanibel Chamber of Commerce businesses and day care providers on the island. Vouchers for day care children to obtain swim lessons at the Rec Center were also provided as needed.</p> <p>To provide all of these swim instruction opportunities, it was be necessary to have more Rec Center staff trained as Water Safety Instructors (WSI). Lee County overall has a very low number of WSI trained people. So, not only will the Rec Center be a valuable asset of the Sanibel community, but a resource for rest of the county to train more water safety personnel.</p> <p>Another key component of drowning prevention is basic lifesaving skill instruction. The Rec Center provided CPR (compression-only) training once of month. CPR saves lives and it is believed that more people might learn CPR compression only if they are hesitant about full CPR mouth-to-mouth training. CPR saves lives and with more people who trained for the compression-only skills, the more deaths can be avoided.</p> <p>GCH and the Rec Center focused on expanding awareness and outreach through the local newspapers and places where residents of the island frequent in order to reach people like grandparents who may not be aware of the drowning prevention message and services available.</p>

<p><b>3. Describe the results of the project. What data was used to support improvement results?</b></p>	<p>During the first year, the program certified nine (9) Water Safety Instructors. The program was then able to provide water safety and swim instruction to 79 children in the Rec Center's afterschool program, 72 children in the summer camp program and another seventy-four (74) for group swim lesson where vouchers were redeemed by children outside the Rec Center programming from day care centers. This is a total of 225 children provided swim lessons and water safety instruction that otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Outreach and education was also a key element of the program. Water safety instruction was presented to 30 children at The Sanibel School and information was available to thousands of visitors to the Rec Center on Water Safety Saturdays where a table with resources and information was displayed on Saturdays through March, April and May. In addition to the swim lessons and water safety, Sanibel Swims aimed to reduce the incidence of drowning by expanding the number of adults trained for compression-only CPR. The program certified 14 coaches and conducted Community Compression Only CPR classes to 69 adults. GCH and the Rec Center have also developed a relationship with the Sanibel Chamber of Commerce to educate members on water safety – especially resorts and places with beach and pool access that may have visitors / hosts unaware of the dangers of drowning and strategies to prevent drowning.</p>
<p><b>4. Describe what happened as a result of the project. Was the improvement related to the intervention? Can the project be duplicated by other organizations?</b></p>	<p>While it is difficult to measure the impact of the program in terms of the incidence of drowning or near drowning , there are several impacts from the project: (1) 225 children who otherwise would not have learned to swim now can swim, (2) 69 adults are prepared to provide compression-only CPR in the community, (3) hundreds of residents (grandparents, extended family, caregivers, etc.) who otherwise might not be aware of drowning risks and prevention strategies are now more aware of the resources available to them and (4) a strong, collaborative relationship has been established to build upon the knowledge and resources of the Rec Center, Golisano Children's Hospital, and the Charitable Foundation of the Islands. The Charitable Foundation of the Islands has been able to fulfill its mission to address unmet needs in the community and has been a valuable partner through its members in increasing awareness of city leadership and area businesses. It is the desire of the three partners to continue the program, enhance the relationships, and be a model for other communities looking at how to efficiently and effectively use community resources to address unmet needs.</p>

<p><b>5. Describe how patients, families, and if appropriate, community was included in the work.</b></p>	<p>The Sanibel Swims program relies on the community and families to be successful in reducing the incidence of drowning and near drowning in our community. The community participation is demonstrated through the funding by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands – a community foundation established to meet the unmet needs of the community, through the commitment of the City of Sanibel and their elected leaders to allow the program to be conducted through the city recreation center with city staff, and through the support and education provided by Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. Additional community support that has been vital to the success of the program came from the area day care centers, school, and the chamber of commerce in allowing access to constituents to increase awareness and education on drowning and prevention. Families have played a key role in the success of the program. Parents and grandparents have been educated to drowning dangers and prevention strategies. They have also allowed their children and grandchildren to participate in the program.</p>
<p><b>Last Update</b></p>	<p>2013-12-04 10:04:33</p>
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