



## Nonprofit Newsletter May 2020

### INTRO

This May, like no other, has its own identity, “Covid 19 rehab month”. This is our coming out party. We have been, for the most part staying within the walls of our own homes. Only coming out for groceries, medicine and other essentials.

We stayed home, cooked many meals (when not helping local restaurants by using takeout), cleaned out our closets and took on the role of classroom teacher for our children. We have been all things to our families within our four walls. Well now for many of us its break out time.

It is time to interact with others and to try to find our new normal. We will face our fear of gathering in public spaces again. Many of our favorite foods will be out of stock in our grocery stores, and many foods will be more costly. Our routines, interactions both work and recreationally might change in ways we are not sure of yet. I would like to think these and other challenges shall pass.

One thing we cannot complain about is the weather. We have had some beautiful days, where we could go out to walk and to be grateful. Speaking of being grateful, I would be remiss not to mention all the front line support systems that kept us going. Doctors, nurses, respiratory therapists, housekeepers and our hospitals. EMT’S, police officers, grocery store and restaurant workers. I know I have missed many other folks who have been diligently working through these past two months and along with the aforementioned core, we say one great big THANK YOU FOR PUTTING YOURSELF OUT THERE FOR THE GOOD OF ALL!

## This month's feature: The Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce

Although I am a very small part of the Chamber as the Non Profit Liaison, I just need to share that throughout the past month and a half your Chamber has been working steadily to keep us all up to date, bolstering all of their energy and creativity to respond to our member's needs. Zoom meetings morning and night, some for information, some to maintain ongoing friendships, and perhaps most of all to be very much a part of our everyday lives. Calls were made to every available restaurant to

find out what they were offering so that the general membership could be informed as well as bringing some income to the participating restaurants.



One extremely amazing effort put forth was ordering food from several restaurants, enough meals to provide for the front line workers at Mease Countryside Hospital Emergency Room.

Another run was made to the Advent Emergency Room facility a week later. Three days in a row last week the West Chase Fire Dept. received lunch. It was three days to cover their shifts and to reach all staff members. The same effort was provided for the Oldsmar Fire Department. They were more than grateful for the goodies and for knowing that we were recognizing them. We indeed are a village. These meals were paid for by donations received from Chamber members therefore that is just one example of how we are one big family, helping each other out whenever and where ever we can.

Just a reminder about the Chamber Office staff:

Jerry Peruzzi	President and CEO
Mark Howe	VP of Operations
Doug Bevis	Director of Business, Manufacturing and Education
Joe Elmer	Member Advocate
Wendie Roeper	Non Profit Liaison

Any one of us is here for you and very willing to open lines of Communication. It takes a Village, Staff, Board of Directors, Trustees, Ambassadors and you our Members.

**“It’s all About Relationships”**

## **SHOUT OUTS FROM MARCH/APRIL**

### **Project POP Drop**

Well, here I go again, it takes a village. Oldsmar Cares, Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center and RCS have all been right here nonstop, handing out more food and supplies than normal. As supplies were running low, trips were made by the Chamber to supply warehouses for them; Sharon Edwards and POP Drop made a special trip to assist Oldsmar Cares.

### **Chi Chi Foundation**

Chi Chi's is carrying on with homeschooling with each child having a computer and classes are moving right along. For the graduating class, they are not to be denied. Special visits will be made to their homes with caps, tassels and special gifts. The children that go to this school have been given a loving and nurturing atmosphere where they can overcome rough spots in their lives. Last week, the school took goody boxes to each of the teachers, as they are continuing to work hard for their students albeit via computer. Every student has the availability to come to the school to get food packages weekly and each child will get a summer box of gifts, games and other activities as well. What a phenomenal job they are doing caring for the students and teachers there.

### **The Better Business Bureau**

Is offering Pinellas CARES Small Business Grant Program. It is alive and accepting applications. They encourage you to apply as soon as possible as applications will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis. The application deadline is June 1, 2020. You can find the applications on the BBB website. Also on May 14<sup>th</sup> there is a free crisis planning webinar for nonprofits during the COVID19 pandemic. Contact [boglesby@bbbwestflorida.org](mailto:boglesby@bbbwestflorida.org) for the evite. BBB phone number 727 535-5522. In addition, please remember to report any Covid or other scams to them as during these trying times there are unfortunately people who take advantage of the current situation.

### **Tampa Shores Community Church**

During this Pandemic, there is some good news coming from Tampa Shores Community Church. For the past year, they have not had a regular Pastor. Well, they have now! Pastor Fred Wright has taken over as head Pastor. We are sending a blessed welcome to Pastor Wright and hope to get him more involved in the Chamber as he settles into his new position.

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

Many of the other service groups such as Top of the Bay Kiwanis are meeting on line and are continuing to carry on with plans for the future such as the Midnight Run etc.

As I receive information from our Non Profit organizations about their activities and events, I will be passing it along. I hope that will be helpful in keeping you informed.

## **NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR MAY**

### **Pop Drop**

This month the Food and Supplies Drive will be for people experiencing homelessness. Please bring in canned or Non-Perishable Foods, Cleaning Supplies, Hand Sanitizers, Face Masks {homemade} sanitary gloves and Walmart Gift Cards. The donations will be going to Pinellas Hope homeless shelter in Clearwater on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup>. Call 727 475-1393 if you have questions or need a pick up.

### **Oldsmar Cares**

They are continuing to give help to those who find themselves in need, be it clothing or food. They are accepting clothing and financial gifts to assist them to continue with the generous care of our community.

### **American Cancer Society**

With COVID19, many of their plans have been completely upended for the past few months. Even though their original event was cancelled for the betterment of the community, Cancer has not stopped affecting millions. With the coronavirus pandemic putting so many people and programs at risk, the fight against Cancer is in danger. In the past 30 years, the cancer mortality rate has dropped 29%. That means 2,9 million lives have been saved. GivingTuesdayNow, is a global day of shared humanity and giving to send a message of hope that a bright future is possible. If you can partake in Giving Tuesday contact American Cancer Society at 800 227-2345.

In conclusion, I personally want to share my thoughts on our changing times. I have had over a month to reflect on the changes that are coming. Some I will not like but as part of the whole picture of staying alive, I need to be cognizant of the fact that some of us have been hurt or damaged from this sequestration more than others. Kindness is the word of the day. We are all in this together. I am prayerfully wishing nothing but an upward motion to our lives. We can help each other only if we make our needs known. Blessings to all.

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**Nonprofit Liaison**  
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