



Nonprofit Newsletter November 2019

## INTRO

November – The last full month of Autumn. The days grow shorter, and on Sunday the third we turned back the clocks an hour and we all enjoyed an extra hour of sleep. The gem for this month is the Topaz which symbolizes friendship. Scorpio and Sagittarius are the two signs of the zodiac that are sharing the month of November. There are five holidays in this month: 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls Day, 1<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day, 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day and 29<sup>th</sup>. Who could forget Black Friday? I included that as a reminder to those who enjoy starting your Christmas shopping.

**This month's featured nonprofit is:**

**RCS**

**Religious Community Services**

**503 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue Clearwater, Florida 33756**

**727 584-3528**

**RCS's Mission: To feed the hungry, help families facing homelessness return to self-sufficiency and empower survivors of domestic violence.**

In 1967, fifteen local congregations of varying faiths and ethnicities came together to provide help and hope to people in need. Pinellas County grew, and with it grew the demand and the need for a helping hand. Determined to make a difference, this group of leaders studied the needs of the



RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY SERVICES INC ...  
guidestar.org

Community and pooled their resources to provide efficient, secular services to the people of Pinellas County. Together, they founded RCS of Pinellas.

That focus remains strong today as RCS directs their resources to people facing hunger, homelessness, domestic violence and basic needs. RCS has evolved into a cooperative of professional staff members, integral volunteers, and partnering faith congregations delivering reliable services to those most vulnerable in Pinellas County. RCS Pinellas continues to use research, communication and best practices to be a premier community based agency providing Help & Hope for People in Need.

What an incredible year it has been for RCS! They are more than grateful for the selfless generosity shown by over 3000 donors and volunteers. There is no RCS without each of them. As you can see below they were able to successfully serve thousands of our neighbors in need this year. The leaderships of Outgoing Board Chair John Goldsmith ESQ. and new Board Chair, Dave Siracusa and the Directorial and Management Skills of President and CEO Kirk Ray Smith Sr. has produced an astonishing amount of help to so many in need.

### HOUSING

**The Grace House** 1552 S. Myrtle Ave Clearwater, Florida 33756 727 446-5964

Provided 23,000 bed nights in a shelter apartment for families at the RCS Grace House. Served 400 homeless moms, dads and children at the Grace House.

**Affordable Housing** 1520 N. Saturn Ave Clearwater, Florida 727 584-3528

Housed 35 adults and Children in safe living through RCS Affordable Housing.

### Food Insecurity

**RCS Food Bank** 700 Druid Rd. Clearwater, Florida 33756 727 443-4031

Served 60,000 individuals at the RCS Food Bank

Provided 2.25 million lbs of food directly to their guests

Provided 2.75 million lbs of food directly to area agencies (nearly 100 agencies)

Distributed 740,000 lbs of fresh produce.

### Domestic Violence

**The Haven of RCS** Confidential Location Clearwater, Florida 727 441-2029

Provided 12,500 safe nights for women and children at the Haven

Assisted 15,000 with services through the Outreach Center  
Received 3,800 Outreach Hotline calls  
Delivered Peacemaker and Youth Advocate presentations to 7,500 men women and children

### **Basic Needs**

Provided 550 guests with basic needs through the RCS Thrift Store  
Provided 75 homeless individuals with basic needs through the RCS Thrift Store  
Served 85 families through Energy Assistance.

As a community, we are Blessed to have RCS in our midst. If any of you might have a few spare hours each week, we could help them continue the good works they are doing.

APPEAL 365 - Is how we can help them help so many.

ADVOCACY – Understanding and willingness to take the TIME to communicate to RCS

VOLUNTEERISM – willingness to share individual and group Talent with RCS

FINANCIAL SUPPORT – ability and commitment to provide financial TREASURE in support of RCS.

### **SHOUT OUTS FROM OCTOBER**

Chamber of Commerce – Oktoberfest Thank you to all the brave volunteers who came out to help in the worst of weather conditions. This is me, Wendie saying a HUGE THANK YOU to Jerry Peruzzi, Mark Howe, Joe Elmer for the hard work of not only working the days of the events but the many, many humid filled days it took to even get the Oktoberfest off its feet to begin.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Manufacturers Awards Dinner was held at Niensens. Huge turn out and wonderful meal, with of course, lots of Relationship Building done.

