



2017 SOCIAL DATEBOOK
2018 & CHARITY REGISTER



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ethan Murrow doesn't try to preach through his artwork. Rather, he prefers to call attention to certain situations, then let viewers of his photorealistic drawings mull the message and meaning before reaching their own conclusions.

The impetus for "Plethora," Ethan Murrow's wall drawing shown on the cover, was to call attention to, and inspire thoughts about, hunger, greed, consumption, and privilege.

"Plethora was five artists, myself included, working on a project that depicted a figure in front of a big table full of food. The figure was kind of protecting the food as if no one else could have access to it," Murrow said. "We're trying to raise questions about what it means to have access to food and to have choices about food. Because most people don't have choices."

After editing nearly 600 photographs to form a template, Murrow drew with Sharpies – going through approximately 800 of the black ink markers – using a projected photograph to create the artwork on a grand, and extremely detailed, scale. Working with a team of four other artists, Murrow logged long hours over a 12-day period to complete the project.

MOCA Jacksonville named Murrow the 2017 recipient of the Brooke and Hap Stein Emerging Artist Prize. Murrow donated \$1,000 of his Stein Prize stipend to Feeding Northeast Florida. It marked the second financial donation he's made to the food bank since completing Plethora on July 15, 2016.

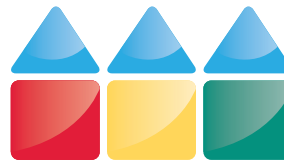
A Boston, Massachusetts resident, Murrow, 42, received his bachelor's degree from Carleton College and his Master's in Fine Art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His work has been exhibited in Paris, Brussels, Los Angeles and New York. Murrow is a professor at the Museum School at Tufts University in Massachusetts.



"We're trying to raise questions about what it means to have access to food and to have choices about food."



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THE WOMEN'S BOARD

WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



The Women's Board is proud of its many decades of support for Wolfson Children's Hospital, bringing together a myriad of supporters and volunteers to raise more than \$30 million for Wolfson since its inception in 1973. The all-volunteer Women's Board has grown from 41 to over 400 members devoted to raising community awareness and funds for the only dedicated children's inpatient health care facility between Orlando and Atlanta.

2017 marks the final year of an ambitious five-year, \$4 million-dollar fundraising campaign to create a Pediatric Surgery Center of Distinction at Wolfson, focused on enabling

the most skilled surgical staff to advance surgical techniques, expand the use of minimally invasive and robotic surgery and meet the needs of pediatric trauma patients.

In addition, the Cavert Legacy Society Endowment, named for founder Ellen Cavert, has been established to support the mission of The Women's Board.

Looking ahead, plans are under way to build a new medical tower, and The Women's Board is ready for its next challenge, raising funds for a state-of-the-art Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We look forward to strengthening partnerships with our supporters as we help to ensure the advancement of first-rate medical care for all children in our region.



PAST FUNDING TARGETS

- ⚙ *The Pediatric Surgery Center of Distinction*
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- ⚙ *Kids Kare Pediatric Ambulances*
- ⚙ *Children's Radiology*
- ⚙ *Pediatric Cardiovascular Program*
- ⚙ *Children's Emergency Center*
- ⚙ *Newborn Intensive Care Unit*

The Women's Board produces **two major events** that together raise more than **\$1 million a year** for Wolfson Children's Hospital.



George W. Bush

The Florida Forum, since 1992, has brought renowned speakers from around the world. Featuring monarchs, entertainers, pundits, business heavyweights, sports heroes, heads of state and more, the Florida Forum has enriched the intellectual and cultural life of Jacksonville for more than 25 years.



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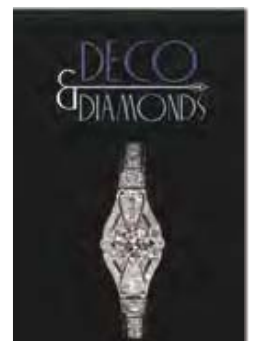


Bill Clinton

The Art & Antiques Show is the anticipated social kickoff to the holiday season. Starting with a black-tie gala, the show lasts four days and features lectures by iconic designers, architects and event planners, and top-of-the-line antiques dealers from around the country and Europe. The weekend includes the much-loved Children's Fashion Show, featuring current and former patients of Wolfson Children's Hospital.



2017



2011



The Women's Board strives to **further awareness** in the community of the services and facilities of Wolfson Children's Hospital and to **raise funds** to ensure the finest available **pediatric health care**.



1977



1988



1997

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

Years before we decided to launch *Circles—Social Datebook and Charity Register*, we were already aware of the truly charitable nature of the people who live in Northeast Florida, many of whom are nearly our next-door neighbors. We witnessed the constant giving natures of residents young and old, natives and newcomers. And, as parents, we pondered how to inspire and instill that same philanthropic nature in our own daughters.

Children, we know, learn by example. Earlier this year, our oldest daughter visited Sulzbacher Center, where she witnessed the plight of several homeless families and saw the important support one nonprofit can provide. Her experience sparked our desire to dig deeper into the magnitude of this serious problem, where one in six residents make the tough choice daily between eating or paying rent, and one in four children head to school hungry.

It is our hope that by shining a light on a sampling of the many local nonprofits and volunteers in Jacksonville who work daily to feed the hungry we might assist in making a tangible difference so all those in need in Northeast Florida may be better fed.

In addition to our feature story, *Circles* includes a list of hundreds of charitable organizations served by thousands of volunteers who generously give even more man-hours to fill the needs of those less fortunate. Also in the magazine, you'll find page after page of the hundreds of charity events next year, from the 5Ks to the festivals, from golf tournaments to galas – funded by the many benevolent donors who care enough to change our corner of Florida.

And, in order to do our small part in affecting positive change, we also rely on the support of all our readers and advertisers. We especially appreciate the munificent support this year of Baptist Health and the Law Firm of Pajcic & Pajcic, both of which so willingly champion our publications with such open hearts. Our gratitude overflows for the public-spirited support of every advertiser who seeks promotion within these pages. Without them, this magazine would not be possible, and our service to our community would not be able to grow.

Pamela & Seth Williams

PUBLISHERS





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TABLE *of* CONTENTS

10. RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SELFLESSLY SERVE

Celebrating National Philanthropy Day

12. FOOD INSECURITY IN FOCUS

Profiling impactful organizations

47. THE GRACE IN HER GIFTS

A tale of one girl who saved six lives

48. SERIOUS ABOUT BOARD SERVICE

Leaders share their personal perspectives

54. AN INSIDE LOOK: GIVING CIRCLES

Where charity's sum is greater than its parts

58. AWARENESS FOR OUR DISABLED GROWS

Heightening mindfulness and engagement

68. CHARITY REGISTER

Where to look for giving and serving opportunities

103. YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

Energized youth inspire others

112. THE HEALING POWER OF PETS

Just what the doctor ordered

120. SOCIAL DATEBOOK

Something for everyone – the most comprehensive nonprofit fundraising event guide in Northeast Florida

120. December 2017

122. January 2018

124. February 2018

128. March 2018

132. April 2018

140. May 2018

146. June & July 2018

148. August 2018

150. September 2018

154. October 2018

162. November 2018

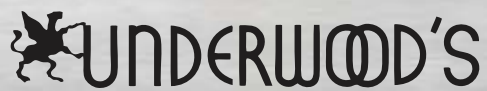


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*Jacksonville's guide to philanthropy — the events, people,
companies, and places that define our charitable city.*

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Honoring those who make a mark

Thanks to the continual efforts of individuals, corporations and fundraising professionals in our community, their gifts of time, expertise and resources contribute significantly to the quality of life on the First Coast.

Each year the Florida First Coast Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) honors those donors, volunteers and professionals at the National Philanthropy Day Awards Luncheon, this year held Nov. 14 at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront.

National Philanthropy Day acknowledges the entire spectrum of services that the nonprofit, civic, and service sectors provide, as well as the profound impact that philanthropy has on the fabric of society. Join us in publicly acknowledging and expressing appreciation for the 2017 National Philanthropy Day Award Winners.



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Wolfson Children's Hospital and K9s for Warriors

Outstanding Small Business

Magna's - A Full Body Salon

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Food Insecurity BY THE Numbers

By Marcia Hodgson

Hunger knows no boundaries. It affects people in rural and urban areas, the college-educated and the uneducated, single-parent households, families supported by two breadwinners, and elderly citizens on fixed incomes. Not everyone who stands in a Jacksonville breadline is necessarily homeless.

According to Feeding Northeast Florida, Jacksonville's largest food bank, more than a quarter of a million people in the counties of Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam, and St. Johns have no idea where their next meal is coming from, and the most disturbing part is more than 80,000 of them are children.

One common definition of food insecurity is the ability for a family to feed itself three out of four weeks per month, said Hunger Fight Co-Founder Dean Porter. "The problem is that there is always a fourth week, so a lot of people need assistance."

In Jacksonville, two out of five Duval County residents live in poverty or at poverty's edge, according to the 2015 census, which defines poverty as a family comprised of two adults and two children living on \$24,000 or less a year. Families that make less \$48,000 are considered to live on the edge of poverty, and 39.6 percent of Duval County residents are in that category.

One in six adults and one in four children in Northeast Florida live in poverty or on its edge, and one in five adult Duval County residents are food insecure, according to statistics provided by Feeding Northeast Florida and the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM).

Along the coast, 13 percent of Atlantic Beach residents are food insecure and 23 percent of that population are children. In Jacksonville Beach the numbers are higher – 22 percent of the population and 11 percent, children. Neptune Beach boasts 7 percent, 2 percent children, and 5 percent of Ponte Vedra kids suffer from food insecurity, according to Betsy Fallon of BEAM.

In fact, in Duval County, of the 42,500 Title 1 elementary school students who receive a free or reduced lunch provided by the USDA's National School Lunch program, 29 percent eat two or less meals a day, said Porter.

According to Kristen Anderson of Feeding Northeast Florida, the face of hunger looks like this: 57 percent are families with adults working full or part-time; 29 percent are children under 18; 15 percent are seniors over 65; 87 percent live in permanent housing; and 20 percent have at least one family member who has served in the military. Fifty-nine percent of the food insecure are forced to choose daily between buying food or paying rent; 68 percent choose between eating or medical care; and 69 percent have no reliable transportation.

Senior citizens, who live on Social Security or a tiny pension, often find their situation is complicated by multiple chronic health conditions, which hamper their ability to fix themselves a good nutritious meal. According to the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, more than 4,300 seniors need nutritional aid, said Rosa Rivera of Aging True.

Lack of affordable housing is another problem plaguing the region's hungry. In Duval County the fair-market cost to rent a two-bedroom apartment is \$910 a month, according to BEAM. Families need to earn \$36,000 a year or \$17.50 an hour to be able to afford the rent, said Fallon, adding that breadwinners earning minimum wage (\$7.79 an hour) need to work at least 98 hours a week to pay the fee.

Often cheaper housing lies in "food deserts," areas of the city that have no mainstream supermarkets and lack access to affordable food. In Duval County, food deserts are sorted into seven clusters, and the majority lie within the I-295 beltway, according to Lauren Weedon Hopkins of Catholic Charities. "There are roughly 177,000 food insecure individuals living in these clusters," she said.

"It is up to the community to pioneer innovative solutions and collaborations to break the cycle of poverty."

Also, homelessness has increased 33 percent in Jacksonville over the past year, according to Penny Kievet of the City Rescue Mission, where on any given day nearly 500 residents are provided food, clothing, and/or shelter. Florida ranks 14th in the United States in homeless population, and there are more than 400 homeless citizens in Downtown Jacksonville alone.

