

# DEB KABINOFF

RESIDENT CONTRIBUTOR: SEPI ACKERMAN

Deb Kabinoff loved Sarasota the minute she arrived here in 1991. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio she had been living in California when she sold a software company that she owned. Ready for the next chapter, she was visiting a college girlfriend here and quickly knew this town would become her home.

Once in Sarasota, she was fast inspired by the abundance of philanthropy that existed in the area and wanted to become a more devoted philanthropist herself. She saw the impact philanthropy could have in so many different aspects and how it created an environment of caring here in Sarasota.

Not one to sit idle, Deb quickly merged her valuable background in software with her new passion of philanthropy and started her own charitable fund: The Deb Kabinoff Fund, whose mission is to empower organizations to enhance their audience reach through technology. She knew the benefits of using technology to address problems and optimize opportunities and wanted different non-profits to be able to benefit from this too. Although all the projects she endorses have a common theme, each project is different and achieves its own end result.



Selby Gardens Media Center



Deb and Scott

Her first project was funding the multimedia studio at Sarasota Memorial Hospital. This media center allows SMH physicians and staff to create and broadcast audio and video programs with critical health information. The covid pandemic illustrated how necessary online communication would be! But other than pandemic needs, the need for online communication continues to be valuable time and time again on all health-related issues. Next, was funding a media center for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. The Selby Garden programs provide a window into beauty and life for people to experience in their own homes, schools, or libraries. This media center allows Selby Gardens to reach people around the world interested in learning from the experts here at Selby.

She also funded a media production studio at the Asolo Theatre. This studio is especially valuable to the Asolo because it allows them to expand their reach to audiences worldwide and present a glimpse into the experience of live theater. Think that's all? She's not finished yet. Suncoast Science Center provides a wealth of programs for kids throughout our community.



At home with Gracie

She sponsors the FabLab's remote control car race each year. She believes it is a great way to engage the interest of children in math, science and computer programming, as well as in teamwork and creativity.

Her most recent and current project is a new computer system for the Jewish Federation. She believes the Jewish Federation is a wonderful resource and asset to the Sarasota-Manatee area and wants to help them improve their communications system within.

She currently serves as board chair of the Sarasota Memorial Healthcare Foundation, and in January became a board member of the Jewish Federation. She also serves on the Advisory Committee of Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. In her free time (if she has any) she enjoys hiking, biking or kayaking with her boyfriend Scott and sweet Vizsla Gracie.

If you know someone in the neighborhood that is making a difference and want to bring awareness to what they are doing, email [strollsouthsidevillage@gmail.com](mailto:strollsouthsidevillage@gmail.com).

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