

# NEWS LETTER

SEPTEMBER 2020



Nonprofit Newsletter December 2020

## INTRO

December, praise the Lord, it's the last month of 2020. As we all know it has 31 days. December 12<sup>th</sup> is Poinsettia Day. St Nickolas, who would eventually be called Santa Claus, was originally the Patron Saint of children, thieves, and pawn brokers.

December 28<sup>th</sup> is considered by some to be the unluckiest day of the year. {I'll sleep in that day} The first artificial Christmas tree was made in Germany fashioned out of goose feathers that were dyed green. Common decorations on the Christmas tree each have their own specific meanings: Candles - the light of the world, the Star at the top is a reminder of the first Christmas night and Candy canes are to represent the Shepherd's cane.

On another note, Jingle bells was composed in 1857 and was not for Christmas - it was meant to be a Thanksgiving song. And this next tidbit, because its 2020 I do believe to be true. An ancient legend

states that forest animals can speak in human language on Christmas Eve.

And there you have it my friends. Good bye 2020

This month's Non Profit feature is:

### Oldsmar VFW

Your Oldsmar VFW at a glance: The Veterans of Foreign Wars is a nonprofit organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from active, Guard, and Reserve forces. The VFW began by unifying various veteran groups and was officially chartered by Congress in 1936. The VFW and its partner Auxiliary dedicate effort and resources to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. Together they represent more than 1.5 million members.

Recognizing the city of Oldsmar's commitment to the community and respectful patriotism, the VFW officially installed Post 12186 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of April 2019. This young Post and its Auxiliary are already over 100 members combined and are continuing to grow.

Perhaps put best by the elected Post Commander, David Bear, "This is a team effort, and we are excited to partner with the city of Oldsmar to support our community." Commander Bear, along with the Post Quartermaster, Roger Shinsolser, were recently recognized by the National Headquarters as an "All-American Post" for taking the lead and creating an immediate impact within the community. The Quartermaster has an immense responsibility for maintaining the

books, ensuring the limited funds are appropriately accounted for government reporting, thus ensuring their ability to continue to give back to those in the community. This "All-American" status is no easy task and speaks volumes to all the efforts by its Post members and the growing support within the city.

Recently retired Marine and returning resident to Oldsmar, David McKinley explains the VFW as "A group of people who have volunteered to serve a greater cause in risk rich environments overseas. They come with new skills and experiences and many of them want to continue to serve. Through comradery and mutual support, we create networking opportunities to channel these skills and experiences in positive ways for each other and across our community." He added that "This includes the families of these deployed service members. They have also endured many challenges and continue to share and support through the Auxiliary."

The Oldsmar Post 12186 currently does not have a physical post. Still, they are growing actively with the Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce and currently meet every third Thursday of the month at 7 pm at Jack Willies Restaurant and Tiki. To join the VFW or learn more, you can find the Oldsmar Post at [www.VFW12186.org](http://www.VFW12186.org).

## Shout outs from November

### Project PopDrop

November brought Sharon and her band of Angels to New Port Richey to the RAP House. It benefited youth who are abused, abandoned or run aways. Each year, at this time she goes there so that they can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. The focus on clothing was for

children 10 to 17 years of age. Toiletries, non perishable food, Walmart gift cards, etc. Anytime you would like to join the band of Angels with your kids, it's a great educational moment in time for them to see how good they have it and how others aren't quite so lucky. 727 475-1393 to contact Sharon.

### Top Of The Bay Kiwanis

This organization of men and women in our community are all about the Children. They have youth programs from Elementary Schools through College.

The Cadence Bank gave the Kiwanis a table in the lobby of the bank to display any information on the organization and an application to join the Kiwanis. It was a week long display. They also shared an information sheet with the drive thru customers.

Many of their members are and have been supplying Oldsmar Cares with empty egg cartons and plastic grocery bags which give the patrons of Oldsmar Cares something to take their groceries and eggs home in. Much appreciated folks.

They have been actively selling the array of nuts and cookies for the benefit of

the Zoo Day they provide in the Spring for approx.. 400 students and families from Paul B. Stephens School {special needs children}.

They also had their first Wine tasting at the Patriot's Grill at the Tarpon Woods Golf Club. Many tasty wines. They had a good time and will repeat this as a fund raiser for the Zoo Day in the Spring. The more the merrier at these Wine Tastings.

The Kiwanis took part in the Chamber TV this month as well. Mike Crippen and Tom Dulaney were their representatives. If I may steer

you to watch it on the Chamber website it would be worth your watching.

Another activity they participated in was Turkey Distribution at the Salvation Army on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.

One last thing, they were bell ringers for the Salvation Army on the 28<sup>th</sup>. Their location was at US 19 and Alderman Rd.

