



## Nonprofit Newsletter August 2020

### INTRO

I would like to take this time to thank all the people who are making our lives possible and tolerable during this pandemic. Important are the Doctors, Nurses, Firemen and Police Officers. However, so many other folks are keeping us going. From the gas stations, to the stores, the restaurants, the mail carriers and many others. With this pandemic, it shows so much more, what it takes to manage our lives of today. I hope we can show appreciation to all we meet, as we are all part of the village we live in.

Well, the party is over for the departing Jerry Peruzzi. If you missed the party, you missed a great time. Jerry and JoAnn were met with congratulations and tears. Steve Grant and the Shakes Society (Known to us as the Beacon Neighborhood Newspapers Gentleman) provided very good music. The food provided by Leo's and Amici' was outstanding. Leo's pizza and chicken wings and salad were great and Amici's had a (made in front of you) pasta bar with choices of Alfredo or Marinara sauce and three different choices, chicken, shrimp or vegetables. It was such an informal, relationship-filled evening that sent Jerry & JoAnn off to the Villages. So to speak!

### **This month's nonprofit feature: K9 Heroes for Heroes**

This 501C3 was started by an All American Girl wanting to give back to the men and women who have served our country, fighting wars, stopping fires or performing stressful police work. Her own words, "I am proud to be an American and I wanted to give back and with my love for dogs, it all came together." The basic idea was born in 2015 but after a learning curve as to what it would really take to be effective, it culminated in the forming of a 501C3 in September of 2017.

When men and women who have served and have a need for a sense of security, these well-trained dogs are the perfect fit. After applying and filling out the forms that show their documentation of service and a note from a Physician stating exactly what their need is, then and only then will the

process start to find them the perfect dog. Once all the paper work is completed then a case manager (social worker) will visit the person, and they will assess what exact need the dog will provide. Once that assessment is completed, the dog trainer will select the perfect partner.



The dog might come from the SPCA or from other rescue places or a dog that might have been to a previous owner that did not work for that team. Any dog that goes into training and does not fit the bill, that dog will be re-homed. Once the dog has been trained for the exact purpose needed and gets to the person, both the Trainer and the Case Manager will follow up with them for the life of the relationship.

One thing that Jen mentioned to me that I had never thought of before, the service dog is like a Medical Alert Device. Dogs can recognize facial cues and emotional states, an interesting concept. Jen and K9 Heroes for Heroes has placed 15 dogs so far. The whole situation is a slow process and built on rock not sand. We welcomed Jen to the Chamber September of 2019, she has been active with bringing her own dog with her, and that dog never takes her eyes off Jen. Jen herself is very outgoing so please when you see her connect with her, as she is very willing to talk about her “dogs” and K9 Heroes for Heroes.

## **SHOUT OUTS FROM JULY**

### **Project POP Drop**

July’s recipients of Sharon and her Band of Angels was Liberty Manor for Veterans. If you could imagine being at the drop off and you feel your heart beating, not from working so hard but that you have helped the folks who have next to nothing and often have no hope left. When Sharon leaves, their eyes are filled with hope, which in turn makes you feel so wonderful to have been able to be a part of that experience.

### **Top of the Bay Kiwanis**

The Kiwanis had their major fund raiser, in July, The Midnight Run. Due to the Covid 19, it was a virtual run, and thank goodness, the sponsors hung in there with them. Therefore, it was a success despite the pandemic.

This group got very creative and held their meeting in a pavilion in Philippe Park a couple of weeks ago, everyone had a separate table and one of the members brought coffee, orange juice, donuts, bagels and cream cheese. All had a good time. They are always looking for members and at this time, the membership is free. With many people out of work, it is the perfect time to hop on board and join the Kiwanis. They do so much for the kids with all the support that they give them all the way through high school. The Key Club gives them the idea that working for others and helping out in the community is so important hopefully for the rest of their lives.

### **Chi Chi Rodriguez**

The school children are still receiving a food supply on a weekly basis during this Covid 19 debacle. The staff of the Youth Foundation have been working hard to prepare for the upcoming school year. Food items are always welcome and a great big thank you to all the folks that helped with the school supplies. The outpouring was so great.

### **Jan Stephenson Crossroads Foundation**

The Tarpon Woods Golf Club has opened the restaurant as the Patriots Bar & Grill. Special care is given for all the veterans who dine there. This organization does so much for the Disabled Veterans. Jan and her staff have been holding Wine Tastings at the Patriots Bar & Grill the second Thursday of the month. Should you want to join the crowd contact Diane Van Diver at 727 992-1717. Cost is \$20.00 and not only do you learn about and taste wines from around the world, but you walk out with a bottle of wine of your choice from the wines tasted. Don't forget to drink some of Jan Stephenson's own wine brand. On top of all that, you will have a wonderful time with great friends that you come with or meet there. Come and join us.

