



Nonprofit Newsletter November 2020

INTRO

November is here. This has been the longest year and yet it's already November. Like pretty much everything else, nothing has made much sense this year so far. November is the 11th month and has 30 days. The Birthstone is Topaz or Citrine. The Birth flower is Chrysanthemum. There are several celebrated holidays, such as Veterans Day Nov 11th, and Thanksgiving on the 26th. And for all you shoppers out there, Black Friday is on the 27th. Keep the faith, 2020 is almost over and hopefully we can all rebound and live our lives to our contentment.

This month's nonprofit feature: Project Pop Drop

Project Pop Drop is funded by a percentage of proceeds from toner and ink cartridges sold through Platinum International. John Snyder in Los Angeles, California, a longtime friend of Sharon Edwards, owns both the company and foundation. When Sharon got into the "toner business", she went out to California for training and went to her first Pop Drop, which was held at Skid Row in Los Angeles. Pop stands for "Partner of Provision". Upon her return to Oldsmar, she wanted to bring Pop Drop here locally as well.

Her first Drop was going to a Homeless Shelter in Tampa with a trunk full of food, purchased from Platinum International. At the time, Sharon's 90-year old father accompanied her on the drops and he mentioned other items that he noticed were needed. Clothing, toiletries and personal items. They shared all these needs with family and friends, and soon their home was overloaded with donated items. So much so that they had to rent a storage unit. These same family and friends became volunteers helping with the deliveries.

Originally, Sharon would go to Costco to purchase food the night before, and go to the storage unit and load up with the help of her volunteers. Jerry Peruzzi, David Frank and Doug Bevis guided Sharon to meet Josh Powell, the new Manager of Oldsmar Super Walmart. Since then he has been providing a grant to the different Pop Drop designated shelters monthly. Thus, another Partner of Provision formed and now Walmart hosts a Tailgate party once a year for the Oldsmar Cares Annual Pop Drop event in June.

When Sharon was the guest speaker at one of the Chamber of Commerce Relationship Builders, afterwards she met Yanya Reynolds who went on to become one of Sharon's Angels. She not only made a delivery with Sharon that month, she offered storage space and one of their box trucks for the deliveries. This effort continues today. Yanya and her husband own a local business called Beamworks. Their trucks and storage facilities save Sharon the storage fees she had for storing all the donations and they are always involved lending a big helping hand.



Each year Partners of Provision has grown, and they now have 32 Pop Drop collection boxes in businesses around the Chamber of Commerce's footprint. Sharon has the pleasure of heading her band of Pop Drop Angels, doing God's work and making such a difference in our community.

The Senior Pop Drop Angel Sharon Edwards can be reached at 727-475-1393 or sharon@projectpopdrop.org. Blessings abound.

SHOUT OUTS FROM OCTOBER

Project POP Drop

On Saturday October 24th Sharon and her band of Angels descended upon Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center with an amazing amount of needed foods, toiletries and clothing. This Center meets the needs of so many folks and the fact that Pop Drop was there is nothing short of a God Send.

Top of the Bay Kiwanis

The Oldsmar Elementary School was the recipient of a Chamber of Commerce Education Foundation Star Program supported by the Top of the Bay Kiwanis. This is a partnership between local businesses and organizations that provide funds to local schools for the extra's that the teachers need to give kids the extras that otherwise they would not have at their disposal to do their job. Thank you to the Top of the Bay Kiwanis for this generous outpouring of support. As the Club likes to say, "It's all About the Kids!"

Mike Crippen and Tom Dulaney participated in the Chamber TV interview, regarding the good works that the Top of the Bay Kiwanis are doing. Chamber TV is available for businesses and organizations, and if you are interested in participating please contact Doug Bevis at the Chamber office or Doug@utbchamber.com.

Chi Chi Rodriguez

Happy Birthday on October 23rd to Chi Chi Rodriguez. Chi Chi's goal has always been to inspire children and he feels that Kids need adults to help them. "Behind every child is an Adult." Approximately 24 cents of every dollar spent at the Golf Club or Sports Complex goes directly to educational programming.