In feeding the hungry, it is important to give "people a hand up not a hand out," said JuCoby Pittman of Clara White Mission.

"It's critical that we help individuals and families move towards economic stability, including employment and housing," agreed Bernice Mauras of Community Health Outreach.

Society needs to recognize the issue at hand and educate itself on the available resources that currently exist, said Hopkins. "To make a lasting impact and eventually alleviate the problem, it is up to the community to pioneer innovative solutions and collaborations to break the cycle of poverty," she said.

Individuals can do their part by supporting local food charities through food donations, financial help, and volunteer hours.

Also important is becoming "more compassionate toward our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity," said Kelly Belich of The Salvation Army. "We need to share stories about the people who are suffering in this way and shine a light on the issue to hopefully lessen the stigma and the shame people feel when they face food insecurity."

Aging True employees and volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to clients and their pets.



- Aging True -

Delivering hot, fresh meals door to door

It's no secret that many Northeast Florida seniors suffer from food insecurity.

Aging True, a leading provider of programs that help Jacksonville's older residents maintain their independence and age gracefully, is a major force in working to alleviate hunger among the elderly and disabled through its Meals on Wheels program.

"With the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, the largest in American history, each year brings an increase in the number of seniors in Duval County. This in turn indicates that more and more seniors are or will be in need of nutritional services, be it for health or financial reasons," said Rosa Rivera, development coordinator with Aging True.

"The seniors we serve have an ongoing problem with food insecurity. In addition to having a limited, fixed income, our seniors suffer from multiple chronic health conditions that severely limit their ability to prepare food. Getting a fully prepared, individually packaged and nutrient-analyzed meal delivered to the door daily is a team project," she said.

Founded in 1962, under the moniker of Cathedral Foundation of Jacksonville and in partnership with Urban Jacksonville, Inc., the

nonprofit changed its name to Aging True in 2011 to "better reflect the services we provide and the seniors we serve," according to its website.

"Over 50 years ago, Aging True organized Jacksonville's first Meals on Wheels program. As a member of Meals on Wheels America, it is the only program in the city to qualify as an actual meal delivery program," Rivera explained.

"What sets us apart, aside from our affiliation with the national brand, are the hot, fresh meals delivered every day to each of our clients," she said. "While some clients may receive frozen food, depending on their area or by request, 98 percent of all clients receive a meal that was cooked earlier that morning."

Through its Meals on Wheels program, Aging True currently serves more than 800 clients and has more than 700 homebound seniors on its waiting list, Rivera said. All Meals on Wheels clients also receive nutrition and health education via a monthly newsletter and are eligible for one-on-one nutritional counseling.

Under the watchful eye of a registered dietitian, nearly 300,000 meals are prepared and packaged by Aging True staff and delivered by Meals

on Wheels drivers and community volunteers 252 days per year, she said, noting the menus meet 100 percent of the United States Department of Agriculture recommendations for a senior population. In October 2017, the nonprofit hired a new registered dietitian who updated the monthly menus, Rivera said.

More than 800 meals are delivered to the residences of homebound seniors by staff and volunteers, which travel nearly 300 miles a day. Volunteering for the organization are individuals and groups from businesses, churches, civic organizations, as well as fraternities and sororities, who pick up meals from designated drop sites and deliver them on the same route at least once a month. Providing their own transportation, the volunteers typically cover a route of less than 10 miles, which can be completed within 60 minutes, according to the nonprofit's website.

Not only do volunteers deliver food to elderly residents who have little support, no transportation, and live on meager fixed incomes, they also assist seniors by providing kind words, a warm smile, and a community connection – a daily safety check for the client.

In addition to serving senior residents, Aging True also has a Pet Meals on Wheels program, to provide nutritious, high-quality meals to the dogs and cats owned by homebound seniors, according to the website.

"At Aging True, we tell anyone who will listen about the needs that our seniors have and how much a gift of time or money will help us in our mission to support their health," Rivera said.

Donations support the purchase of food, truck maintenance, administrative costs and rental space. "For those who have the time and interest in community work, we have a team of Meals on Wheels delivery volunteers, and we are always working to increase our ranks," she said.

The nonprofit annually receives funds from the City of Jacksonville and the national association, Meals on Wheels America. Also providing regular philanthropic support are Underhill Home Healthcare, KC Petroleum, and Publix Supermarket Charities.

Aging True seeks to increase donations to its \$1.7 million Meals on Wheels program "so it can afford to take on more clients at a faster pace," said Rivera.

The nonprofit also hopes to find a new volunteer drop site in Jacksonville so it can reach more people and increase the number of routes it can service, she said. "These drop sites are assigned volunteers by our in-house coordinator or via their own recruitment," Rivera explained.

"We expect this number to increase as the need arises in the city," she said. "We are working to receive more support from the community in the form of individual donations, corporate partnerships, and grants."

"Getting a fully prepared, individually packaged and nutrient-analyzed meal delivered to the door daily is a team project."



Meals on Wheels Driver Tom Doyle

VOLUNTEER WORK FILLS GAP AFTER RETIREMENT

After his 2006 retirement from his mail route with the United States Postal Service, Tom Doyle's wife, Lois, soon became a "volunteer widow."

Ready for a new adventure "doing anything," Doyle began volunteering for Meals on Wheels. He also currently serves on the board of directors for The Women's Help Center, a crisis pregnancy facility, and for Hurley Manor, a retirement community near the Jacksonville University campus, and also serves as well on the steering committee for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store on Beach Boulevard.


"After I retired from the U.S. Post Office in January 2006, I walked the street and looked after the people on my route," Doyle recalled. "I'd been on the same route for over 20 years and saw little kids grow up and come back and show me their little kids."

"All those years of service to my community aimed me in the right direction, because after I retired and had hung around on the couch for about a month and a half, I had the itch to do something, ANYTHING," he said. "I am 70 years old and have been blessed with a great family and good health. We all need to be thankful to God for all our blessings and to pass on those blessings to those less fortunate."

Doyle got his start with the Aging True Meals on Wheels program when a friend, the local coordinator for Meals on Wheels, asked if he would like to be a volunteer.

"A few years later, she wanted to retire and I was left to take over the route," he said, adding that he has delivered hot meals to shut-in seniors on the Southside for more than 11 years and has been coordinator for his "5-B Trinity" route for the past eight years.

"The Meals on Wheels people we serve are not our clients but our neighbors," Doyle said. "If your neighbor would come to your door asking for a cup of sugar or flour, would you turn them down? To some of these people we are the only ones they see each day, and we are their only contact with the outside world. We need to keep an eye on them and offer them our attention, service and help."



BEAM's organic garden serves the Jacksonville's beach communities.

- Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry -

BEAM answers need for crisis help in beach communities

Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) envisions a future in which no resident of Jacksonville's beach communities goes hungry or is haunted by fear of eviction. Since the nonprofit's inception 32 years ago, it has expanded both in program and facilities to better make this vision a reality.

"There is a tremendous need to address critical issues affecting food access of our low-income residents," said Betsy Fallon, BEAM interim executive director. "BEAM is a community-based 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, which offers a comprehensive set of services that combine to move clients to self-sufficiency. It is safe to say that it is recognized by community leaders, families, and partners as the largest comprehensive agency in the beaches area providing services that help deserving neighbors in times of need."

Founded in 1985 by several local churches, BEAM was created to "answer the large need for crisis help in Jacksonville's beach communities," said Fallon. The churches pooled their resources to form a nonprofit in order to prevent duplication of services and provide emergency financial assistance in a coordinated way to low-income residents of Mayport, Mayport Naval Station, Atlantic Beach, Neptune Beach, Jacksonville

Beach, Ponte Vedra Beach, and those living immediately west of the Intercoastal Waterway between Atlantic and Beach Boulevards.

Most BEAM clients live in households at 125 percent of the poverty level. The majority – 93 percent – are families, typically with an unemployed single parent supporting at least two children. Other significant groups it serves include people with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren, and families of the active military. "In the beaches communities, the cost to stabilize a family facing possible homelessness continues to rise with escalating rents and higher utility bills in an economy where wage increases have not kept pace," Fallon said.

The nonprofit's services include two food pantries – in Jacksonville Beach and Mayport – which distribute more than 56,000 pounds or \$95,000 of food each month. It also owns and manages a 6,500-square-foot organic garden, which annually produces more than 7,500 pounds of fresh, nutritious produce for its clients.

BEAM provides rent and utility assistance of approximately \$250,000 per year to help more than 600 qualified families avoid eviction or utility disconnection. Through a partnership with Florida's Department of Children and Families, BEAM assists approximately 1,700 clients with

SNAP (food stamp program) and Medicaid assistance. Its Single Parent Project provides intensive case management services to help raise families out of poverty, and it hosts events such as a Thanksgiving food drive and Back-to-School with BEAM, where more than 1,000 children receive clothing, school supplies, and new backpacks.

Major growth in its food distribution capabilities was made possible by the Beaches Community Food Bank (BCFB), which opened in 2016. In 2014, BEAM and Beach Church in Jacksonville Beach led a coalition to secure the old post office on 3rd Street in Jacksonville Beach, renovating 3,000 square feet and securing funding to purchase a large refrigerator, freezer, fork lift, and other equipment.

"BEAM was selected to operate the food bank because of its excellent reputation and established relationships with area food retailers," said Fallon, noting it distributes nearly 1 million pounds of food per year.

BEAM's Paths to Wellness Program (P2W) started in January 2015 and provides on-going, no-cost educational assistance to clients about healthy eating from a registered dietitian.

"Over the last 10 years, the distribution of food has expanded significantly," explained Fallon. "There was even more need for food assistance during the 2007-08 downturn, and growth has been steady since then. We continue to increase the amount of food we distribute each year.

"BEAM has greatly changed food distribution in our area. We can save more food from our local pickups from grocery stores with less travel time and faster distribution since we are located close to the agencies, churches, and communities in need," she said. "We frequently find the same families needing to come to our food pantries every month. Because food insecurity is a chronic problem, BEAM has worked diligently on initiatives that take a comprehensive, holistic, and effective approach to address the complex issue of hunger."

As of July 2017, 390,900 pounds has been distributed to local families, which is the equivalent of 670,130 pounds on an annual basis, she said.

Both BEAM food pantries utilize an innovative "client choice" model, where food can be selected in a mini-supermarket environment, allowing clients to choose the nutritious staples that best meet their needs instead of receiving a pre-packaged selection of foods.

"BEAM's approach to addressing hunger in our community is unique. We know of no other initiative in our region which integrates the services of a registered dietitian with a comprehensive food pantry to serve its low-income residents," Fallon said. "With this long-view approach, we aim to provide immediate relief for our neighbors suffering from hunger, and have a greater long-term impact on the complex issue of hunger in our community."

Fallon estimates cash expenses for BEAM's paid staff and food distribution at \$200,000 per year. Not included in that figure are the



thousands of hours of volunteer time and the value of food donated to the program.

BEAM receives its food from numerous grocery stores, food drives at various partner organizations such as churches, corporations, and businesses. It also receives supplies from Feeding Northeast Florida. What it requires most is shelf-stable food, such as canned goods during the months of July through September. "We have a greater need during this season for various reasons," Fallon said, noting food insecure children are home during the summer and not able to receive lunch at school. The nonprofit also continuously seeks partners, donors, and volunteers, she said.