This Kiwanis is one active group of community minded men and women. They are looking for new members. So if you want to serve your community and be a part of an active group, please think Kiwanis.

### Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation

The Golf Club and Driving Range are busy and are looking for volunteers on a weekly basis. If interested call Laura @727 642-6758.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Chi Chi Charity Classic was held Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2020. As you know, beside the awful rain storms, the current pandemic has impacted their ability to host their traditional Chi Chi Charity Classic Fundraiser in November exactly as they have in the past. Instead, the committee had taken a different view.

1. Charity Classic - There was limited capacity number of golfers on Sunday 11/8 and Monday 11/9, however those that played had a great time swinging through the rain drops.
2. Chi Chi Challenge - online giving campaign through CharityGoFundMe. This will continue through December.

All in all it was a successful Tournament and those that played really enjoyed themselves.

## Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

19<sup>th</sup> Hole Indoor Golf event. November 11<sup>th</sup> 5:30 pm till 10 pm

If you didn't go then you definitely missed a good time and spent quality time at the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole {at Stix Billiards} with a happy group of Chamber members. We had a ball. The spirits were high. The winners were given their adoring jackets for winning with the lowest hole. Voting took place for which hole was the hardest, and the nicest. Best food was of course Amici's. Like I said we were a happy group.

## Oldsmar Cares

Oldsmar Cares was the benefactor of a special event hosted by Networking 4 a Cause on Thursday November 12<sup>th</sup> at the Beachwood Seafood Kitchen and Bar. 4022 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, Fl. 34677 This event was from 5:30 pm to 8:30pm. Those that went enjoyed an evening of networking and fun!

Oldsmar Cares still is feeding so many more folks during this Covid 19 era. Milk, other perishable item are appreciated as well as canned goods or gift cards that Oldsmar cares can utilize to feed the increased volume of people they serve now.

## Jan Stephenson Crossroads Foundation

The Jan Stephenson Crossroads Foundation, I will remind you was formed to assist the wounded warriors and first responders through Golf to rehabilitate and learn through the game of golf that their lives can accomplish and thrive with their various wounds.

The Celebrity Golf event was November 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. On the 17<sup>th</sup>,

a Concert was held at Old McMicky's Farm in Odessa. The band was Black Hawk and the Outlaws, featuring Henry Paul, Randy Threet and Dave Robbins. They are a multi-platinum-selling country group. It was a great night that brought excitement into the air for sure.

The day of golf started with registration and breakfast followed by a Clinic with Jan Stephensen & Todd Keirstead with a Shotgun start at 10 am. The weather was not a deterrent and all the golfers really enjoyed their time with many golf pros and Military dignitaries. Jan Stehensen, World Golf Hall of Fame, Hollis Stacy World Golf Hall of Fame and U of Florida famed quarter back Chris Leak. In addition, General Tony Thomas, and Col. Cary Harbaugh challenged many of the non-professional golfers. And the curious and the proud, the winners were the Team of Prime Air Conditioning.

November held the Wine Tasting that Jan Stephenson's Wines has been holding at the Patriots Bar and Grill. Those that went were treated to some tasty vino's. The other thing is that if you join them again, bring your group. It's a fun time.

### Oldsmar/Eastlake Rotary Club

In preparation for the Thanksgiving Holiday the Rotary, in conjunction with the three area schools and the Pinellas County Sheriff's office purchased and donated 50 baskets of food and made sure they were distributed to families that wouldn't have a Thanksgiving otherwise. That's what Rotarians do!

## NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR December

## Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center

If you happen to be near the Safety Harbor Library, you could stop in and find a Christmas tree with tags on it. Those tags are for gifts for the Children that attend Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center. Can you imagine Christmas morning without any gifts. Neither can I so let's go to the library and help folks have a better Christmas.

Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center is open for after school care once again but at a greatly reduced number due to the Covid reductions. Please continue to remember to donate to the center as their needs during Covid are so much higher. Money, gift cards, food and gently used clothing would make such a difference in someone's life. Thank you for your considerations. They have developed a system that is Covid wise, in so much as they have set up a drive through every Thursday to facilitate the obtaining of the food that is given. Mattie Williams is located in Safety Harbor but helps the community well beyond, as in Clearwater, Palm Harbor and several more. Once again they are feeding twice as many families then before Covid, so if you have any donations of food that you can spare please help out.

With Christmas coming, there is a need for gifts for the children of this worthy center. Toys, new clothes, educational items, any need you can think of, there is a need with the families that come to Mattie Williams. Its that plain. Families have greater needs now with the Covid 19 upon us and the labor forces are cut, many of these laborers have been laid off and the children will have no Christmas. Please think with your heart on this one. The need is great.

