



## Nonprofit Newsletter October 2020

### INTRO

October is here already. This year has been the craziest in so much as it has been the longest year and yet here it is already October. Go figure. It is just as crazy as how we have been living of late. Well, October is the tenth month of the calendar year and has 31 days. The birthstone is either an opal or tourmaline. The flower is Calendula and the bird is the Great Horned Owl.

The trees are at their best up north with the colors of the autumn rainbow. A beautiful sight to see. Our weather is going to be just beautiful for the next few days, after all this rain we have been having. I am forever hopeful that we will be safe and healthy this month. It is still the law that we have to wear masks when entering any facility, but the good news is we are open to restaurants and bars if we so chose to. So onward, to count our Blessings as they happen.

### **This month's nonprofit feature: Empath Health**

As a nonprofit, integrated network of care Empath Health supports anyone facing chronic or advanced illness. Many people in the community know our member program Suncoast Hospice, which has provided end-of-life care and support for over 40 years in our community. While we remain committed to our deep roots of hospice care, we provide a variety of other programs and services for people facing chronic or advance illness or dealing with grief.

Founded by volunteers, we could not provide the breadth of services we do without them. Volunteers are a part of everything we do and there are a variety of ways for people to share their time and talents. Our Volunteers provide organizational support in our offices, answering phones, greeting guests, helping in our food pantries, assisting with computer and data entry projects, sorting donations at our three resale shops, and much more. Some volunteers also work directly with those that we serve. Providing a listening ear, grocery shopping or errand running, delivering supplies, honoring military veterans, providing caregiver relief or respite and providing support at one of our inpatient care centers.



We recognize there is not a one-size fits all for volunteers. We work hard to match the skills, interests and availability a volunteer has to share with where our greatest needs are in the organization. This can and does vary by volunteer. While we offer some special one-time only projects, our volunteer programs are designed to provide meaningful ways to serve in an ongoing capacity. For some it may be a few hours per week, others one or two times per month. Some choose to volunteer in multiple areas; others may change roles throughout their time volunteering with Empath Health.

### **Volunteer FAQ:**

- Free orientation, training and education
- Many roles, locations and times available
- Teens ages 14 – 18 (living in or attending a Pinellas County school)
- Adults and groups welcome
- No experience or medical background necessary

This information was provided by Melissa More' MPH Director of Volunteer Services 727 523-3442 or [MelissaMore@thehospice.org](mailto:MelissaMore@thehospice.org)

## **SHOUT OUTS FROM SEPTEMBER**

### **Project POP Drop**

On Saturday September 26<sup>th</sup> Sharon and her band of Angels delivered her wealth of goodies and clothing as well as gift cards from Walmart to Hearts and Hands a Homeless shelter in Tampa. Another month where needs were met by Project Pop Drop. What a continuous Blessing to the community Pop Drop is. For sure Gods hand is felt.

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

The Fall Gourmet Nuts sales started up again and they have been selling the Gourmet Nuts that make great gifts for Thanksgiving and Christmas! The deadline for sales is Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> so that the orders will be in time for Thanksgiving. See Tom Dulaney ([dulaney7@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dulaney7@tampabay.rr.com)) or Wendie Roeper (727 452-1460) for order forms. This is one great way to help children in our community and it gives you pleasure at the same time. It is a win win and a great group. You can be as involved as you want to be. However, this warning, doing for others becomes contagious

### **Chi Chi Rodriquez**

School is back in session and moving right along. The students are happy to be back and so are the staff of the Academy. Everyone is happy to be having a taste of normalcy. Chi Chi's is still ramping up for the November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Charity Golf Tournament it's 41<sup>st</sup>. They are still looking for a few volunteers and for any donations for the virtual Silent Auction. We as a community are blessed to have such a caring Foundation to care for the kids that attend there. It reaches boys and girls that were struggling somehow in other Pinellas schools and brings them up to grade level and above. Yes, a true Blessing.

### **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 them. It is a wonderful thing, as I love to see nonprofits sharing like this.

The Jan Stephenson's Wine Tasting was held for the third month in a row. I would say that the number of people attending keeps growing until the August Tasting was almost a full house. Jan signed every bottle of wine that went out the door. FYI...This would be a great present for birthdays and Christmas for a fan of the Golf Game. It was a very enjoyable early evening again and the food at the Patriots Bar and Grill is discounted 10% during these events.

### **The UTB Education Foundation**

The Education foundation have met 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 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 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 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. Contact: Joe Elmer at 727 741-2555.

### **Road to Recovery Scavenger Hunt**

July 10<sup>th</sup> – December 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Rotary Club of Oldsmar/Eastlake**

On Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> the Rotary Club of Oldsmar/ Eastlake held a blood drive in conjunction with the American Red Cross. The drive was held at the Oldsmar Flea Market. An excellent location for patrons and the motoring public, both east and westbound on Tampa Road, to easily see the BIG RED bus in which the vampires populate the aisles ready to take a pint of blood. That one pint could be responsible for saving the lives of three people. About 100 brave and stalwart donors participated in the drive. A big thank you and a tip o' the Rotary Club of Oldsmar/Eastlake hat to the participants.

## **NONPROFITS ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER**

### **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 collection 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. If you have any donations and cannot get to Mattie Williams Center,

please do not hesitate to contact me ([Wendie@utbchamber.com](mailto:Wendie@utbchamber.com)) and I will see to it that your donation gets there. Thank you.

