

## Community News

### Archer promoted to assistant executive director at The Source

**Steve Glaser**  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Maureen Archer is the new assistant executive director at The Source, according to officials at the Christian outreach ministry that serves the poor and homeless in Vero Beach and Indian River County.

Archer, who grew up in Fort Pierce, attended Lincoln Park Academy and received a bachelor of science in accounting from Florida A&M University.

After college, Archer moved to Atlanta for a job as an auditor with a national company.

At the same time, she enrolled in Keller Graduate School and obtained a master's degree in financial management.

Archer returned to Florida seven years ago to help her parents, now



Archer

deceased, through troubled times. Her father, a respected pastor in Fort

Pierce, suffered a stroke and died in 2012; and her mother, a devoted homemaker, died of cancer three years later.

While taking care of her parents, Archer took a sabbatical from her full-time job, but still looked for part-time work that would utilize her accounting skills but also allow her to give back to the community.

She landed that job at The Source, where she accepted a position as a part-time accountant.

Tony Zorbaugh, executive director of The Source, in June promoted Archer to assistant executive director.

### GYAC plans benefit for student programs

**Christina Tascon**  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

It's going to be an evening of laughter, community support and fun on Sept. 21 for "Starry Night" ticket holders hoping to dine and dance under the stars at this benefit for the Gifford Youth

Achievement Center.

It will be an evening of fundraising for the student's educational programs.

The Lovers of Sound band will provide the music and Wilke's 14 Bones BBQ will be serving hors d'oeuvres and dinner.

Last year's "Starry Night" had everyone on the dance floor, with or

without a partner as the band played all night.

The incredibly talented Katherine Washington transformed GYAC's gymnasium into an elegant dining room, where guests had a magical evening. All those who attended were blown away by the food, music and the fun.

This year's party

promises to be even better. It begins at 6 p.m. and dress is business casual. Tickets are \$60 per person and may be purchased by calling GYAC at 772-794-1005 and asking for Mary McKinney or Annette Reason.

It's going to be another glittering night and GYAC hopes to see all the stars come out on Sept. 21.



Millicent Carpenter, left, Larry Staley, Trudie Rainone, Faye and Freddie Woolfork and Angelia Perry at the 2018 Starry Night benefit for the Gifford Youth Achievement Center. CHRISTINA TASCON/SPECIAL TO TCPALM

### The Learning Alliance uses \$25,000 grant to help students

**Marie O'Brien**  
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers  
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Learning Alliance recently received a \$25,000 grant to use toward the Moonshot Academy summer program at Vero Beach Elementary School.

The grant came from the John's Island Community Service League and was part of the \$1 million the league distributed this year. The Learning Alliance was one of 38 agencies to receive money at the Service League's Closing Luncheon at the John's Island Club.

The Learning Alliance is a vision-driven, emergent-learning organization dedicated to building innovative and collaborative solutions to help children learn to read. The Moonshot Moment vision of 90 percent of all third graders reading on grade level motivates the agency's work.

"This is the second year the John's Island



The Learning Alliance recently received a \$25,000 grant from from the John's Island Community Service League to use toward the Moonshot Academy summer program at Vero Beach Elementary School. Pictured are Barbara Hoffmann, left, and Hope Woodhouse. ANN BROWN/SPECIAL TO TCPALM

Community Service League has funded our very exciting STEAM-based summer program, which students attend for four weeks, six hours a day," said Barbara Hammond, CEO and co-founder of The Learning Alliance. "This is giving kids

the literacy skills and the engineering and math skills to really excel in this world. We're very thankful for the support of the John's Island Community Service League."

STEAM stands for science, technology, engineering, the arts and

mathematics.

The Moonshot Academy is a multi-faceted, enriched literacy after-school and summer program that provides remedial instruction, additional time for mastery of academic content for struggling students, and

enrichment activities that connects learning concepts.

Moonshot Academies are learning labs for teachers and students. They provide opportunities for students to grow their literacy skills and for teachers to grow their instructional practices around core competencies critical for student success.

At Vero Beach Elementary School, the 2018 summer program served 60 rising second- and third-grade students falling below the 50th percentile based on iReady scores. The goal is that during four weeks during the summer, the program will help stop the summer slide and catch struggling readers up to their peers.

Schools traditionally see 15 to 25 percent loss over the summer. Last year's Vero Beach Elementary Moonshot Academy students saw an average of 5 percent growth from their spring to fall iReady reading diagnostic test.

"We have been funding The Learning Alliance since 2010 and view them as a significant partner in our efforts to make education available for all children in Indian River County," said Louie Hoblitzell, grant co-chair for the John's Island Community Service League. "The Learning Alliance is one of the key partners because they're part of the glue that holds together a large number of our agencies that are oriented toward educational issues."

For more information about The Learning Alliance, visit thelearningalliance.org or call 877-548-READ (7323).

Marie O'Brien is the community relations representative for The Learning Alliance.

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