To help fund its increasing program costs, BEAM operates three thrift stores that carry everything from gently-used vintage and designer clothing to furniture and household items. "Our retail stores are not just a revenue source for our programs, but also a hub for communities to engage with our work and to be part of the solution to help lead families to self-sufficiency," Fallon said.

This year BEAM instituted a new food distribution program at Mayport Elementary so families can receive free produce on early-release days.

Also new is the expansion of Paths to Wellness to cover the entire BEAM service area, giving special attention to Mayport.

In the future, if new funding is approved, BEAM plans to open a weekly Farmer's Market in Mayport and increase clients' understanding of good nutrition through diverse educational activities. It also hopes to reduce the risk of serious health conditions for low-income residents through Prescriptive Nutrition Therapy by providing counseling from a registered dietitian and increased food access from its pantries and organic garden as well as to train clients as Neighbors for Nutrition so they can promote healthy lifestyles in their community.

DIETITIAN USES SKILLS TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED AVOID DISEASE

By volunteering at the Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry, Registered Dietitian Ashley Thompson loves that she can give back to the community in the area where she is particularly qualified.

"I started volunteering at BEAM as a college student. It was a requirement during my undergraduate program, and I am so thankful it was! Through my volunteer experiences as a student, I was able to meet individuals and families and hear the stories about how they are affected by food insecurity.

"Now that I have graduated, I have the privilege to volunteer at BEAM, where I can use my skills to help those same people. As a registered dietitian, I counsel and educate BEAM clients on managing their diet to help control certain medical conditions such as diabetes. Through the food pantry at BEAM, I am able to provide them with the food they need so they will be able to implement what we have discussed and food insecurity is no longer a barrier to their success!" Thompson said.



Ashley Thompson, RD, LDN



- Downtown Ecumenical Services Council -

Nonprofit aids low-income families with supplemental groceries

The folks at Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC) don't need fancy statistics to tell them hunger is a serious problem in the River City. "One interesting way DESC measures the seriousness of hunger in Jacksonville is when we look out our front door and see the line of people waiting around the block," said Beth Hood, director of operations. "They are coming to get food."

DESC, a charitable agency founded in 1981 by urban Jacksonville churches to provide emergency assistance to people in need, served 12,187 desperate families last year. This number has nearly doubled from the amount served 10 years ago, and looking at the numbers from January to July 2017, there is every indication that DESC provisions will surpass last year, said Hood.

"Our core program has been the distribution of food to the hungry," said Hood. "Over the past 10 years, DESC fed approximately 9,000 families, and usually one third of these are children. Summer months are always higher because children are at home and do not receive food at school. Since the quality of our food has improved with the addition of fresh produce and meats, we are seeing an increase in clients needing food. We credit this increase to the enhanced quality of the food we distribute, but the increased numbers may also reflect the growing number of people needing help. We are on track to feed close to 12,000 this year," she said.

Located on North Ocean Street, DESC provides clients with enough groceries to cover three to five days, as well as gently used clothing and financial assistance in the form of rent, mortgage, and utility payments. DESC partners with Dignity U Wear and Presbyterian Social Ministries in providing clothing assistance.

The bulk of the food DESC distributes comes from Feeding Northeast Florida and Farm Share, but its pantry also receives supplies from community food drives hosted by schools, churches, and businesses, said Hood.

"Over the past year, we have been able to augment our food program with a greater balance of fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, and eggs," Hood said. "Previously, we offered canned goods and dry foods. This has changed dramatically by utilizing free or extremely low-cost foods from Feeding Northeast Florida and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Share program, coupled with a generous grant from the Lucy Gooding Foundation.

"Procurement of this food involves weekly trips to get truckloads of food. Our records show the food we collected for over 12,000 families totaled over 92 tons!" she said, adding the partnership with Feeding Northeast Florida allows DESC to use Gooding Foundation funds to purchase meat, chicken, cereal, tuna, and peanut butter at 18 cents a pound. "This, coupled with the fresh produce and other goods we get

for free, has greatly enhanced the quality and quantity of the food we distribute.”

Instrumental in working with Feeding Northeast Florida and Farm Share for DESC has been Judy Davis of Ortega, who procures fresh produce and meats from these agencies and organizes delivery and storage. “We call her our ‘Secret Weapon’ or perhaps our ‘Shopping Diva,’ said Hood. “Several times a week, Judy and a troop of volunteers tackle the food bins selecting the best buys, the freshest produce, and other items we need.”

Scott Meyer, an Avondale native, also assists by donating 300 pounds of gourmet brown rice each week, which is grown on his family farm, Congaree and Penn Farm & Mills. “What a treat for our clients! The farm, located 20 minutes from downtown Jacksonville, grows a tasty Jupiter medium grain on four acres of Japanese-style rice paddies,” said Hood.

DESC, which keeps its food pantry open five days a week, also gives clients a referral sheet of 22 food pantries, the majority of which are only open two days a week, so they can be used as additional resources.

Many DESC families fall under the category of working poor – people who earn too much to be part of the federal government’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) referred to as food stamps, which allows a mere \$4 per person per day for food. DESC also serves elderly and disabled people on fixed incomes, who often choose between paying for essentials and buying nutritious food. “This program is designed to supplement a low-income family’s ability to purchase groceries,” said Hood. “Supplemental food from our food bank means a person can reallocate a portion of their grocery money towards rent, utilities, medicine, or transportation.”

Each year, DESC hosts two annual fundraisers to help with specific needs: The Great Electric Emergency in the spring to raise money to help clients pay their electric bills, and the Great Underwear Challenge, which provides clients with new underwear and socks. A big fall fundraiser, “Where’s Bubba?” raises money for the nonprofit’s general operational support.

Like many other nonprofits, DESC needs more volunteers to serve in its food pantry. It also seeks volunteers with trucks or large vehicles to help transport food. “We need this type of help several times a week,” said Hood. Community support through food drives earmarked for DESC are also welcomed.

“One interesting way DESC measures the seriousness of hunger in Jacksonville is when we look out our front door and see the line of people waiting around the block.”



VOLUNTEER FILLS SPECIAL NICHE AT DESC

Looking for something to do when she moved to Jacksonville two years ago, Eileen Smith discovered quickly that the Downtown Ecumenical Services Council (DESC) was the perfect place for her to serve as a volunteer.

“When I first moved to Jacksonville in September 2015, I needed something to do and my sister suggested DESC,” she said.

“I needed someplace close to my home and somewhere that would not require me to travel around the Jacksonville since I had no idea where the different areas were,” Smith said. “I wanted something church-based. I also volunteer at St. Francis Soup Kitchen, which is run by the Catholic Church two blocks away from DESC.”

Smith, who has volunteered at DESC two days a week for the past 18 months, serves in the food pantry, handing out food, greeting clients and entering their names in the computer. “I feel blessed to be able to work with the great staff at DESC and to help people who are living on the margins of life. They are just like everyone else – some are kind and grateful and have a beautiful spirit while others are angry and grumpy. They all need assistance, and it is wonderful when we are able to provide them with this assistance.”

Smith said she finds her work at the DESC food pantry “exciting,” and “satisfying.” DESC’s mission includes providing monetary assistance for people having trouble paying rent or their JEA bill, as well as food and clothing for those who have fallen on hard times.

“Some of them cry because they are so thankful for the help we are providing them. They finally get some relief from their fears because they lack sustenance for themselves and their children,” she said.

“If DESC were to close, then our regular clients would be devastated. They would have to find another place to help them, and many of them do not have any transportation or they take the bus from their homes to get food and clothing,” she continued. “It would be a tremendous hardship for them to have to find another outlet to serve their clothing and food needs.”

Catholic Charities Staff Members Natasha Skidmore and Edward Monagan pose in front of the nonprofit's truck on outreach day. The truck was purchased thanks to the generosity of donors.



- Catholic Charities -

Putting compassion into action to feed the hungry

Feeding the hungry is a big part of Catholic Charities mission.

Although the nonprofit seeks to reflect “the compassion of God in Christ,” taught by the Catholic Church in all its activities, through its food program Catholic Charities seeks to put that “compassion into action” by opening its doors to anyone in need regardless of race or religion.

“We know the issue of food insecurity is prevalent in our community because we see the same families coming back to our food pantry multiple times during the year,” said Lauren Weedon Hopkins, Jacksonville regional director. “I believe providing healthy and nutritious meals through our food pantry is a vital part of Catholic Charities’ mission to advocate for human dignity and quality of life.”

Catholic Charities’ food pantry is open twice a week – Wednesday and Friday – from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at its downtown location on East Church Street. Clients are assigned tickets beginning at 11 a.m. on the days of distribution. The pantry serves up to 80 client families a week and allows clients to receive food every 90 days.

Catholic Charities’ food pantry distributes food from Feeding Northeast Florida, Farm Share, Waste Not-Want Not, and generous donations from

food drives in the community. The pantry also purchases food and other items needed to supplement what is not donated, said Hopkins.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the food pantry distributed 105,872 pounds of food, serving 3,360 client families, Hopkins said. According to its 2015-2016 Annual Report, the Jacksonville regional food pantry served 7,227 individuals and doled out 135,951 pounds of food. It also provided holiday assistance to 799 individuals.

The pantry, which is currently pursuing a “client-choice model,” allowing participants to make their own healthy food selections, is always in need of nonperishable food items such as canned black beans, chili, soup, meat and spaghetti sauce. Rice, packaged in one- and three-pound bags, is also welcome, as is cereal and peanut butter and jelly. Donations of furniture and household items for its refugee resettlement program are also needed.

Funding for the food pantry comes from grants, fundraising events such as Festival d’Vine and the Black and White Ball, and individual donors. Volunteers are always needed. The pantry is successful due to “tireless support” of its volunteers, Hopkins said.

“A program such as this requires a steady stream of new volunteers to supplement this compassionate service to our community. Donations

FEEDING THE SPIRIT WHILE FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Joy, purpose, and an appreciation for the gifts God gives are the reasons that Lisa Obringer has served for many years as coordinator of the Catholic Charities food pantry.

After seeing a notice in her church bulletin, Obringer said she got interested in volunteering with Catholic Charities and has had a ringside seat since the early 2000s, watching the food pantry there evolve and expand.

"When I came to Catholic Charities, it really was not a food pantry," Obringer said. "There were canned goods in a closet and people receiving emergency assistance would be given food that we might have. There was no basic platform, freezers, or bread/pastry from Waste Not, Want Not. Once Catholic Charities decided to make food a service priority, I coordinated the pantry and helped it grow into what it is today."

At first, Obringer did it all – inventory, ordering of supplies, and scheduling volunteers to bag, restock and distribute the food. Later she delegated some paperwork to volunteers. "About 50 volunteers per month make the pantry operation happen," she said, adding she currently works at the pantry Wednesdays and Fridays, while doing the planning and ordering from home.

"Due to the growth of the food pantry operation in the past two years, it became too much for me to coordinate alone. Now we have a team that shares responsibility for running the day-to-day operation of the pantry," she said, adding that others share with her the duties of ordering, resupply, pick-up, and restocking, while another volunteer does the scheduling.



Lisa Obringer

Obringer said she loves working at Catholic Charities because it is a religious organization with a special mission.

"Catholic Charities provides me a place to live the Gospel and, in a small way, try to make a difference in a person's day-to-day life. My time at Catholic Charities has taught me to truly see that everyone is a child of God and should be given respect and dignity," she said. "I love to walk through the courtyard coming into Catholic Charities and say hello to each person and look them in the eye. No one should be ignored. I also try to embrace the three sayings on the front of the Catholic Charities buildings: Act Justly, Love Tenderly, Walk Humbly with God."