SHOUT OUTS FROM OCTOBER (CONT.)

Jan Stephenson Crossroads Foundation

The Patriots Bar and Grill has welcomed its fellow nonprofits to hold their meetings there and so far, the Top of the Bay Kiwanis are utilizing the facility. It is a wonderful thing, as I love to see nonprofits sharing like this. The Jan Stephenson's Wine Tasting is held the second Thursday of each month. It is a very enjoyable early evening and the food at the Patriots Bar and Grill is discounted 10% during these events. If you are a golfer and would like to meet and speak with Jan Stephenson, come and enjoy the evening with many of us regulars.

The UTB Education Foundation

The Education Foundation is in full swing now bringing the Gold Star businesses and preferred schools together. Two or three businesses can also join forces and 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 are 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 the 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. For more info contact: Joe Elmer, 727 741-2555.

UTB Chamber's Road to Recovery Scavenger Hunt

July 10th through December 11th, 2020

In an effort to help our local businesses survive this pandemic, let us all get together and have some fun. Passports are \$20.00 (with a value over \$500.00) and list over 100+ participating business locations. Get your passport at the UTB Chamber office.

NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER

Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center

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 delivery of food and donated items. Mattie Williams is located in Safety Harbor but helps the community well beyond, including Clearwater, Palm Harbor and 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. If you have any donations and cannot get to Mattie Williams Center, please don't hesitate to contact me (Wendie@utbchamber.com) and I will see to it that your donation gets there. Thank you.

Project Pop Drop

November brings Sharon and her band of Angels to New Port Richey to the RAP House. It benefits youth who are abused, abandoned or are runaways. Each year, at this time she goes here so they can enjoy a Thanksgiving meal. The focus on clothing will be for children 10 to 17 years of age and toiletries, nonperishable food, Walmart gift cards, etc. If you would like to join the band of Angels with your kids, it is a great educational moment for them to see how good they have it and how others are not quite so lucky. 727 475-1393 to contact Sharon.

NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER (CONT.)

Tampa Shores Community Church

8307 Double Branch Rd. Tampa, FL 33635, (a little past Race Track Rd. on Hillsborough Rd.)

Wednesday night supper @ 5:30 pm with Bible Study at 6:30 pm

November 7th. Movie on the Lawn is a free event for all to enjoy.

November 12th. Camp True Light - Human Trafficking

For further information regarding times etc. please contact: Stephanie Barr at 727 386-3434 or sbarr@tampashores.org

Oldsmar Cares

Virtual Gala February 18th 2021

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 18th, 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. Browse to <https://oldsmarcares.org/gala> to register, donate or 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.

Networking 4 a Cause: Beachwood Seafood Kitchen and Bar

November 12th. 5:30pm to 8:30pm

Oldsmar Cares is the benefactor of a special event hosted by Networking 4 a Cause on Thursday November 12th at the Beachwood Seafood Kitchen and Bar, 4022 Tampa Road, Oldsmar, FL 34677. This event will be from 5:30pm to 8:30pm, bring a friend and enjoy an evening of networking and fun! For tickets contact oldsmarcare.org.

Oldsmar Cares hours of operation are:

Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00am – noon

Monday and Wednesday 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation

Lunch and Learn anyone? The second Wednesday of the month from noon to 1:00pm, you are cordially invited to come over for a friendly lunch and to see highlights of what is happening at Chi Chi Academy Foundation. Please contact Laura Tobe if interested. If you cannot make the Lunch and Learn tours are available if anyone is interested in the foundation. Contact Laura@chichi.org.

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

NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER (CONT.)

Chi Chi Rodriguez Foundation

The 41st Chi Chi Charity Classic will be held Nov. 8th & 9th 2020. As you know, the current pandemic has affected their ability to host their traditional Chi Chi Charity Classic Fundraiser in November exactly as they have in the past. Instead, the committee has broken this year's event into three parts.

