



Nonprofit Newsletter October 2019

INTRO

October is a New Month, with a Clean Slate, and Fresh Beginnings. May every day in October give you all strength, courage, renewed hope, strong faith, inner peace and the Blessings of Autumn. I realize this is the month of increased hurricane activity in the Caribbean area. We will keep a watchful eye out; however, I have a feeling that all will be well this season.

This month's featured nonprofit is: **The Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center**

The Mattie Williams Neighborhood Family Center is a nonprofit human service organization with a designated service area of Eastern Clearwater, Safety Harbor, and Oldsmar. The service area includes significant pockets of minority concentrations and single parent female head of households and an increasing number of families living in poverty. Ninety-nine percent of the families served by the Center have incomes below 80% of average median income levels.

The Center's mission is to nurture and strengthen children, youth, adults, their families and communities through support services, education, and collaborative partnerships to improve lives and achieve self-sufficiency. We accomplish this mission through partnerships with other agencies, educational programs, and family support assistance. The number of people that are served has tripled in the last four years due to the economic challenges more families are facing. A high percentage of our clients are working poor.

Their motto is to "BRIDGE THE GAP" using a combination of services to help individuals and families to stay in their homes and keep the family together. There are four main components to this effort: **critical basic needs, financial assistance, career development, and youth development {school readiness/school success}**.

Critical basic needs

Critical basic needs include free food, clothing and hygiene products. The Food Pantry provides food to families living in our service area. Volunteers run the food distribution operation with staff oversight and support. Emergency food on an as needed basis is distributed throughout the week. Holiday Baskets, both Thanksgiving and Christmas are distributed. The Clothing Closet provides free clothing to those in need including those who are homeless. On a daily basis, personal items not covered by food stamps like deodorants, shampoo, soap, diapers, wipes etc. can be obtained as well. Mattie's Kids Program also covers shoes and clothing for the children. Every Friday approximately 30



children identified by the schools and Community Police Officers receive a backpack filled with ready to eat food for the weekend. This program has been a great success.

Financial Assistance

Financial Assistance is the second component of the Bridge the Gap. Thanks to fundraising efforts, they can provide limited financial support to families facing shut off of water or electricity. If children are in the home and these basic services are turned off, then the children may be taken into DCF custody. If they know about this type of situation, they prevent the child from going through that experience. Mattie Williams provides assistance with transportation and housing

emergencies, such as gas vouchers, bus passes and rental assistance. As an ACCESS site, they assist families and individuals in filling out online applications for food stamps, Medicaid and cash assistance.

The bilingual staff members on site can assist those with language challenges. Last year they provided more than \$45,000 in financial assistance, which included paying water bills to the Cities of Clearwater, Safety Harbor and Oldsmar. Indirect assistance includes providing holiday gifts for children of families facing financial hardship. Last December, they gave out gifts to 554 children. Many of these helps are grounding folks into a more stable life.

Career Development

This is designated to assist people in making significant changes to improve their overall situation and move toward self-sufficiency. The Family Assistance Coach works one on one with individuals to help them achieve their long-term goals. They aid with resume writing and review and development of interviewing skills for those seeking employment. They utilize the computer lab to provide basic classes for adults in popular office software and find job opportunities. The computer lab also serves the children and keeps them from falling behind in school.

Youth Development

Mattie Williams Center pays close attention to the progress of the children preparing them for school. Their back to school program provides the necessary supplies to enable children to start the school year off with the tools they need. In August, they handed out more than 452 backpacks filled with school supplies. In addition, their Bright Ideas Youth Development programs served 101 students in their After-School Programs and 76 children in the Summer Camp program. The summer programs have played a significant role in preventing summer learning loss many students experience.

I think we can all say Congratulations to Janet Hooper and troops for doing such a wonderful job of caring, sharing and making a Huge Difference. Our very own Mark Howe is the President of the nonprofit Board at this present time. Kudos to all.

SHOUT OUT FROM SEPTEMBER

Pop Drop: September 28th

Sharon and her band of Angels landed at the Homeless Empowerment Program at the Homeless Shelter of Clearwater; another powerful experience delivering much needed food and clothing for their thrift store.

Super Fit Kidz: September 15th

Connie Jo Russo worked diligently to produce a fun filled Sunday at Our Lady of Lourdes Comm Center. Faith, Family and Fundraiser was a huge success. Exercise and proper eating was the call of the day. Bowling, golf putting, volleyball, basketball, soccer and jumping up and down by a great number of children aging 4 to 14. A great time was had by all.

Mattie Williams

Held their 25th Anniversary party on the 14th of September at their facility. It was very well attended by so many grateful attendees. PS...they always have such great delicious food at their events.

RCS

Held their Appreciation Luncheon on September 24th at the St Petersburg Campus in South St.Pete. This is another wonderful Nonprofit that have the majority of what they accomplish done through volunteerism.

JUNE ACTIVITIES OF NONPROFITS

Score

Free workshops helping you with your business successes

10/8	Clearwater Library:	You Tube Marketing
10/17	Oldsmar Library:	Social Media Marketing
10/24	Oldsmar Library:	Take your Business Higher Through Better Hiring

For other courses throughout the county go to pinellascountyscore.org

UTB Chamber of Commerce- Oktoberfest!

Oct. 18th, 19th, & 20th

Oct. 25th & 26th

(Two Weekends)

Upper Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce is putting on the Annual Oktoberfest. We want you to attend and enjoy the Knockwurst, Beer, Music and Dancing as well as the Corgi Races, Wiener Dog Derby, Vendors, Contests, Log Sawing, Stein Holding, Barrel Roll and Keg Hurling. No one walks away without having great time. Did I forget the VW Car show? Well the old air cooled VW's will be there on Saturday the 26th providing a Trunk or Treat for the kids.

I feel somewhat like the WWII sign of Uncle Sam that says. We Want You! We do want you: To sign up to help the Chamber put on another superb event. You can sign up on our website or call me with the days and times you can help us out.

UTB Chamber of Commerce

Wednesday October 16th

Mixer – Maple Lanes

This will be a Joint Mixer with the UTB Chamber and Palm Harbor Chamber at Maple Lanes, come and enjoy. Bowling lanes are available after the mixer to keep the fuun rolling (pun intended).

I hope you all have the Successful Month I'm projecting on you. Blessings and Enjoy

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