

## SEASIDE INSTITUTE™

## The Latest News of the SEASIDE INSTITUTE™

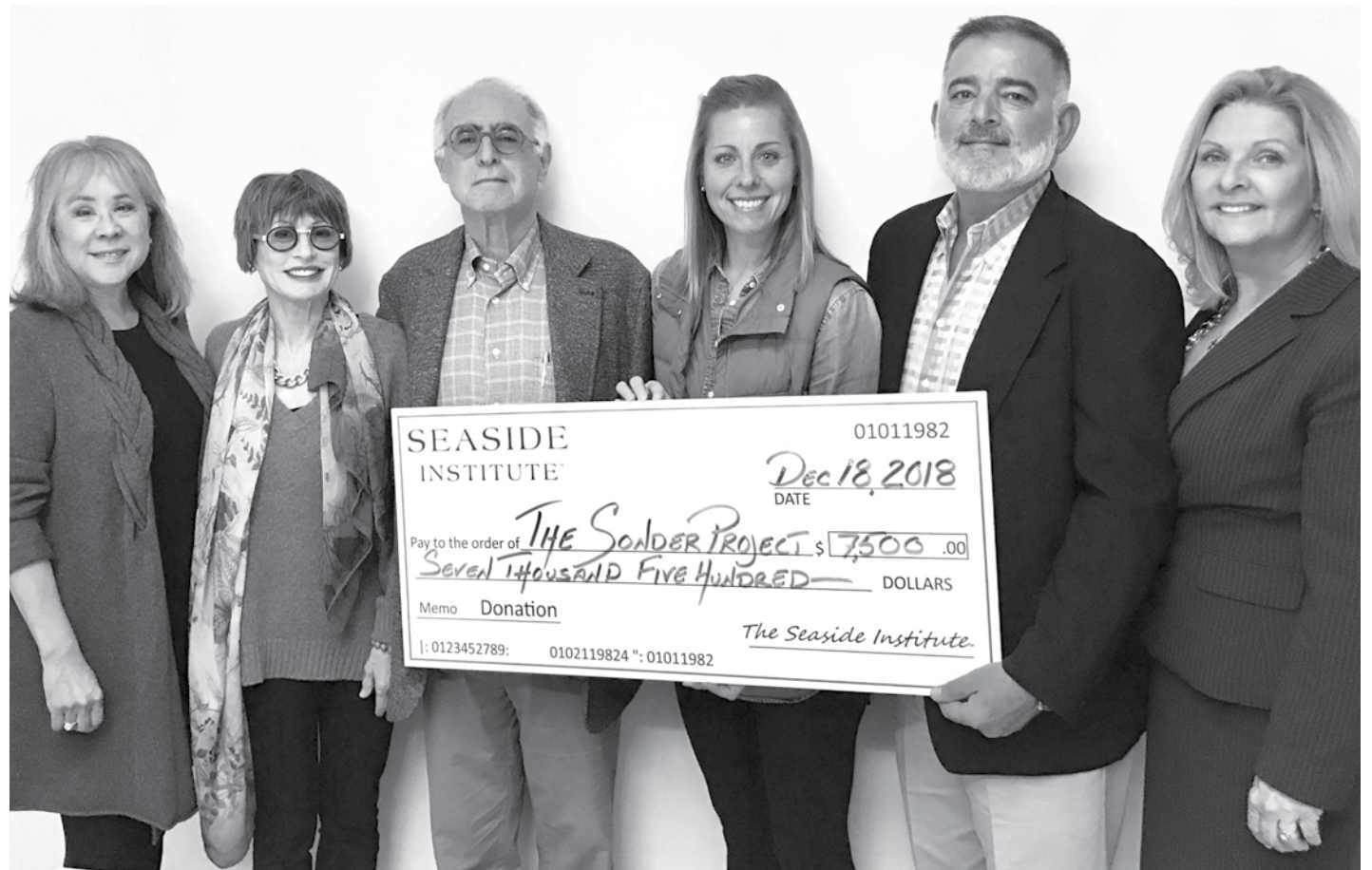
By Beth Carr  
Executive Director, Seaside Institute

## Recovery and Restoration

In October, Hurricane Michael devastated many in our community and especially our neighbors to the east in Bay, Washington, Jackson, Holmes and Gulf counties. Although our small part of the world in South Walton did not suffer the depth of destruction our neighboring counties experienced, we have all been affected by it.

The leadership of the Seaside Institute contracted with FEMA expert Laura Clemons of Collaborative Communities Management Company, LLC. We had the opportunity to tour some of the more devastated areas. Seeing the destruction first hand has left an indelible impression on each of us along with the realization that we must do more than raise money.