1. Charity Classic – limited capacity golf event on Sunday 11/8 {sold out} and Monday 11/9 {limited availability remain}.
2. Chip in for Chi Chi's – virtual benefit on Monday 11/9 at 6:30 pm hosted live from Amelie Arena with silent auction {though OTEGO} and live auction
3. Chi Chi Challenge – online giving campaign through CharityGoFundMe.

You can learn more about all three parts and register at <https://www.chichi.org/change-a-life>. In addition, they are still looking for anything you would like to put in the player goodie bags or maybe a basket for their silent auction! Virtual Benefit Event Sponsorships are also available for \$1000.

Top of the Bay Kiwanis

**Save the date November 18th, Wine Tasting Event at the Tarpon Woods Golf Club
5:30 pm until 7:00 pm**

Come and enjoy the garden patio area for a nice evening of exquisite wines and fellowship. It is a Wednesday evening and the weather looks promising. So bring your friends and neighbors out for a lovely evening. They are also looking for any company or organization that would like to sponsor one of several tables where they can display their wares to the attendees. Contact Tom Dulaney @dulaney7@tampabay.rr.com.

American Cancer Society

Relay for Life of North Pinellas

The American Cancer Society does wonderful things as we all know. It is a community problem and a community solution at best. Due to Covid19 they are unable to have the Relay for Life walk as they had years past. Therefore, there are several other events taking place that will be needing your support.

Family & Friends Bowling

November 21st, Saturday 5pm till 8 pm

Maple Lanes 27867 US Hwy 19 N Clearwater, Fl. 33761

Cost: Minimum donation \$20.00 per person of which at least \$10.00 will go to the Relay for Life American Cancer Society. Shoe rental is also included.. This will include three games of bowling one that is "Opposite Hand" and one "Between Legs". Event is family friendly with Covid Protocols including mask wearing at tall times, social distancing and lots of hand sanitizer. To book your reservation no later than November 16th, Email team co-captains Tracey Arehart or John Benincasa. Or call 813-276-1666 ext. 115, traceyarehart@hotmail.com or johnb@jhbtele.com

NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER (CONT.)

UTB Chamber

The 19th Hole, Indoor Golf Event.

November 11th, 5:30 pm until 10:00 pm

If you have not done this before you should really try it. It is easy, visit 9 different restaurants or businesses, enjoy free hourdoerves, discount drinks (free for designated driver), play zany putt-putt hole at each location. Lowest scores can earn the coveted plaid jacket for men and the bling jacket for women. Contact: mhowe@utbchamber.com for information.

UTB Chamber Scavenger Hunt

July 10th, December 11th 2020

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 in our area. This is your community and they need you now. Thank you.

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 will be happy to deliver them. Call me at 727 452-1460. I have an idea, how about your business encouraging a contest with employees, 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 us all get together and have some fun.

Passports are \$20.00 (with a value over \$500.00) and include a 100+ participating locations. Visit the locations with your passport. Get a selfie with the Chamber sign placed at each business and post it on Facebook tagging the store and The Upper Tampa Bay Chamber. Show the store manager your post and they will stamp your passport. You have almost 5 months to get your passport completed. Get a gang together and go around or make it a family affair. The businesses are welcoming to visitors no matter if you purchase anything or not. Let us get going, prizes awarded and discounts from so many of the businesses as you go. There will be a Wrap-up party December 11th, 5:30pm until 8:00pm. Check back for the location. Vendor tables available at the wrap up Party (\$50.00).

Conclusion

Well we have had an A to Z hurricane season and at the end of November, it will be over for this year. Blessings abound in different ways let us look for and be thankful for them. The Covid19 situation, presidential race, economic situations and other stressors have been endured these past few months. Prayers are answered in time and better stretches are ahead. We all can weather tough times better by being kinder and calmer. Remember this too shall pass and we will be relieved and happy once again.

Blessings to all,

Wendie Roeper
Nonprofit Liaison
727-452-1460