In addition to helping feed her spirit, Obringer said she appreciates that Catholic Charities does not "frivolously waste donor dollars," and noted that 86 cents of every dollar

given to the organization directly benefits the clients it serves.

"I also appreciate the expectation and culture that every individual, regardless of their situation, is treated with respect and dignity," she said. "I think people normally think of the homeless or non-workers as only those needing food assistance. There are so many working people and families that struggle to make ends meet and live paycheck to paycheck. It only takes one problem – illness or a car breakdown – to create need."

"I recently read a piece that had the following quote from the poet Tagore: 'I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy,'" she continued. "Giving back to our community and the common good gives me a feeling of joy and purpose and appreciation for the gifts God has given me."

of healthy food and other resources to stock our shelves are always welcome," she said.

"Our program continues to provide for the most vulnerable in our community because of the generosity of donors," Hopkins continued. "Often, our food pantry clients receive multiple services from Catholic Charities including emergency assistance to pay rent or utility bills. Typically, our clients are struggling to stay in their homes, find jobs, and make ends meet. This leads our clients to have to choose which vital resources are most important at the time."

The Catholic Charities Food Pantry recently started a partnership with the St. Vincent's Mobile Healthcare Outreach unit so it can combine the delivery of health screenings with food assistance, said Hopkins.

"Our agency alone is not able to solve the issue of food insecurity, but when we partner and collaborate with other community organizations such as United Way and Feeding Northeast Florida, we are able to multiply our success," Hopkins said. "We are one of more than 50 food pantries in Jacksonville. Together, we are stronger and more innovative, allowing us to be true game changers in the fight to provide basic needs for those in our community in Jacksonville."



A Catholic Charities caseworker joins a client and her daughter at the food pantry.

Volunteers from the Armada Soccer Club work the food line at City Rescue Mission.



- City Rescue Mission -

Offering hope, healing and change for the homeless and hungry

Providing shelter and a hot meal is a big part of what City Rescue Mission (CRM) provides to homeless and individuals struggling with food insecurity, but it is not the only part.

In addition to offering emergency services, CRM seeks to transform the lives of the homeless and needy through “life-building programs,” all while serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ. “Often people would rather spend their resources on drugs and alcohol. For many that come to us, that is the case,” said Penny Kievet, executive director. “The problem will continue if we don’t address the poverty, drugs and lack of utilizing the surplus to help those in need.”

A nondenominational Christian nonprofit organization, City Rescue Mission was founded in 1946 by a group of downtown businessmen who came together to offer “soup, soap and salvation” to the homeless. “In the 71 years of its existence, the mission has grown to be a major provider of drug and alcohol recovery as well as emergency services consisting of food and shelter for anyone in need,” Kievet said.

Existing exclusively on donations and revenue from its thrift store, CRM provides all the services a person needs to get off the street. “We want to give them a hand up, not a hand out,” said Kievet.

Included among City Rescue Mission’s offerings are three kinds of services: Emergency Services, LifeBuilders Drug and Alcohol Recovery program, and a Work Force Development Program.

Emergency Services provides a safe environment and a place for a homeless person to shower, sleep, enjoy meals, and leave with clean clothes in the morning. After staying seven days, CRM insists clients, who seek shelter and food, work with a case manager to map out a plan to get off the street permanently.

Approximately 350 homeless register at CRM’s New Life Inn on State Street each day with the men staying at New Life and the women and children eventually heading over to Henriksen Women’s Center on the Mission’s McDuff campus.

During Hurricane Irma, CRM sheltered 500 clients, including some evacuees from the beaches, said Kievet, adding the mission also runs free medical and dental clinics for any indigent with physical problems who seek their services.

The Mission also provides dinner for clients not wishing to stay overnight, as well as a Community Closet, open Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., which provides clothing, hygiene products and other essentials.

The LifeBuilders Residential Drug and Alcohol Recovery program is CRM’s intensive 18-month program to assist addicts in becoming clean and sober. Approximately 165 are currently enrolled, Kievet said.

Once an addict graduates from LifeBuilders – in a ceremony with cap and gown no less – they are part of its Alumni Association and can

COUPLE SEEKS TO FOLLOW IN JESUS' STEPS BY HELPING THE POOR

The Christian nature behind the City Rescue Mission (CRM) purpose is what attracted Albert J. (Bud) Toole and his wife, Carolyn, to begin serving with the Mission 28 years ago.

"The reason I left the corporate world was because I wanted to do more with my life than just make a bunch of money," said Toole, who accrued enough to retire comfortably by age 50. "The Lord has blessed me with well-paying jobs. I could have quit at age 45 or 50, joined the country club and played golf every day, but I didn't want to do that with my life."

Toole, who was Chief Investment Officer for Gulf United, takes religion seriously.

He and his wife are one of six founding couples that started Christian Family Chapel on St. Augustine Road, a church which now boasts three services and 1,500 congregants. He also co-founded East-West Ministries International to train and mentor faithful and reliable pastors, and spent many years personally traveling behind the Iron Curtain providing underground Biblical education to students, and secretly distributing Bibles.

The Tooles, who have been married 58 years, learned about City Rescue Mission in 1989 from a friend in Jacksonville's Downtown Rotary Club. The couple started by serving Thanksgiving dinner with their church group, and since then Bud has served as a mentor to former drug

addicts seeking help through City Rescue Mission's year-long LifeBuilders program.

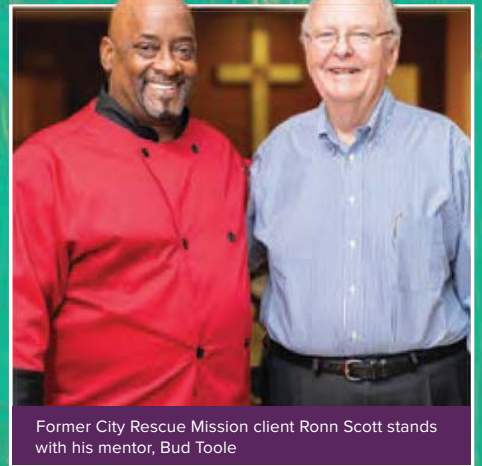
Toole has also spent more than 20 years on City Rescue Mission's Board of Directors, many years as chairman. He was responsible for bringing "policy governance," to CRM, which is a special way of managing the nonprofit through the board. "I'm an accounting type of person so I was on the finance committee all these years and as Board Chair I brought this to them because I learned it from working with East-West Ministries," he said. "It helps us track what was going on."

Meanwhile, for more than 10 years, Carolyn has consistently worked on Thursdays helping check in clients in CRM's medical clinic, where Jacksonville doctors and nurses volunteer.

"When I go there, I have direct contact with the people in the program. I get to be with a lot of people who are going through a lot," said Carolyn. "I meet people who have led horrible lives, addicted to drugs and such, who are trying to put themselves back together. I admire their courage, and I've seen a lot of strong faith in these people."

"I've learned from them, and it's strengthened my faith in God," she continued. "I don't think you can beat drugs without God."

Bud agreed. "What City Rescue Mission does is take some pretty rough people and spend a



Former City Rescue Mission client Ronn Scott stands with his mentor, Bud Toole

year with them. Those who work at City Rescue Mission pour their lives into helping them, and they take a very Biblical view of what Jesus says in the Scriptures of how we are supposed to spend our lives. The program is based on the words and teachings of Jesus, and after a year, when they come out, they are changed people," he said.

"I want to do something with my life that in God's eyes is something that should be done, and that is to help the poor. I'm not a doctor. I'm not an engineer. I'm just a guy, so I do whatever I can do," Toole said.

continue to enjoy support from CRM as well as from a diverse network throughout the United States.

Also, the Mission recently started its Homes for Hope program, a transitional housing program consisting of 14 homes purchased and renovated by CRM and located on three blocks adjacent to and on its McDuff campus. Gainfully employed graduates of the LifeBuilders Program, as well as those graduated from drug and alcohol recovery programs sponsored by The Salvation Army and Trinity Rescue Mission, are welcome to rent rooms in the 14 houses on Hunt, Cecelia and Nolan Streets.

"Homes for Hope is a second chance for people who need a second chance," Kievet explained. "We know they are clean and sober and have a job because they have been in our program or a similar program, and they need a lovely place to live that is clean. For many, they've never had a place this nice."

Meanwhile, CRM's Work Force program offers its clients academic tutoring, computer training and assistance in finding a job.

"There is a serious problem with food insecurity in Northeast Florida," Kievet continued. "Each day, one in six residents struggle with hunger and one to four of our children experience hunger. Can you imagine the impact that has on their learning? There is no grocery outlet anywhere near the North Riverside/Murray Hill area," she said.

Managing on a \$6 million annual budget, the City Rescue Mission receives food from Feeding Northeast Florida, Farm Share, local gardens, and supplies purchased from local vendors and distributors. It also receives donations of fresh fruit from friends within the community. Donations of food are always welcome, especially the basics such as peanut butter, canned vegetables, protein foods such as tuna fish, basic spices, milk, and eggs.

"We have continued to meet the rising demand of food and shelter by keeping up with the growing numbers," said Kievet. "The economy definitely can have an impact on the numbers we serve."

"In the past five years, we have served over 1,450,000 meals because folks are coming to us looking for meals they can't find elsewhere. Our largest group of guests are what we call 'eat-only.' These are neighbors who are working and have a place to live but can't afford to feed their families so they come to the City Rescue Mission for dinner," she said.

"We continue to want to help more people fight the battle of hunger, unemployment, and having a place to live. City Rescue Mission is proud of our Homes for Hope that offer clean and modern living for those who have recovered and are employed," she continued. "We also strive to meet the rising demand of food and shelter by keeping up with the growing numbers. We have a brand-new thrift store that will bring new revenue to us so we can continue to serve those in need."

Volunteer Connor
St. George with
new crops at White
Harvest Farm



- Clara White Mission -

Providing a meal today, teaching skills for a lifetime

Since the days after the Great Fire of 1901, when Clara White and her daughter, Eartha, began feeding homeless African Americans from their kitchen on Orange Street, the folks at Clara White Mission (CWM) have been in the trenches – uninterrupted – feeding the hungry daily for 113 years.

The former soup kitchen currently provides three hot meals per day, seven days a week, as well as transitional housing to homeless participants with the intention of moving them to permanent, independent quarters within 24 months. Through its one-stop community development center, it offers job training, employment placement and housing initiatives, as well as a 20-week culinary and janitorial curriculum designed to allow students to practice their skills in an environment that will prepare them for a career in these industries.

Assisting in that training is Clara's at the Cathedral, located at St. John's Episcopal Cathedral downtown, which allows students to practice their skills while raising funds for the Mission's program. CWM also operates a wedding and conference center to raise funds through inhouse student catering, and operates a large sustainable garden, White Harvest Farms, that offers fresh, healthy produce as well as job training to its clients, while raising funds by selling excess produce to local restaurants.

"From 2010 to 2016, we have provided an average of 135,000 meals annually, and the current daily average of persons served by Clara White is 375," said Clara White Mission President and CEO Ju'Coby Pittman, adding that 86 percent of the individuals eating meals at the Mission

are homeless, while the remaining 14 percent fall within the U.S. Housing and Urban Development 2016 income guidelines as "extremely low income" – earning 30 to 50 percent of the area's median income.

"Congregate meals are served by four other nonprofit providers in the downtown area. Together, our efforts work together to ensure homeless veterans, low-income individuals and/or families are provided a nutritious meal, while our collaborative resources are accessible," Pittman said.