Every Wednesday in the Chamber Conference Room a Lunch and Learn is held. The subjects, all around success in your business or charity, change weekly as does the menu of food that is provided. Lots of Learning and Relationship Building is accomplished.

October 16<sup>th</sup> Joint Chambers, UTB and Palm Harbor mixer at Maple Lanes was enjoyed by all in attendance. Lots of Relationship Building done.

Pop Drop October 22<sup>nd</sup> brought great Joy to Mattie Williams Neighborhood Center in Safety Harbor. Sharon and her band of Angels donated Clothing, Food, and Walmart Gift Cards. This is an ongoing event each month. You can deposit your donations to the Chamber Office or at any of the 40 some PoP DroP Boxes in businesses in the area. It does take a Village.

The Chamber continues to Grow. What a Blessing, there were three Ribbon Cuttings during the month of October. 17<sup>th</sup> Nine Eagles Dental Care, 24<sup>th</sup> TLC Adult Day Care, 25<sup>th</sup> Kiddie Academy.

Once again, a time to forge Relationships

## ACTIVITIES OF NONPROFITS

### Score

Free workshops helping you with your business successes

Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Best Practices on Buying a Franchise Business 6 pm Largo Library 120 Central Park Dr. Largo

Nov 7<sup>th</sup> You Tube Marketing 5:30 pm Oldsmar Library 400 St. Petersburg Drive East Oldsmar

The Guide to Growing your Instagram Following Fast 6 pm The Greenhouse 440 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave North, St. Pete

Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Encore Entrepreneurs Starting a business after 50 6 pm Clearwater Main Library 100 N Osceola Ave Rm ES113 Clearwater. A second offering of this course of Encore Entrepreneurs will be held at the Largo Library Nov 19<sup>th</sup> 6 pm These programs are presented by successful business men and women in our own community.

For other courses throughout the county go to [pinellascountyscore.org](http://pinellascountyscore.org)

### Relationship Builders

Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Aston Gardens 7:30 til 9 am 12951 W. Limebaugh Ave. Tampa, Fl 33626

Nov 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Flamestone Restaurant 11:30 til 1 pm 4009 Tampa Rd. Oldsmar Fl 34677

Speed Networking Luncheon If you haven't tried this Chamber Event, I invite you to come and enjoy this time. You get to spend time sharing your business or nonprofit information in a more intimate scene. 6 to 8 people at a table and you rotate tables to meet new folks as the bell rings. This is a great way to gain Relationships. Nov 12, 11:30 to 1:30 pm Hampton Inn Oldsmar, Fl

Top of the Bay Kiwanis will have an Annual luncheon at the Clearwater Free Clinic where our TOTBKC Foundation Dr. of the Year Award is present along with a nice TOTBKC contribution to the the Clinic. Also Nov 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Turkeys will be distributed from 8:15 am til 5 pm. This is another great Organization who are always looking to gain members.

The Chamber is presenting: A Holiday Scavenger Hunt

Nov 18<sup>th</sup> thru Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 2019

Applications at Chamber Office or any of the Relationship builders events. \$25.00 You will receive a Passport, and then visit as many as 45 businesses, take a selfie with the clue given and post it on Facebook, tagging the store and the # UTB Life. Show the store Manager your post and they will stamp your passport. There will be a wrap up Party Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Inn, Oldsmar. 5:30 til 8 pm. Not only will you have fun, you will visit many more stores, and where you might just find the perfect Christmas gift for your list, and then you might just win one of the great prizes being offered. Yup, you guessed it, you can gain additional Relationships.

### SCORE

Free workshops offered on many aspects of businesses in convenient locations

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I am really wanting to invite all the Non Profit members to think about getting more involved with the Chamber activities. Getting to know other members and allowing them to know you and your nonprofit can only enhance the lives of all.

Just thinking about:

May you have a little sunlight  
to guide you on your way,  
May you discover , little by little,  
happiness that's here to stay!

On that note, I'll wish each and every one of you a very, very Happy Thanksgiving. Blessings!

**Wendie Roeper**

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