

# Engage Estero's Annual Report for 2025 Executive Summary



The year 2025 marked significant progress and growing responsibility for Engage Estero. As Greater Estero continues to experience rapid growth, evolving development pressures, and heightened environmental and infrastructure challenges, our role as an independent, community-focused organization has never been more essential.

For more than twenty-five years, Engage Estero has served as a trusted voice for residents—ensuring transparency, fostering collaboration, and advocating for decisions that protect quality of life. In 2025, we strengthened that role through focused leadership, strong community partnerships, and actionable results across multiple areas of public concern.

## Key Achievements in 2025

### 1. Transportation & Roadway Advocacy

We were the first to alert residents about FDOT's planned expansion of I-75 through Estero and played a leading role in advocating for comprehensive noise-mitigation solutions. Through

public awareness campaigns, media outreach, and coordinated resident feedback, we championed stronger protective measures for nearby neighborhoods.

## **2. Urbanization & Development Oversight**

We released a widely referenced 61-page development report, now viewed more than 7,000 times per month, and continued to inform residents through public meetings on critical planning and growth issues.

## **3. Environmental & Water Quality Leadership**

Through ongoing efforts to accelerate the septic-to-sewer conversion, address resiliency needs, and expand environmental reporting, we helped ensure preservation of Estero's valuable natural resources for future generations.

## **4. Community Cleanliness & Volunteer Mobilization**

Our Adopt-A-Highway program oversaw the removal of more than 2 tons of litter in a single year, and more than 12 tons since 2020—thanks to exceptional volunteer support.

## **5. Support for Education and Youth**

We strengthened partnerships with local schools, provided direct funding for STEM initiatives, and supported safety improvements at Estero High School. Collaboration with FGCU's Barbara Wright's Composition Class.

## **6. Healthcare & Wellness Initiatives**

Engage Estero continued to provide trusted health education resources and to advocate for improved healthcare infrastructure, including inpatient hospital capabilities at Coconut Point.

## **7. Expanded Communications & Community Engagement**

With email subscriptions surpassing 15,000 residents and a surge in social media engagement, 2025 was our strongest year for community outreach. The launch of our new podcast series further strengthened our ability to communicate timely, reliable information.

## **Our Mission and the Path Ahead**

Engage Estero remains dedicated to nonpartisan, fact-based community service. However, maintaining and growing our efforts requires more financial support. While 25 senior leaders each volunteer over 25 hours weekly, our annual operating cost is \$75,000, and we have only one paid staff member.

With enhanced funding, we can:

- Expand scholarships and student support
- Strengthen health and wellness programs
- Establish a \$750,000–\$1 million emergency relief fund
- Engage subject-matter experts for analysis of key issues

- Improve community meetings, outreach, and multimedia resources

## **Looking Forward**

As Estero continues to grow, residents will depend on Engage Estero more than ever. Our commitment is unwavering:

**To protect community interests, ensure responsible growth, champion transparency, and preserve the exceptional quality of life that makes Estero home.**

We thank everyone who supports our mission—and invite every resident, HOA, business, and donor to help us create a better future for Greater Estero.