Clara White Mission, a private, nonprofit organization, got its start as a soup kitchen for Jacksonville African American residents who were unable to get public assistance after the 1901 fire destroyed much of Jacksonville, rendering them homeless. Clara White and her daughter began their "mission work" from their home, believing it was their civic duty to develop an agency that would ultimately reach across racial boundaries to feed the marginalized of the entire city, said Pittman.

By 1924, Clara White Mission had become one of 19 charter members of Community Chest, the predecessor of United Way. The Mission, which was incorporated in 1936, received tax-exempt status from the IRS in 1945. Its daily feeding program remains the nucleus of its agency services, which also include housing, job training in culinary arts, janitorial/construction skills, job placement and job creation.

Today the Mission has been rebranded from a soup kitchen to a Community Development Center, providing its clients with an opportunity to "transform, transition, and prepare" for long-term sustainability in their lives, said Pittman. "Our services have allowed our targeted

population to receive the skills and tools necessary to live a quality of life, which they deserve," she said.

"Fiscal uncertainty, government budget tightening, the rising cost of food and the increased demand for services have impacted nonprofits such as the Clara White Mission over the last five years," said Pittman, noting monetary donations are the best way for the community to assist in CWM's efforts.

"To implement vision and plans, it's necessary for our agency to become more innovative and diversified, to address the issues that affect the poor," she said. "Investments into human capital from the duPont Fund allow the Mission to increase its organization capacity and build a continuum of sustainable programs that lead to financial autonomy."

Clara White Mission is supported by several public and private entities including the City of Jacksonville, United Way of Northeast Florida, the federally funded Emergency Food and Shelter Program, the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, Enterprise Holdings, four banks – Citibank, Wells Fargo, Bank of America and Synovus Bank – and the United States Veterans Administration.

The food it distributes comes from food banks and Feeding Northeast Florida, as well as special purchases provided through donations, and White Harvest Farm, located at 4850 Moncrief Road, a neighborhood decreed by the United States Department of Agriculture as a food desert. Clara White Mission established the farm in 2013 on 11.5 acres of land it owned and three adjacent parcels it purchased in 2014. In the future, it plans to expand White Harvest Farm and Market, Pittman said.

"White Harvest Farm is positioned to have a positive impact on quality of life through visible and physical improvements for long-term health, social and economic empowerment," she said. "This urban farm initiative helps benefit and improve access to healthy foods, where food desert residents have little options of fresh produce.

"In addition to offering fresh produce, we will offer vocational training in agriculture, including national certifications, and the opportunity to improve life skills for employment and higher wage job options. We envision this initiative revolutionizing the community to a full scale and to have an immediate impact for targeted food desert residents in other communities as well as a model for duplication," Pittman said.

"Clara White Mission's safety-net programs promote social change: 'Food for Today, Skills for Life,'" Pittman said.



White Harvest Farm Director William Byrd with students from St. Clara Evans School

ON A MISSION FOR THE MISSION

Considering the amount of time Coby Hayes-Bishop puts in at the café, Clara's at the Cathedral, you would never know she is "retired."

Hayes-Bishop, who is affectionately called "Mama Coby" by all, is a wife, mother and grandmother to her family as

well as a "servant, mentor, leader, fundraiser, and team player to all the others she associates with through her volunteer work at the Clara White Mission," said Ju'Coby Pittman, CEO and president of the nonprofit.

"It's hard to know how she finds the time to juggle her personal and volunteer life," said Pittman. "I believe it's her drive and passion to make a difference in the lives of the homeless and low-income families seeking a new way of life. The power and the impact of her volunteerism spirit is contagious, and it is a family and friends affair."

Every Friday for the past 10 years, Mama Coby works at Clara's at the Cathedral as a friendly greeter and cashier. The part-time café, located in Taliaferro Hall in St. John's Episcopal Cathedral, is the only nonprofit certified training center in the State of Florida that is operated by volunteers and previously homeless/low-income students enrolled in the Clara White Mission School of Culinary Arts, said Pittman. The students develop the weekly menu, prepare the food, set up the café and wait tables, she said.

Established in May 2007, the café raises more than \$45,000 in revenue for the Clara White Mission programs each year, and has graduated more than 900 students over 10 years. Upon graduation from the school, students are awarded their share of an additional \$10,000 in tips accrued from the café annually. Overseen by Mama Coby and other volunteers, the students have served more than 9,653 customers since the café's inception, Pittman said.

"Mama Coby has greeted new and returning customers for the past 10 years. Her excellent customer service and infectious smile keep you coming back again and again. She shares and distributes Clara White Mission program information to customers and has solicited more than 25 volunteers to become active with the Clara White Mission," said Pittman.

"She is an inspiration and role model to young and old, black and white, homeless and affluent," Pittman continued. "She exemplifies giving back to her community through leadership and in living by example in every aspect of her journey of life. Once you have met her, she has an unforgettable and extraordinary spirit and exhibits the heart and soul of giving unselfishly," she said.



Coby Hayes-Bishop (aka Mama Coby)

Lord's Pantry Volunteers include Linda Garrone, Janice Soliz, Ed Schepanski, Charles Green, Brad D. Frederick, Shelby Vann, Rick DuMiller, Pastor Young Smith III, Leroy Lallemand, Willie Vincent Scott, Hai Nguyen and Kevin Meyers.



- Community Health Outreach -

Food pantry nurtures mind, body and soul

The sun has barely risen when people begin to line up to receive food at The Lord's Pantry, a food distribution center run by Community Health Outreach (formerly West Jax Outreach) on Timuquana Road.

"People arrive here really early in the morning, like 5 a.m. or 6 a.m.," said Pastor Young Smith, who oversees the pantry for Community Health Outreach. "When we pass out numbers at 8 a.m. there are already at least 20 people here, rain or shine, cold or whatever. They sit on benches until 8 a.m., and we hand out numbers so they can leave if they want and come back at 10 a.m. when we begin to distribute the food," he explained, noting after filling out some basic paperwork, pantry volunteers give them a brown bag, with a balanced meal of meat, vegetables, produce, and canned goods. "No ID is required to get food," said Smith. "Our volunteers help carry the bags out to their cars."

Sometimes the cars are nicer than one would expect, Smith said, but that is just a testament to the kind of people he sees that are down on their luck.

"We see everything, especially people who drive up in fancy cars and have lost their jobs. We Americans, we live paycheck to paycheck, and don't plan for future hard times. They are good people, many with skills and education, who may have lost their jobs due to medical issues or various other reasons," he explained, adding that often the nice car is shared by multiple clients, belongs to a neighbor or has been loaned by a friend so food can be easily be carried home.

Other patrons of The Lord's Pantry are working moms struggling to care for kids by themselves and even a gentleman who comes to get food to give to the homeless.

"We see some homeless here, too, but not as many as other pantries because we mostly give out stuff you have to cook," Smith said, noting when a large supply of MRE's (Military Meals Ready to Eat) are occasionally donated, they are saved for homeless clients.

Between 2013 and 2016, Community Health Outreach nearly doubled the number of bags of meals its food pantry distributed from 23,797 to 41,610, said Bernice Mauras, executive director of the nonprofit.

"During significant economic downturns, other food pantries have reported their volunteers were forced to become customers," she said. "Not all families have bounced back from the challenges of 2007/2008. A significant portion of our recipients are veterans, and we serve about 200 to 300 meals a week."

Vickie Singleton gets a hug from Pastor Young Smith III after picking up groceries at The Lord's Pantry on Timuquana Road.



Community Health Outreach was founded in 1988 as a ministry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church and will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year. "It started with two members of the church as a food bank and very rapidly became a ministry that embraced teen crisis pregnancy," recalled Father James Barnhill of St. Peter's Episcopal Church.

Eventually the ministry became a 501(C)(3) organization, which is still dedicated to the Christian principles of feeding the hungry, healing the sick, and clothing the needy. "At Community Health Outreach, we strive to nurture the mind, body, and soul," said Mauras.

The nonprofit covers five separate adjacent buildings and supplies needy clients with a variety of services, including emergency and preventive dental treatment, primary medical care, food assistance, health awareness programs, confidential pregnancy testing and optional counseling, a chapel, and a "Baby Love" distribution center, where needy mothers can get maternity clothes, formula, baby food, baby clothes, and diapers.

The Lord's Pantry is a USDA site, receiving food from Farm Share, Feeding Northeast Florida, Winn-Dixie and Wal-Mart, Grass Roots Natural Market, and Waste Not-Want Not as well as the Boy Scouts and individual donors.

The Jim Moran Foundation is a major supporter of The Lord's Pantry, said Mauras. Each year, the local post office conducts an annual food drive, which brings in thousands of pounds of food, she said, adding occasionally small community fundraisers are also held and much

appreciated. Last year, the postal workers donated 27,000 pounds of food, Smith said.

"The Sontag Foundation believes in and invests in our mission, and partners with us to help us serve as many as possible. Our partnership with St. Peter's Church is also a real blessing, but with that said, most funding is time-limited, and we need to identify new supporters to maintain and grow our food distribution," Mauras said.

Receiving the donation of a new freezer and cooler would be a dream, Smith said, noting that it has been slow going to get the pantry's existing appliances refurbished. "Sometimes we turn down pallets of meat that we could distribute," he said.

Also needed are consistent volunteers, food donations, and financial contributions and the donation of plastic and paper bags, said Mauras. "We would also love to find someone to help our community garden prosper."

"We have an 82-year-old lady that comes and waters our garden," Smith explained, indicating she could use some help. "Our eventual goal would be to produce enough food to help support the pantry. I also have a vision to make take-home gardens like the 'three sisters' the Native Americans did with the corn, green beans, and squash growing together. I want to have them planted in five-gallon buckets with instructions on the side of how to take care of them and how to make soup out of the three items. If we can teach people to garden and take care of themselves, that can really be a hand-up to people."

FIRST A CLIENT, THEN A VOLUNTEER

Richard DuMiller may have lost the lower half of his left leg in Vietnam but that does not prevent him from volunteering 52 hours a week at The Lord's Pantry, a food bank sponsored by Community Health Outreach on Timuquana Road.

DuMiller, an Air Force veteran who lives in a mobile home with his long-haired Chihuahua, Casper, exists on a \$1,100 disability check each month. He began his affiliation with The Lord's Pantry as a hungry client. Tipped off to the nonprofit's existence through a neighbor, DuMiller said he was instantly sold on the place and its mission after meeting Pastor Young Smith III, a Community Health Outreach staff member in charge of the food give-away program.

"A neighbor lady told me about it. I was impressed with the way I was treated when I first got here and this man, who didn't leave me hungry," said DuMiller, gesturing toward Smith. "I got a loaf of bread and some peanut butter, and I was satisfied with what I got. Pastor Young told me to come back that Monday, and we've hit it off ever since."

For the past four years, DuMiller has served at Smith's side at The Lord's Pantry doing "everything." He oversees the vegetables, bags and

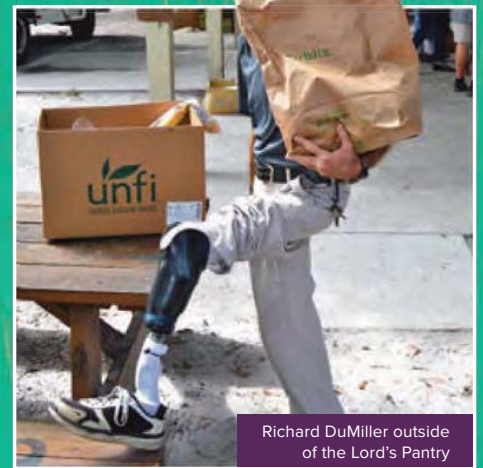
hands out food, talks to clients, unloads trucks, and completes paperwork.