If you have any donations and can't get to Mattie Williams Center, please don't hesitate to contact me ([Wendie@utbchamber.com](mailto:Wendie@utbchamber.com)) and I will see to it that your donation gets there. Thank you.



## Pop Drop

Shoe boxes anybody? Sharon needs your shoeboxes. Project Pop drop is partnering with KIDS 4 A CAUSE for the second annual SHOEBOX DRIVE. It is PoP Drops goal to collect 500 empty shoeboxes to be filled with Christmas presents which will be handed out to people who are experiencing homelessness in our area on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If you need help getting items to PoP Drop call 727 475-1393. These shoeboxes will be given or on the 19<sup>th</sup> at St. Vincent de Paul and Pinellas Hope. This is such a huge endeavor but so worthwhile. If you can donate even one item, it would be so appreciated. Socks, Underwear and Toiletry items or Gift cards, protein bars, chap Sticks any other item that you could think of that would assist the homeless have a Blessed Christmas.

## Oldsmar Cares

### Hours of Operation

Tuesday, Friday and Saturday	9:00am - noon
Monday and Wednesday	5:30pm - 7:00pm

This is a little ahead of time but great things take long and great work to be successful. Oldsmar Cares is excited to announce this year's Gala has gone VIRTUAL! They will celebrate their 11th year with an 80's Rock Journey. So "Don't Stop Believing" and register for the event being held Thursday February 18<sup>th</sup> 2021. The event will include an exciting and fast paced live auction, an amazing selection of unique silent auction items, special appearances from local "Almost Famous" celebrities and of course entertainment including music from the 80's. [oldsmarcares.org/gala](http://oldsmarcares.org/gala) to register/donate or to volunteer. Oldsmar

Cares hopes you will join them for this special event. As you may know a Virtual Gala is the latest trend due to COVID19 and is a fundraising event where donors participate through the internet instead of in person.

Oldsmar Cares are looking for volunteers in their toy Giveaways to make Kids Christmas a lot better. The need is from the 8<sup>th</sup> of December thru the 12<sup>th</sup> when the gifts will be picked up by the parents. With covid in mind it will be a drive thru pickup. For any questions please contact Kathy Wallace or Courtney Mahaz at 727 560-8162 or 727 543-0299 or on the internet at [OCKidsChristmas@gmail.com](mailto:OCKidsChristmas@gmail.com). Please come out in droves as they need lots of help on this one. If you want to donate Toys, there will be someone at Oldsmar Cares from 9-5 Monday thru Friday til the drive is over.

### Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation

Chi Chi's has extended their GoFundMe through the end of December at the end of the following website:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/chi-chi-challenge>

The good works that are done every day at this academy with these children is nothing but wonderful. To see the progress that these children make who would otherwise be "lost" is nothing short of a miracle. Please give with your heart to this very wonderful cause.

Otherwise the students are doing well and looking forward to the Holiday break. The Foundation is putting on a "Holiday Drive-thru" celebration for all the students. They will have fun give-aways including crafts/cookie decorating/books for their home library/snacks/pizza & lemonade for their family/holiday gift/family games. All these above items will be handed out to the students in their cars. There will also

be a "snow themed" scene for the students to see as they drive-thru the line.



## Laura Tobe

Community Liaison

Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation, Inc.

Academy | First Tee Clearwater | Golf Club | Driving Range

3030 N. McMullen Booth Rd. Clearwater, FL 33761

C: (727) 642-6758 O: (727) 726-8829 x 207 | E: [laura@chichi.org](mailto:laura@chichi.org)

[www.chichi.org](http://www.chichi.org) and [www.firstteeclearwater.org](http://www.firstteeclearwater.org)

## Top of the Bay Kiwanis

Another active month for the Kiwanis. December 12<sup>th</sup> they will be doing the bell ringing at Alderman and US 19 N at Walmart. Look for some of our Chamber members there and say hello.

Their meetings are Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> 6pm at the Patriots Bar and Grill at Tarpon Woods Golf Club. The second meeting of the month is Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at the IHOP by the corner of US 19 and Curlew Rd. Any and all the meetings are open to the public. You can go as a guest or go and become a member of this very worthy group.

If you haven't purchased the cookies and nuts from them, they have extended the sale for a bit. Call Tom Dulaney at 727 286-8414. He will be happy to help you.

One of the members mentioned that they as a group are so very thankful for all the support that the community has afforded them throughout the year. Merry Christmas to All and to All a Good Day and Night.

## American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Relay for life may look different this year, but now more than ever, cancer patients and researchers need your help to sustain the fight against cancer. Their lifesaving mission has been threatened by suspended event and a decrease in donations, so your support is urgently needed to continue research, patient programs, and cancer screening.

