

Harkey Family Fund



Bill and Laurie Harkey’s respective families instilled the power of giving back in both of them while growing up. They continue that tradition, recognizing the power of philanthropy and volunteerism in the organizations they support and the communities where they have lived.

Bill, a fifth-generation California “farm boy,” grew up on a peach and prune ranch in northern California and learned the value of hard work. He had a 30-year career in the U.S. Army, finishing as the director of public affairs at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, before he retired. Laurie continued her family’s mission of giving back by becoming a Red Cross volunteer in the communities where she has lived.

Having visited Sanibel for many years, Bill and Laurie were hooked on the beauty of the island. They became homeowners and moved to Sanibel permanently in 2019. They immediately felt the passion of the conservation ethic on the island and the role its residents and the organizations have played in working to keep Sanibel . . . “Sanibel.”

The Harkeys have always been fans of the outdoors and wildlife and spend their time volunteering for a number of organizations on the island, including the CROW clinic and J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge. Bill serves as a board member of the non-profit “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society,-Friends of the Refuge.

“The Refuge’s mission of public education and environmental and wildlife protection is vitally important, and with the cutbacks in federal staffing and resource support, the role of the Society is even more crucial. I consider serving on the Society board an opportunity to give back and help continue the vital work it does,” says Bill.

To support our next generation of conservation stewards, Bill and Laurie established a permanent endowed fund to help fund special intern projects at the Refuge.

Individuals, families, businesses, or foundations interested in making a gift to support the Harkey Family Fund can visit dingdarlingsociety.org and click the donate button.

To learn more about establishing your own permanent endowed fund, call 239-472-1100 ext. 4. Donors can establish an endowment with a gift of \$10,000 or more. Proceeds earned by the investment go towards supporting the Refuge mission.