"I work six days a week, eight hours most days, and 11-and-a-half hours on Fridays when there is an evening shift from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.," he said. "I arrive at 7 a.m. every morning, and I give more than 40 hours a week of faithful, consistent service. They don't have to worry about this one volunteer showing up – I beat Pastor Young here sometimes," he said.

DuMiller, who does not have a car, either walks to the pantry or gets a ride from Smith or another volunteer. "I was coming here on crutches when I had only one leg. I'm having a hard time getting a wheelchair that works," he explained. "I have an electric wheelchair, but it doesn't work because it needs batteries and I can't afford them because they cost \$100 apiece. I'm having a hard time getting another wheelchair because the VA (Veterans Administration) says I'm still able to walk with my one good leg, so they have denied me a chair and I'm entitled to one," he said.

Community Health Outreach has helped DuMiller with dental work through its free clinic, and he attends Smith's nondenominational services on Wednesday, which are held on the property adjacent to the pantry before it opens. "They all say prayers down here for me, which is a blessing to me. I love them all," DuMiller said.

"The benefit of doing this work is sharing my heart with people. I feel blessed for them letting me do it. They enjoy me and I enjoy



Richard DuMiller outside
of the Lord's Pantry

them and I've made a lot of friends here. If I wasn't doing this, I would be sitting home watching Gunsmoke or Bonanza, going nuts, or playing with my little dog, or trying to figure out something to do. Being here gets me out of the house. I get a chance to get away from the monotony," he continued.

"Giving back makes me feel 100 percent blessed. I feel like I've done something constructive for myself. Working here is my way of giving back to the world. Everybody needs a place of being in life and doing this helps the public. It's charity. I get paid sometimes in food, but I take very little or nothing at all. I'd rather see somebody who really needs it have it, and I don't want to see them trade it off for drugs or alcohol. It comes from God."

Karey Gee and Alex Hagans sort food at the Farm Share warehouse on Jessie Street in Jacksonville.



- Farm Share -

Making sure good food doesn't go to waste

Every year more than 40 percent of the food grown by farmers is either dumped in a landfill or left in the field to rot because it does not meet the size requirements of major food retailers. Because this food is perfectly healthy and nutritious, Farm Share has made its mission to distribute this produce to hungry people throughout Florida.

"A squash that is one inch too long or short is considered garbage and thrown away," said Stephen Shelley, chief operating officer of Farm Share, adding that such substandard produce is called culls. "Farm Share provides an alternative by giving the farmer the ability to donate these culls in exchange for a tax deduction. As a result, most of the produce Farm Share receives each year comes from Florida farmers to be used to feed persons in need."

Farm Share also receives nonperishable canned goods and other grocery products from retail stores, grocery stores, and food brokers nationwide, he said, noting the agency also operates the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) in Southeast and Northeast Florida. This program provides Farm Share with canned goods and proteins, such as chicken, that are distributed in conjunction with its produce and other foods.

Founded 25 years ago, Farm Share is a statewide organization with five regional warehouse facilities that feed millions of people each year. With its first warehouse originally located in the Florida City farmers market, Farm Share was forced to move its headquarters to Homestead in 2005, after Hurricanes Katrina and Wilma combined to destroy the Florida City facility. During this time, Farm Share also acquired space at the Pompano Farmers Market and later at the Quincy Farmers Market. In 2015, Farm Share took over the food warehouse operated by Lutheran

Social Services (LSS) on Jessie Street in Jacksonville, and later reacquired space at the Florida City Farmers Market.

"In 2015, LSS was at risk of going into bankruptcy and losing the USDA TEFAP contract for noncompliance," Shelley explained. "Farm Share agreed to come in and take over the food bank and the USDA contract to make sure the region continued to be serviced."

Since Farm Share took over two years ago, the amount of food distributed out of the Jacksonville warehouse has increased from 3.6 million pounds to 11.6 million pounds annually, with food distributed to approximately 2.3 million households or 7 million people, he said.

So far, collectively, Farm Share has distributed 51,898,761 pounds of food in 2017, with the Jacksonville warehouse providing 7,980,590 pounds of food to needy families from January to June of the same year, according to information supplied by the Jacksonville facility.

In addition, the nonprofit's network of partner agencies has also grown from 80 to 120, with more signing up each month.

"Farm Share is increasing its donor base from both a food product and monetary perspective. Presently we service 11 main counties from our Jacksonville facility – Duval, Nassau, Baker, Union, Bradford, Putnam, St. Johns, Flagler, Levy, Alachua, and Clay," Shelley said. Farm Share also supplies fresh produce and groceries to other counties as well.

All the dollars in Farm Share's \$6 million annual operating budget are used to recover and distribute produce and groceries. The market value of the produce and groceries received by Farm Share last year was approximately \$76 million, Shelley said.

Making Farm Share unique among large food banks is its focus on healthy, nutritious food, and the fact that it acquires all its produce

WORKING HARD SO NO ONE WILL GO HUNGRY

It was fear of being bored in retirement that eventually led Emma Holt to volunteer at the Farm Share warehouse on Jessie Street, where she gives more than 50 hours a week of her time.

After retiring from her job in the claims and law department at Prudential Life Insurance Company 17 years ago, Holt first tried volunteering with hospice, but quit after two days when she witnessed the death of a baby and couldn't stop crying.

"They definitely needed someone more stable," she said. Soon after, she visited a friend at the food distribution warehouse on Jessie Street, and decided to dedicate all her energy to ensuring food gets to people who need it.

"I said to myself, 'Oh my God, this is what I want to do. This is America, and with as much food as we trash daily – including me – nobody should ever go to bed hungry. People are just not aware of what's out there.'"

Her conviction that no one should ever go hungry, which is inspired by personal experience, drives her to arrive at 7:30 a.m. every day and sometimes work until 11:30 p.m. organizing volunteers and special events, such as holiday distributions, bagging food, and checking in clients.

When Jacksonville's First Responders from the fire department, sheriff's department, and highway patrol assist, she often treats them to pizza parties funded from her own pocket to express appreciation. "For Mother's Day, I fixed bags for them to take back to the mothers in the community. I did the same for fathers on

Father's Day. Farm Share does the work and the first responders hand out the bags to the community," she said.

"My father died when I was 11. Growing up we were struggling, and we never knew there were places you could go to get food if you needed some," she continued, noting that she often brings the work home by calling her friends, as well as city politicians, for donations.

"We say 'thank you for your support' to the politicians and the agencies in the community like Atlantic Storage who have my back and give to me for my Thanksgiving distribution. It's good for people to put a face with a name. I see so many people. When they see me they don't say hello, they say 'What do you want?' I'll say, 'Harvest (Supermarket) has Jiffy (Cornbread Mix) on sale and I need 2,000 boxes for Thanksgiving.' I'll call my sister and ask her if she has an extra \$100 to spare so I can buy it. In one day, I once got 2,000 boxes.

This year, Holt said she is making a special effort to meet and greet seniors within the community on behalf of Farm Share and is working on ways to meet their special needs, which are different from other hungry people in the community.

"Sometimes I have to walk down Jessie Street for a moment because I get so scared. Seniors say they have Social Security, but how do you live off \$10 a month for food? They go to the senior places to eat a meal, but when they return home, often there is nothing. And what about



Emma Holt, Farm Share volunteer

Saturdays and Sundays? We tend to forget about our seniors if they can't stand in line or come to a distribution center. Who looks after them if they have no family?" she said.

Sleeping well at night is one benefit Holt receives for all her hard work. And there is also the special moment at 5 a.m. when she heads out to a Farm Share distribution in a parking lot to greet single mothers with young children, elderly in walkers and wheelchairs, and other hungry folk who have stood in line since 2 a.m. waiting to receive groceries on a first-come, first-served basis.

"People who are greedy don't get out of their beds with their kids and stand in line for hours," she said. "There is always that moment of being grateful that you are not in that line. I always tell my volunteers that you are blessed by standing over here because you can help those people," she said.

and groceries by donations. "We do not have to pay for any of the produce from farmers. We only pay the trucking costs associated with picking up the produce and moving it between Farm Share facilities," he said.

"We also distribute all the food we recover free of charge to both the agencies and individuals. Most of the large food banks charge agencies a maintenance fee of 20 cents a pound for their food. Farm Share has always been free. As a result, we help make sure the most needy agencies and persons are served in every community," he said.

Farm Share's overall numbers have increased substantially over the last five years and attribute this growth to increased funding to operate its programming, Shelley said. However, he also said some of the increase in the amount of food distributed was probably due to the economic recession. "Farm Share does notice that the amount of people attending its Community Food Distributions increases and decreases based upon the economy and similar socioeconomic factors," he said.

The nonprofit receives support from Publix, Walmart, and a few private donors in the way of food and cash donations, but most of its funding

comes from the Florida Legislature and county governments. Because government funding can be volatile from year to year, Farm Share is always looking for monetary support from private sources so it can expand its programs.

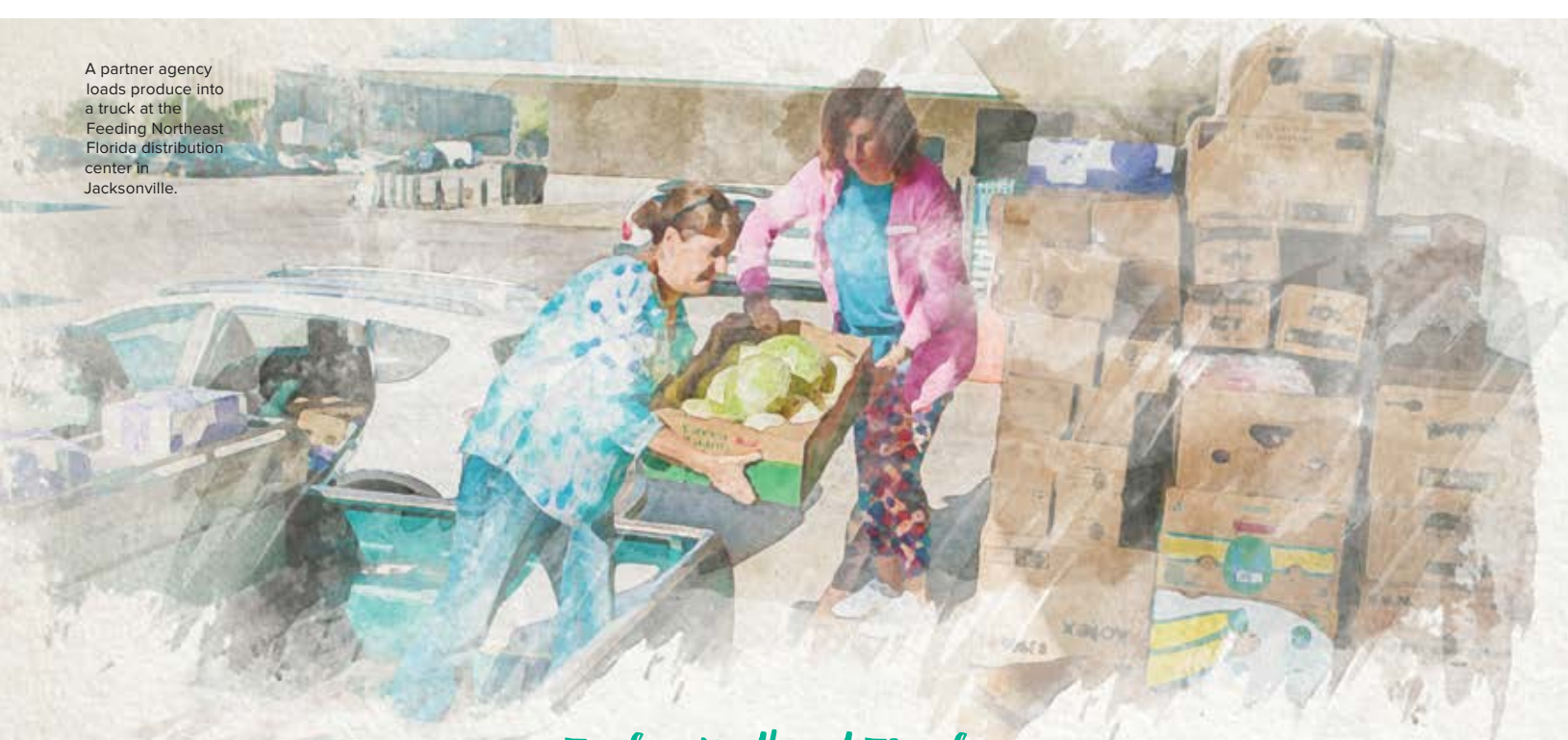
"By focusing on increasing private fundraising efforts, Farm Share hopes to become less reliant on government funding and instead develop more long-term and stable funding sources," he said.

