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**AREA AGENCY ON AGING CELEBRATES SERVING SWFL FOR 45 YEARS**

*With Community Leaders and Partners in*

*Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota Counties*

**FORT MYERS, Fla. — May 22, 2023 —** The [Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida](https://aaaswfl.org/) (AAASWFL) recently honored community partners and local leaders from across the seven counties they serve as part of its 45-year anniversary celebration. The private event was held at their offices in Fort Myers in gratitude of those who have supported their efforts serving older adults and adults with disabilities in the counties of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Sarasota counties. Guests enjoyed hors d’oeuvres and refreshments, followed by a brief presentation by Wendy Boaz, chairman of the board and Maricela Morado, president and CEO.

\*Note to the editor: Photos available for download [here](https://evclay.sharefile.com/d-s03c59b5609d647a68cc29c21d7bc0f36).

Photo captions (from left to right):

Photo 1 (0580) Gloria Lappost, Health & Wellness Coordinator, AAASWFL; Albert Griffith, Representative from Senator Jonathan Martin’s office; Maricela Morado, President and CEO, AAASWFL

Photo 2 (0581) Wendy Boaz-Hayes, Board Chair, AAASWFL; Tim Stanley, Commissioner, Glades County District 5; Maricela Morado, President and CEO, AAASWFL

Photo 3 (0588) Mary Wernentin, Director of Supportive Aging, Senior Friendship Centers; Maricela Morado, President and CEO, AAASWFL; Tami Bailey, Manager of Grants Senior and Social Services, Collier County Government

Photo 4 (0670) Christine LoConte, Volunteer Center Manager, United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties; Tish Sargent, Donor Engagement Specialist, United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties; Marcia Turner, Vice President – Community Engagement and Major Gifts, United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties

Photo 5 (0684) Kathleen Rice, XXXX; Mary Bartoshuk, Advisory Council Chair, AAASWFL

Photo 6 (1254) Christopher Parfitt, Senior Director, Hodges University; Maricela Morado, President and CEO, AAASWFL; Teresa Araque, Vice President, Marketing and External Communications, Hodges University

Photo 7 (1262) Valerine Oliver, Director of Client Services, AAASWFL; Maricela Morado, President and CEO, AAASWFL; Dan Katz, Board member, AAASWFL; Wendy Boaz-Hayes, Board Chair, AAASWFL

Photo 8 (1272) AAASWFL Team

**About Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida:**

Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida is a nonprofit organization serving Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry, Lee and Sarasota counties.  AAASWFL is the state's designated Aging and Disability Resource Center for Southwest Florida. The organization is committed to connecting older adults and adults with disabilities to resources and assistance for living safely with independence and dignity. More information is available at [https://www.aaaswfl.org](https://www.aaaswfl.org/) or by calling the toll-free Helpline at 866-41-ELDER.