What we at the Seaside Institute learned is just how much is not known, on how to recover after a disaster. The "rules" of recovery are not simple and unfortunately, our need to return to a sense of normalcy is counter to how recovery systems work in reality. Our determination to get back to normal is much more than repairing the damage to buildings and roads. It's navigating the nuances of insurance, finances and government support. Finding housing, food and clothing, filling out forms and getting medications can be challenging on a good day, more so while you are in shock after losing



The Seaside Institute Hurricane Michael Relief Fund donated \$7,500 to the Sonder Project, a Walton County group that aims to help people affected by the storm. The fund will remain open for donations through Jan. 31 when the institute will revisit how to assist victims of the hurricane in a long-term manner. Pictured are Seaside Institute Board Co-Chair Victoria Lee, Seaside founders Daryl and Robert Davis, The Sonder Project Director of U.S. Operations Kim Catellier, Board Co-Chair Larry Davis and Seaside Institute Executive Director Beth Carr. Photo by Kerri Parker

most, if not all of what you own. Sadly finding some sense of normalcy in a situation that is anything but normal can be more stressful than the main event itself.

As a society we are generally reactive. We don't like to think about unpleasant events that may affect us so significantly. Someone must though, otherwise, those in the immediacy of the destruction will not recover fully,

if at all. Regardless of the challenges, we are not alone. Events such as this tend to bring people together; through damage and recovery, many are moved to aid our neighbors and have done so.

The Seaside Institute created the Hurricane Michael Relief Fund and has raised significant funds from the community, our partners and members. Thank you to all who have

donated for your generosity. All the money raised (less credit card fees) is going directly to local families to provide help in rebuilding homes that have been damaged so that families have a safe place to live.

Hurricane Michael has disrupted our lives, but we continue to move forward. 🌟

## The SEASIDE® Prize

Each year, the Seaside Institute hosts the Seaside Prize Weekend, which honors those who design the environments we live in. Those who define our quality of life through innovative designs, buildings and roads. The 2019 winners of the Seaside Prize are known for their designs of homes and communities shaping the way we live.

We would like to congratulate and introduce you to our 2019 winners:

**Thomas Christ**, principal architect of Christ & Associates of Santa Rosa Beach. Christ has had a significant impact on our area designing more than 90 home and structures in Seaside and has won many design awards along the way. In addition, Tom Christ has contributed his work to the communities of Alys Beach, Rosemary Beach, WaterColor and WaterSound.

**Richard Gibbs** is an experienced architect, urbanist and preservationist. Leaving a significant imprint on our area both as a designer and the town architect of Seaside. His work includes restoration of old homes and new designs that easily integrate into historic sites and can be seen in Seaside, Rosemary Beach, Draper Lake and Brewster Point in Rockport, Maine.

**John Massengale** has won awards for architecture, urbanism, architectural history, and historic preservation. He is a founding member of the Congress for New Urbanism and has designed the Savannah Sands house in Seaside. His commitment to his craft is exemplified in his work as an architect, author, and professor for Notre Dame and the University of Miami.

**Derrick Smith** is the principal architect at A+S Architects and Planners in Miami Florida. Earning a Master's Degree from Harvard University and a Bachelor of Architecture from University of Miami, Smith is a leader in architectural and sustainable design, as well as comprehensive planning. His work includes designing 10 homes in Seaside such as Fourth of July, Marisol

and Summertime, as well as being the town architect in 1985.

**Charles "Chip" Warren** is an award-winning architect based in New York. His work includes award-winning designs across the United States, including Natchez Park in Seaside. He also served as Seaside's town architect and taught at Michigan's College of Architecture and Urban Planning. Chip has authored a number of books on Architecture and its history.

Each of these award-winning architects has left their indelible mark on the world through their designs, thought leadership, and contributions to educating students in the art and craft of architecture.

The 27th Annual Seaside Prize Weekend begins on Feb. 22 with seminars, lectures, tours and an awards dinner sure to please. Join us as we celebrate community and improved quality of life. Walkable, sustainable and connected communities are the future for a quality lifestyle not just for some but for all. We invite you to be part of our future, this future, your future. To make your reservations, go to [seasideinstitute.org/seasideprize019/](http://seasideinstitute.org/seasideprize019/). 🌟

*The Seaside Institute works year-round to bring people together and build great communities. Through symposia, seminars, events and tours we work to honor the vision of our founder and the spirit that binds us all. Please visit our website [seasideinstitute.org](http://seasideinstitute.org) for information on upcoming events or to join as a member.*

*The Seaside Institute is a 501 c3 non-profit. Our mission is to help people create great communities. Through education, innovation, the arts and engaging our community, we are working to improve the quality of life for families and individuals within Seaside, as well as nationally and globally, while at the same time creating an innovative design that not only enhances the beauty of our environment but, preserves it as well.*

To learn more about the institute, visit our website at [seasideinstitute.org](http://seasideinstitute.org).

## Let's Talk

On Dec. 4, Jay Walljasper spoke on his work "All That We Share." His topic is one that adds a dimension to the definition of community. The ambiance and amenities that bring people together. An award-winning writer, popular speaker, veteran communications specialist and authority on vital communities, Jay Walljasper shared stories and

strategies that inspire us to make changes in our lives, our hometowns and the world. Even in the age of big data, storytelling is still the best way to grab people's attention and activate their imaginations. More than 70 people from the 30A community registered for the event. It was an informative evening for all.

## Aging With Grace

The Seaside Institute continued with the Aging With Grace Symposium Oct. 18-19. The two-day symposium included nine notable speakers focused on the

social and design needs for aging adults 55 years of age and greater. Speakers represented the AARP, Health Care, Community Design, and more.