If you want to join in a Relay, be it virtual or physical. You can contact the American Cancer Society for a lead to an already established team or how to start your own team. They will lead you through the ways to help both your heart and someone else's cancer. Feel free to contact me for further information and I will either answer your questions or give you the contact to do so.

## Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

### Scavenger

Hey everyone, this is still going on and like that poster of Uncle Sam.....We Want You! Get out and get to know more of the businesses. This is your community and we need you now. Thank you.

July 10<sup>th</sup> - December 11<sup>th</sup> 2020

Hello all members. Have you obtained your Scavenger Hunt Passport as of yet.

Please think long and hard about helping out the local businesses but also the Chambers' efforts in this endeavor. If you have trouble

breaking away from your job to come to the Chamber and get your Passport, I'll be happy to deliver them.

727 452-1460. I have an idea, how about businesses have a contest within your own personnel to see who can win from within. Might just bring your staff closer together.

In an effort to help our local businesses survive this pandemic. Let's all get together and have some fun. Passports are \$20.00 (with a value over \$500.00)

100+ locations,

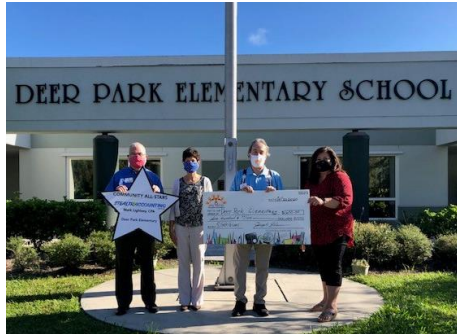
Visit the locations in the passport. Get a selfie with the Chamber sign and post on Facebook tagging the store and The Upper Tampa Bay Chamber. Show the store manager your post and they will stamp your passport. This is the last month to get your passport completed.

### Holiday Sharing

For those of you who do not know what this is, it is Fund that raises money to provide bicycles, helmets and locks for underprivileged children living in our community. As we approach this HOLIDAY Season and with the impact of Covid19 as usual the need is great! Would you like to be a part of the solution this year by donating to Holiday Sharing Fund so they can meet the needs for bikes, helmets, and locks for our deserving children? The average cost of a bike, helmet and lock is \$100.00. This is a joint venture with the Oldsmar Community Policing officers and the Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce. The recipients of the bicycles are chosen by the needs that come to the attention of the Community Sheriff's department. If you want to help by donating : [www.holidaysharingfund.com](http://www.holidaysharingfund.com) or [mhowe@utbchamber.com](mailto:mhowe@utbchamber.com).

## UTB Education Foundation

### UTB Education Foundation Shines the Light on Local “All STARS”



(Featured: Mark Lightsey, CPA – Stealth Accounting)



(Featured: Tom Dulaney, Top of the Bay Kiwanis)

If 'education in the ticket to success' (Jaime Escalante), then some of the 'ticketmasters' are the small business owners and local organizations which support our schools! This year's All STAR program is designed to provide a path for our business community to become more involved in creating a brighter future for our children AND enjoy the benefits of Cause Marketing - integrating the UTBEF into their marketing 'story'. Working with UTBEF board members, All STARS can create a year 'round promotional effort - showcasing the school they've adopted and their support for community initiatives.

Small business owners and local groups can become community All STARS with a \$600 business tax deductible donation (solopreneurs co-sponsorships are \$300) and can be paid monthly. UTBEF Joe Elmer notes the new initiative's early success, "the All STAR program is a home run for our community: the school benefits, the teachers benefit, the business benefits and, most importantly, our children benefit. They are our future leaders, employers and employees; making an investment today yields tremendous returns in our community tomorrow."

Learn how you can make a positive impact on a local school AND your business by contacting [Joe@UTBChamber.com](mailto:Joe@UTBChamber.com)

### Jan Stephenson's Crossroads Foundation

Happy New Year January 1<sup>st</sup>. Golfing in the RED EYE OPEN should start your year off with a joyous time. 9 am shotgun start. \$65.00 / player.

Breakfast and Lunch provided as well as range balls, golf carts and two Tylenol as needed if you had a good time New Years eve.

Let us not forget the Wine Tastings that are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month and in this month mark your calendar for the 10<sup>th</sup> 5:30 til 7pm I have personally gone every month and each time I enjoy it more.

Also the Patriots Bar and Grill is open 7 days a week now.

To the last of this year, I bid it farewell. I wish for you all to have just the best month and Christmas Season. For you Christians out

there remember to allow Christ to be in your Christmas.  
I want to thank all the non profits for the cooperation that I have received this entire year. Also the membership of the Chamber as a whole, thank you for supporting me as well as the Non Profits. Be Blessed. Wendie

Wendie Roeper  
NonProfit Liaison  
727 452-1460