### **The UTB Education Foundation**

The Education Foundation has been meeting and are in the process of developing a plan for local businesses to become COMMUNITY ALL STARS by supporting a local school. Two or three businesses can also join forces to make one star. A donation of \$500.00 will get your business recognition as a Community Supporter with a large Star in your business as well as at the school. Pictures will be taken at the time of the donation at the school and placed in local news outlets. That is great recognition for you. Each year the Education Foundation gives 18 schools funding for the principals and teachers to use as a discretionary funds to fill the gaps in classroom needs such as things that their budget does not allow for. The need for businesses to reach out to better the school experience for our children will pay you back in so many ways. Contact Joe Elmer 727 741-2555.

## **NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR AUGUST**

### **Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center**

Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center raised money for the kid's backpacks that each child will need for their school things. One great big Thank You for all who donated so that the children could start the school year anew this month. Please remember that Mattie Williams is feeding the families of our communities and still need donations. Cash or cans will be gratefully accepted, this goes on year round. If you have a problem making it over to the Center, please just text, email me or call me and I will gladly come by to retrieve your gift for them. 727 452-1460 Wendie@utbchamber.com

### **Pop Drop**

Well, the lucky group to receive August's Pop Drop is the St. Petersburg Free Clinic. The drop will include the usual canned goods or nonperishable foods, brand new socks and underwear. In addition toiletries (deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, shampoo, conditioners, hair brushes/combs, ChapStick, etc. Walmart Gift Cards are a big help as well. It started August 1<sup>st</sup> and will run through August 28th. There are Pop Drop boxes located in 36 or so businesses around our Chamber community. If you cannot find one, please drop by the Chamber of Commerce as we do have one, and we would love to fill it again this month.

## **NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR JULY (CONT.)**

### **Oldsmar Cares**

Oldsmar Cares has yet again been coming to the aid of so many more families than normal, due to this Covid 19. If you can help in any way with donations, they can always use milk, eggs, yogurt and other perishable foods. They are still using precautions and will be looking forward to the day when they can invite you in to see all the good your donations are doing. They are located at 149 State Road West, Oldsmar, FL in the warm but bright yellow building.

#### **The hours of operation are:**

Tues, Fri, and Sat 9:00am – Noon

Mon and Wed 5:30pm – 7:00pm.

### **Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation**

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation was asking for donations as I noted in the last newsletter. They had a wonderful response and are grateful for all the outpouring of items received already. They still need paper towels and mini hand sanitizers. Since they are part of the Pinellas County School system, they are tentatively opening August 24<sup>th</sup> as are the regular schools.

The Driving Range is a working business of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation. It is located at 3030 N. McMullen Booth Rd. They are in need of a few weekly volunteers. Not only will you be around golf the whole time, you will be giving back to your community in an enjoyable way. If interested please call Laura Tobe 727 642-6758.

Once a year The Chi Chi Charity Golf Classic is held in November. In thinking ahead for November, they are having a silent auction in a unique way. They are handing out special containers to companies wanting to donate and asking for the containers to be filled with items of their choice. It could be dollar bills, cigars, coffee k-cups, lotto tickets, or ideas of their own. It should be something that someone will want to bid on in a fun and spirited way. Companies can donate solely or include employees adding individually to the donation, collectively making a “from the heart of your business” gesture.



Just an example. A container filled with golf items.

For more information, contact Laura Tobe 727 642-6758.

## O2b Fun Inc.

Roof Top Charity Party - Virtually on 9-17-2020

Share the Love by Sharing the Post - <https://o2bfun.com/rooftop-party/>



The event includes a SWAG BAG Pick Up, it will be at Ed's Fine Wines from September 5, 2020 through September 12, 2020 during regular business hours which is:

Monday Through Saturday - 10:00am – 8:00pm

Sunday - 11:00am – 8:00pm

Brenda Geanakos  
o2b Fun Inc.  
Executive Director  
727.641.6600  
<http://www.o2bfun.com>

## Conclusion

As this Covid19 makes its way into the 8<sup>th</sup> month of the year, we must continue to pray for all those who have been affected personally, with either family or friends. Not only is this a hard time for businesses but if you still have your health then you are ahead of the game so to speak. Prayers do work. I do realize with all the different trends of thoughts floating around that it is difficult to figure out what is the truth. Do what is right for you! If you are happy with what you are doing to protect yourself and those around you then do that. Have peace with it and please let others have a different opinion without chastising them. One way or another, be blessed in this month of August and stay safe.

**Wendie Roeper**  
**Nonprofit Liaison**  
**727-452-1460**