Farm Share started a new Community Crime and Policing Program last year in Miami-Dade, Duval, and Alachua Counties to see if increased food distribution has an impact on reducing lawbreaking in high-crime communities.

"What we found was that in the high-crime communities where we consistently held food distribution events in conjunction with job training and health screenings, the crime rate decreased," Shelley said.

By having law enforcement officers assist with the food distribution, Farm Share also discovered the relationship between police and sheriff's departments with those communities has improved. In the future, Farm Share plans to expand the program statewide, he said.

A partner agency loads produce into a truck at the Feeding Northeast Florida distribution center in Jacksonville.



- Feeding Northeast Florida -

Major food bank distributes food so hungry can be fed

There is no single human need greater than food, and because hunger triggers crime, and affects unemployment, worker productivity, and education, Feeding Northeast Florida is doing everything it can to feed low-income families with children, senior citizens, veterans, and the homeless in the eight counties that comprise Northeast Florida.

"Young minds can't learn when they're hungry, but in Northeast Florida more than 81,660 kids are food insecure," said Kristen Anderson, director of communications for Feeding Northeast Florida. "One in six people in our community – 283,140 people in our region – doesn't know where the next meal is coming from. Without our work, the staggering number of hungry neighbors will continue to climb, and our 160 hunger-relief partner agencies won't have as many resources to provide critical services and the cycle of poverty will continue," she said.

As a member of the Feeding America and Feeding Florida networks, Feeding Northeast Florida is the largest food bank in the region. It is one of 200 food banks within the Feeding America network nationwide. "We are the single-most efficient and cost-effective solution to nourishing hungry families," Anderson said.

Serving Baker, Bradford, Clay, Duval, Flagler, Nassau, Putnam and St. Johns Counties, Feeding Northeast Florida takes in food donations, then weighs, sorts, and ensures the food is safe before delivering the goods to area food pantries. It also works to develop a network of satellite food distribution centers, such as Barnabas Center in Fernandina Beach or Trinity Christian Family Worship Center in St. Johns County, where perishable food can be stored in freezers and coolers to help with the logistics of food distribution throughout the region.

"We work hand in hand with our partner agencies to ensure our neighbors in need have access to high-quality food. No other organization distributes the volume of food that we do, has the reach that we do, or impacts this issue as vastly as Feeding Northeast Florida," Anderson continued. "In 2016, we put nearly \$10 million back into our community in economic impact. Our efforts saved our 160 partner agencies approximately \$34.3 million in food costs. These partners, in turn, are able to invest those savings into breaking the cycle of poverty."

Feeding Northeast Florida has four programs – The Mobile Pantry, Pantry Staple, SnackPacks and Senior Packs – that assist in getting food to people in need.

The Mobile Pantry program delivers fresh, refrigerated, and frozen items such as fruit, vegetables, dairy products, and lean meats to neighborhoods that do not have adequate grocery stores, or food pantries. In 2016, Mobile Pantry distributed approximately 1.7 million pounds of food.

The Pantry Staple program is a specialized service provided to many of Feeding Northeast Florida's partner agencies. More than 20 unique, high-demand dry goods, which are not consistently rescued from Feeding Northeast Florida's retail partners, are purchased then offered to the pantries and agencies at a deep discount compared to retail prices. This enables the agencies to focus their funding on other programs that support the food insecure.

The SnackPack program, developed in 2014 in coordination with Duval County Public Schools, serves children across multiple counties. Each kid-friendly pack contains two meals consisting of fruit cups, applesauce, cereal, trail mix bars, and healthy snacks. In 2016, 120,000 SnackPacks were delivered to children whose parents cannot consistently feed them on weekends. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, Feeding Northeast Florida has a waiting list of more than 2,000 children in need. More assistance from the community would allow the nonprofit to immediately increase its SnackPack distribution by 9,000 packs per month.

Senior Packs consist of 20 nutritious meals and are provided to 150 targeted food insecure seniors every other week. Last year, the packs were distributed only to Campus Towers, but Feeding Northeast Florida plans to expand the program to include three other food desert locations. Senior Packs are stocked with whole grain rice and pasta, assorted canned fruits, veggies, and proteins such as canned tuna and peanut butter.

Feeding Northeast Florida distributed 12.3 million meals through its community partners in 2016. Eighty-four percent went to families with children, while eight percent went to senior citizens and another eight

BECOMING PART OF "SOMETHING BIGGER THAN MYSELF"

It was the song "Fill a Heart" Tori Kelly wrote for the campaign Child Hunger Ends Here that inspired the Williams sisters, Khadjah and Vivica, to volunteer nearly all their spare time at the Jacksonville's Feeding Northeast Florida warehouse on Edgewood Avenue North.

"I was looking on the internet for different ways to contribute to the community. I was listening to a song Tori Kelly had written about food banks and was looking for different food banks in Jacksonville," said Khadjah,

"I like this place because it impacts the community in more ways than I could ever think of. My being here is helping other people to get food," said Vivica.

"The point was to volunteer," Khadjah said. "We like it here. We like the people. So we stayed. When we were just sorting meat, I thought, 'we're doing this, but we don't get to see what is really going on.' We didn't at first see the impact of what was being done. But going to the church and seeing that the meat being given away was from here, and that this played a part in somebody eating, I felt like, okay, I want to stay here because I know this is doing the same thing."

And stay they did. Both homeschooled, the girls began volunteering in February 2016 just after graduating with their GEDs. They now attend Florida State College – Northside, and spend most of their extra time pulling orders, sorting food into categories after it arrives from Publix and Winn-Dixie, weighing and putting food away in the warehouse. Vivica also instructs volunteer groups in what they need to do.

Since they began at Feeding Northeast Florida, the sisters have each logged more than 1,500 volunteer hours. The more hours the better, as far as Vivica is concerned. "I want to transfer to Florida International University (FIU), where I can earn a bachelor's in psychology," said the 17-year-old, noting FIU has a program that provides \$4 of tuition money for every volunteer hour.

Khadjah, 18, is a sociology major who hopes to eventually transfer to University of Central Florida or the University of Alabama. She said working at Feeding Northeast Florida has changed her life and her career path.

"I wanted to do so many things when I was growing up. This has solidified what I want to do. I want to have some sort of impact on my community and on people in general. Being able to provide for someone else's need or helping to be a stepping stone to where they need to get to in life is what I want to do."

Both girls said serving at Feeding Northeast Florida has taught surprising lessons.

"I learned about food basics, and that not everything you think is bad is actually bad," said Vivica. "I also learned the simplest things can go a long way, and that you might not think what you are doing is having an impact on people when it is actually having a huge impact," she said adding that so many people in Jacksonville are hungry.

"We have people who come in and ask for food. I was surprised to see how many agencies and people are willing to take time out to help other people. It's good to know people actually care about whether someone eats and how



Khadjah Williams
and her sister, Vivica

someone feels," she continued. "A man walked in once with three kids. He had a place to stay, but he didn't have the money for food, and it was touching to think that with our help his life could be made so much better."

Khadjah agreed. Working at Feeding Northeast Florida has helped her realize how vast the hunger problem is in Jacksonville, she said.

"A lot of times you think it's people on the corner sitting down in the street. Homeless people. But it could be people you are walking next to or your neighbor who you might not know needs food," she said. Alleviating hunger can solve a lot of different problems, she continued, noting hungry people often neglect other areas of their lives. "A lot of people ask for money so they can buy food instead of applying for a job or going for an interview. They can't think of these things because they are thinking about the fastest way they can satisfy their need for food," she said.

"Working here makes me feel like I'm a part of something bigger than myself. That's why I wanted to volunteer," said Khadjah.

percent went to veterans. From January through July of this year, more than 7.2 million meals were distributed. There are still 50.8 million meals needed to provide food to everyone who is hungry in the region, according to Feeding America's Map the Meal gap study.

In 2014, the Feeding Northeast Florida food bank delivered its first load of food in the community, distributing 18,000 pounds of fresh produce and high-quality food to agencies such as City Rescue Mission, Trinity Rescue Mission, Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM), The Salvation Army, and The Sulzbacher Center. Within six months, the number skyrocketed to more than 4.6 million meals and has since climbed to where it is today.

The food bank partners with Publix, Walmart, Winn-Dixie, and Target, as well as Kellogg's, Nabisco, and Tyson Foods, to obtain its groceries.

"On average, 70 billion pounds of food is wasted each year in the United States," said Anderson. "When a box gets torn, a can dented, or an item's expiration date is just too close to fetch full retail price, rather than have those things going to the landfill, the stock clerk pulls them off the shelves at night and sets them aside for us to pick up the next

morning. When a farmer has potatoes that are misshapen or eggs that are too big to fit in the foam containers, those also come to us, often in the hundreds of thousands. We also receive donations from church, business, and school food drives," she said.

Feeding Northeast Florida is also grateful for the monetary contributions given by board members, individuals, corporations and foundations, as well as an impressive number of volunteers on a recurring basis, said Anderson.

In 2016, approximately 10,773 volunteers invested 32,319 hours helping inspect and sort food for quality and freshness. It is a donation of time equivalent to 15 full-time employees. "Volunteers are the heartbeat of our operation," Anderson said.

"Each day we distribute 34,000 meals. For every dollar donated, we can provide six meals," Anderson said. "Hunger is not a supply issue, it's a logistics issue. The challenge is raising money to build the infrastructure required to increase our distribution. An investment in Feeding Northeast Florida will help us meet the need in our community and help change the face of poverty. Together we are feeding a stronger tomorrow."



- Hunger Fight -

Nonprofit provides alternate way to feed people in need

Since its inception five years ago, Hunger Fight has distributed more than 3,711,943 prepackaged meals to children and families deemed food insecure throughout the Southeast.

Although the nonprofit, founded by Sherri and Dean Porter of San Marco, is one of the three largest distributors of food to the hungry in Northeast Florida, Hunger Fight follows a far different model from other food banks in the area.