### **Project Pop Drop**

Where to this month you ask? Well Sharon is collecting for the Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center. October 1<sup>st</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup> Delivery will be on October 24<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in canned or nonperishable foods. New or "Gently Used" clothing, brand new socks, and underwear for men, women and children, toiletries such as deodorant, toothbrushes/toothpaste, shampoos, conditioners hair brushes/combs, chap sticks etc. Walmart Gift Cards also. With your generous donations, people will eat, be clothed and have the necessities that many of us take for granted. Your donations will warm your heart too. If you have any questions or need items to be picked up, please contact SHARON EDWARDS of Project Pop Drop at 727 475-1393

### **Oldsmar Cares**

Oldsmar Cares has yet again been coming to the aid of so many more families than normal, due to this Covid19. 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 580 West, Oldsmar, Florida in the warm but bright yellow building.

### **The 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 1pm you are cordially invited to come over for a friendly lunch and to see the highlights of what is happening at the Chi Chi Academy Foundation. Please contact Laura Tobe if interested. Tours are available if anyone is interested in the Foundation if you cannot make the Lunch and Learn. [Laura@chichi.org](mailto:Laura@chichi.org). Personally, my heart melted when I heard all the good things they are doing and the wonderful outcomes for these children.

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 First Tee classes will begin late September. The classes are for kids from ages five to teen and will be Tuesdays thru Saturdays.

The 41<sup>st</sup> Chi Chi Charity Classic will be held Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> 2020. The golf tournament will be played with a limited field following all safety guidelines, Instead of holding a dinner/program the Foundation will host a Virtual Event with a live and silent auction. They need volunteers for both Sunday and Monday in a variety of jobs. They are looking for auction items to make this event spectacular! Therefore, if any company is looking to involve their employees in an outreach opportunity, they have 20 acrylic jars that need filling. The object is to decide on an item to fill the jar with and have each employee donate one to fill the jar. You can be creative and think of items people would want to bid on, 727 642-6758 for further information.

Remember: When you play or hit balls at the Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club or Driving Range you play with purpose and 25% goes back into the Educational Programs at the Foundation

## **Goodwill – Suncoast**

The good news from Goodwill is that they have opened up the JAG program of youth volunteering once again. They do provide Bright Future points. If you are interested in the Jag program or their adult volunteering opportunities, please contact Jim Hampton, Volunteer Specialist-Jag at 727 440-7912 or [jim.hampton@goodwill-suncoast.org](mailto:jim.hampton@goodwill-suncoast.org). Alternatively, apply on their website: [www.goodwill-suncoast.org](http://www.goodwill-suncoast.org)

## **Top of the Bay Kiwanis**

Are you looking for a way to help out our community? Especially the kids? Good things are happening at the Kiwanis. Under the new President Mike Crippen, who Tom Dulaney says he is the right Captain for our ship. They are going to steer the ship through bluer skies and calmer seas this next year. If you are interested in joining, contact Tom Dulaney at [dulaney7@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dulaney7@tampabay.rr.com). Please think about it! The other thing I want to mention is they are continuing their annual fundraiser selling Gourmet Nuts. If you would like to support the Kiwanis and enjoy really good nuts, Please contact Tom at the above email address. The proceeds will go to their annual Bill Greer Memorial Zoo day for the students and families of the Paul B Stephens School for exceptional students. (Special Needs Students). PS I got cashews and oh, my goodness are they ever big and tasty. Um um good.

## **American Cancer Society**

### **Relay for Life of North Pinellas**

Every year The American Cancer Society has a fundraiser to help fight this horrid disease. The pandemic has shown us that signing up for your local Relay for Life, is less about participating in and attending an event, and that it's ALL about supporting the American Cancer Society in the fight against a disease that has taken far too much for far too long. If you would like to be part of raising money for this event, please go to [onlineeventsupport@cancer.org](mailto:onlineeventsupport@cancer.org). It's actually fun, get a few of your friends together and work at getting donations, by asking friends and family or holding a bake sale, (they still work) or whatever suits your fancy. The benefits are numerous. We all know someone who has had this disease if not we ourselves. Let us join and make a difference.

## **Career Source Pinellas**

They encourage individuals to register in Employ Florida in order to attend events and to apply for career opportunities. If there are any questions, employers or individuals can contact Rebecca Kyker 727 608-2301 or Pam Perkins 727 608-2407

### Professional Networking Group Wednesdays from 1-2pm

register: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/uJUduyspzwoHB\\_XR-K27dDb5MWD3iYc5Q](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/uJUduyspzwoHB_XR-K27dDb5MWD3iYc5Q)

### Career Networking Group Thursday from 10am -11am

Register: <http://rb.gy/75nfym>

### Veterans Networking Group 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 10am-11am 10/13 and 10/27/20

Register: <http://bit.ly/20rmbyP>

These networking groups provide dynamic speakers and topics, and engaging conversation, followed by job opportunities. Anyone is welcome and all groups and services are at no cost. They are always looking for community leaders and employers to volunteer as speakers or to highlight their job opportunities at the end of each session.

## **UTB Chamber, Road to Recovery Scavenger**

**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 will be happy to deliver them. Call me at 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 us all get together and have some fun. Passports are \$20.00 (with a value over \$500.00) 100+ participating locations, visit the locations listed in the passport for special deals. 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. Almost 5 months to get your passport completed. There will be a Wrap-up party December 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm until 8:00pm. Check back for the location. Vendor tables available at the wrap up Party (\$50.00). Get a gang together and go around or make it a family affair. The businesses are welcoming visitors no matter if you purchase anything or not.

### **Conclusion**

The perfect weather has been a relief from all the rain of late. It is refreshing and almost giving us a skip in our step. A relief so to speak. Enjoy it as it flies by quickly. I am still in prayer that all of us escape the wrath of the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, the hurricanes have run through our alphabet and are now into the Greek Alphabet, haven't we been blessed here in our area with no direct effects? Enjoy your October and try to involve yourself with any of the Nonprofits members of the Chamber.

Blessings to you,

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

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