Chances are, you or a neighbor have benefited from the Hobe Sound Community Chest — even if you’ve never heard of them.

For 67 years, a group of concerned Jupiter Island and Hobe Sound residents have been working very quietly to help local residents enrich their lives. Focusing on affordable housing, daily sustenance, early education, physical fitness and more, their work has made a difference while keeping those they are helping at the forefront.

“I would say that we are quiet, but that we want people to know that we are there helping,” said Suellen Millroy, the Chest’s managing director.

Indeed, in Banner Lake, this philanthropic group helped build 24 new homes in partnership with Habitat for Humanity of Martin County. They’ve partnered with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Martin County, Hobe Sound Early Learning Center, Samaritan Center for Boys and Project L.I.F.T. In total, the Chest supported 41 local organizations last year.

Pam White, a Chest director who serves on the Chest’s Grants Committee, said the time has come to spread the word about the group’s efforts. Recently, the Community Chest started its own endowment, and they hope more residents will join in.

“I think people need to know what we do and who we work with in the community,” White said. “The more good they see us doing, the more they will be interested in our work and, hopefully, want to help.”

One organization that exemplifies how the Hobe Sound Community Chest does its work is BLAST, the after-school program in Banner Lake.

After years of operating under the Martin County Parks and Recreation Department, the BLAST program transitioned to a new, autonomous agency, Banner Lake, Inc. When Simone Scott was hired as the BLAST’s After School Program Director in May, she said the Community Chest helped keep the transition smooth.

“It was comforting knowing they were going to be involved,” Scott said. “They said, ‘We are here for you. Whatever you need, just let us know.’ And they were.”

What sets the Chest apart from other generous groups is its directors’ hands-on interest in the non-profit agencies they partner with. Beyond just reading grant applications and sending out checks, the Community Chest members perform site visits, travel to see projects in action and use their network to connect organizations that can help each other.

One such collaboration came when members from the Chest working with the Kitchen Foundation’s after-school program in Pettway saw an opportunity for those students to partner with Habitat for Humanity of Martin County on an “A Brush With Kindness” project.

The students painted and helped weatherize several local homes, learned about the opportunity to give back and even picked up some construction talents.

“It was a huge success for everyone just being there,” Millroy said. “Seeing everybody come together like that to help a neighbor was wonderful.”

Margot Graff, the executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Martin County, said she was grateful for the support of the Community Chest. Currently, the agencies are partnering on a project to expand affordable housing in other areas of Hobe Sound.

“The Hobe Sound Community Chest has been one of our strongest and most active supporters since we began building in Hobe Sound many years ago,” Graff said. “Their desire to provide affordable housing in Hobe Sound has led to strength, stability and self-reliance for those families and stronger, safer communities.”