In 2012, after performing volunteer work feeding hungry families, Sherri Porter was shocked to see the high number of children in Florida who live daily with hunger. Hoping to find a remedy, the Porters decided to develop an alternative to food recycling that would not be dependent on food donations or impacted by rapid spoilage.

Upon consulting local nutritionists and using formulations developed by leading food scientists, Hunger Fight created nutritious standalone meals that can be produced at low cost and distributed directly to feeding agencies serving children and families in need.

"My wife loves to volunteer. During our first year of dating, she volunteered me each weekend over 30 weeks for something. She knew God had a calling for us," Dean Porter said. "In November 2012, we started raising money, then in June 2013 we started packing meals. For what we do, we are the biggest player in the area, but we are not the biggest player in Jacksonville for food distribution; that is Feeding Northeast Florida," he said. "Their niche is with perishables. We stick with our niche, which is to provide three standalone meals that have 20 essential vitamins and are high in protein."

Hunger Fight's three basic meals – Cheezy Mac, Beans 'n Rice, and Brown Sugar and Cinnamon Oatmeal Breakfast – are shelf-stable, easily-prepared meals that can be cooked simply with boiling water. They

can be eaten as entrées or supplemented with other proteins such as meat, chicken, and fish. Each meal is enriched with 20 essential vitamins and minerals, and costs only 25 cents per serving. New to the nonprofit this year is a vitamin-enriched scalloped potato dinner.

The meals, which originate from basic ingredients, are put together and packaged by volunteers from different civic organizations, schools, or local businesses who sponsor tables at large packing events. Each sponsoring group can direct where the meals will be distributed, whether it be to a local pantry, food-related agency, homeless shelter, specific low-income families and seniors, or to elementary schools with Title 1 students that are registered to take part in Hunger Fight's newest initiative – "Feed the Backpacks," which started in February 2017.

Duval County currently has 42,500 Title 1 elementary school students who qualify for a free or reduced lunch at school because their family's income is below the poverty line, said Porter.

"They are going hungry over the weekend with little or no food at all and are coming back to school on Monday, not only with a starving belly but also with zero cognitive ability because their attention span is zilch," he said. "This causes disciplinary issues through the roof because the kids are hungry and uncomfortable. This is the reason we launched our Feed the Backpack program – to put a bigger limelight on those students and provide meals for them over the weekend," Porter said.

"Our goal is to enhance the existing backpack programs (sponsored by other nonprofits) by picking up where their backpack programs leave off," he continued. "Adding our meals to their programs reduces the cost of their backpack and allows them to provide more backpacks to the school," he said. "Where they stop, we want to pick up with the other

students and send them home with a four-serving family meal so that the child or their siblings will have at least one nutritious meal over the weekend,” he said, adding there are four backpack programs in Duval County that only cover 21 of the 26 Title 1 elementary schools.

“There are over 100 elementary schools that have absolutely no backpack program or Title 1 assistance for their students at all. Our goal is to go in and hopefully cover all those, but it is a very tall order. We’ve done 3.6 million meals in the past four years, but to cover all the Duval County Title 1 schools we would need to do six million meals a year just for them,” Porter said.

Hunger Fight will still serve a network of 55 food pantries and other agencies in 14 Florida and two Georgia counties, but will be shifting more of its focus to the backpack program in elementary schools, he said. In addition to 24 public elementary schools in Duval County (10,300 students), it also covers all the Title 1 students in Bradford and Putnam Counties, as well as one elementary school in St. Johns County. Hunger Fight backpack programs are just starting in Clay and Nassau counties, and the nonprofit also started a program in Volusia County in October 2017, he said.

In its first year, Hunger Fight furnished 320,000 meals and the number has grown significantly since then. Last year 1,340,000 meals were distributed, and Porter projects two million will be packed and given to the hungry in 2017.

Hunger Fight welcomes cash gifts and does not accept food donations of any kind. Instead it purchases the ingredients for its meals in bulk from the following large food companies: cheese from Kraft-Heinz foods; vitamins from Karlsburger Foods; rice from Riceland Foods; soy and beans from Archer Daniels Midland, and pasta from A. Zerega’s Sons, Inc.

Over the past 12 months, Hunger Fight has increased its staff, warehouse capacity, office space, equipment, and resources. Current fundraising targets include a box truck for meal deliveries and powered pallet jacks to increase the speed of handling materials both in-house and at remotely staged meal-packing events.

“For us it starts with dollar donations, and that give the opportunity for volunteer hours. We have somewhere between 150 and 200 community partners, and each community partner contributes financially, which is an investment in the community,” Porter said. “At our big event in November (2017), we hope to pack more than 800,000 meals.”

Hunger Fight also hosts several large fundraisers a year in Jacksonville – the Color Me Fed ‘Race Against Hunger’ 5K Run/Walk; a Thanksgiving Outreach packing event at the Prime Osborn in November; and the Walk to End Hunger in March and a summer golf tournament. The nonprofit’s operating budget is \$800,000, and 79 percent of all money raised goes to buy food, he said, noting “every dollar given to Hunger Fight equals four meals.”

“When my wife started this, our thought was ‘if we could keep a child fed and off the streets, off drugs, and clothed, that would be a good thing to do,’” Porter said.



Mark and Lisa O'Steen of O'Steen Volvo lead a group of volunteers at a Hunger Fight packing event at the Prime Osborn Convention Center.



Mark and Kathy Scott

COUPLE BENEFITTED BY HELPING 'SOMEONE IN NEED'

In the three and a half years they have served as volunteers, Kathy and Mark Scott are among Hunger Fight’s most faithful volunteers, having participated in nearly every one of the nonprofit’s packing and fundraising events.

“We participate in approximately 90 percent of Hunger Fight events during the year, and this year that number has grown many times over as we reach into new communities in Florida,” said Kathy, noting 18 to 20 events were scheduled to provide meals to Title One students in four counties in Northeast Florida during the last four months of 2017.

To help, the Scotts participate in team facilitating packing events as well as serve as part of the Hunger Fight “staff” during the nonprofit’s two main fundraisers, the annual Color Me Fed Fun Run and the annual Chip Away at Hunger golf tournament. “We do everything, such as setting up packing tables, refilling, loading, and unloading supplies and equipment at packing events, manning registration and merchandise tables, and setting up and cleaning up color stations,” Kathy said.

The Arlington couple learned about Hunger Fight through their church – Christ United Methodist Church in Neptune Beach – when an invitation went out to members to participate in one of the charity’s first packing events held in Jacksonville.

“After that event, several of our church members felt a call to lend support whatever way possible to aid in providing meals for the food insecure and hungry in Jacksonville and its surrounding area,” Kathy said.

“Personally, I was raised to give back. Through the years as a military family, we received support in many different ways from friends, family, and others, many of whom we never met. At this time in our lives, we felt we could give a hand up to those who needed to know that God’s love is there for everyone in many different forms. We feel we have the ability to provide manpower and financial support for Hunger Fight and can demonstrate that in our own backyard.”

Just knowing in “some small way” she and her husband are helping someone or some family in their time of need is the best benefit of volunteering, said Kathy, who is now a member of the Hunger Fight Board of Directors.

Volunteer Elaine Furman stocks the shelves in the Max Block Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Community Services.

- Jewish Family & Community Services -

Food pantry aims to help people help themselves

Falling in line with the century-old Jewish Family & Community Service's mission to "help people help themselves," JFCS's Max Block Food Pantry does not discriminate when it comes to helping families with children, seniors, and other adults, who are forced to cope with life's challenges within the First Coast Community.

"The most recent statistic for Duval County is that one out of four people do not know where their next meal will come from," said JFCS Executive Director Colleen Rodriguez. "That indicates that we have a significant food insecurity problem in our community. JFCS served over 80,000 meals out of our pantry last year, and that supports this statistic," she said, adding that although the nonprofit does not provide hot meals for its clients, it does give them enough to eat three times a day for three days for each person in a household.

The Max Block Food Pantry focuses on providing staples – peanut butter, cereal, pasta, rice, canned goods, proteins, vegetables, and bread – as well as diapers, formula and hygiene products, when they are donated, said Rodriguez. It also receives food from community food drives, Publix, and Farm Share.

"We are a major player in this area but are very different from the type of feeding programs a shelter would provide," she said.

Clients of the Max Block Food Pantry are both folks with chronic food insecurity and those who have had a temporary run of bad luck. "Sometimes tragedy happens within a family. There is the loss of a breadwinner's job, illness of a primary caregiver, or relocation due to family challenges," Rodriguez said.

"Once we give them food and help them with financial assistance or link them to other resources, the family stabilizes and will never need our services again," she said. But more frequently, the pantry serves families living paycheck to paycheck, she said, noting there are those

who are thrown into crisis due to car repairs, reduced work hours, or care for a sick child. Many clients are also veterans with limited funds who are unable to secure work or seniors with fixed incomes.

The pantry often serves families and seniors who have had their food stamp benefit reduced, said Stephanie Majeskey, JFCS director of grants and compliance. "Some seniors we have served over the past few years only receive \$16 per month. During hurricanes our pantry has played a critical role in providing nonperishable food to a community in crisis.

"Quite often we will see fluctuations in pantry usage – spikes – during the summer when kids are home from school, during August and September when families are juggling back-to-school expenses, or during the holidays when households struggle to provide meaningful and traditional meals for their families," Majeskey said.

"Our food pantry is designed to be available to people three times per year, but in truth, we never turn people away with nothing," Rodriguez said.



A volunteer stocks the shelves at the Max Block Food Pantry at Jewish Family & Community Services.

During the past 10 years, the Max Block Food Pantry has served 57,055 individuals, 20,020 households and 19,969 children, said Majeskey. In 2016, the pantry served 8,078 individuals, 2,629 households and 2,827 children and as of September 2017, 3,028 individuals, 975 households and 1,060 children were served, she said.

JFCS is renovating the pantry so clients have a hands-on shopping experience. "Currently we pack grocery bags and pass food through to our clients and they get very little input into the types of food they are receiving," said Rodriguez. "In our new model, clients will be greeted by a volunteer and will be able to have the 'shopping experience.' They will get to pick what type of vegetables and proteins their family will enjoy.

"This is much more respectful to our participants and will give them a voice in what they want to serve their family," she said, adding JFCS will also offer a children's clothing closet alongside the pantry. "Over 80 percent of the people who visit our food pantry have children and very often need assistance with clothing appropriate to the season."

Over the past 100 years in its many configurations, JFCS has often provided emergency food and monetary help as well as other services to many in the community. However, it was in 1987, when Rabbi Michael Matuson of The Temple shared his deep concern with Congregation Ahavath Chesed about hunger in Jacksonville, that the pantry came into its own through the birth of the Feed-A-Needy Neighbor (FANN) program, said Majeskey.

"Two congregants, Judi Greenhut and Sandy Miller, decided to do something to help. With the support of former JFCS Executive Director Iris T. Young, Greenhut and Miller started FANN, collecting food for the JFCS pantry," she said.

Decades later, FANN is still generously supported by a concerned community as well as many local businesses so that each year the Max

Block Food Pantry can distribute nutritious, nonperishable food to more than 8,000 individuals and families in Northeast Florida.

"The pantry serves as JFCS' gateway to new donors and new opportunities," Majeskey said. "FANN is a cherished program in the community. Once donors begin giving to FANN and learn about all we do, they often become connected to us on many different levels. Through FANN, we are connected to numerous schools, civic organizations, and large area businesses. Many of our board members and volunteers first hear about JFCS through FANN," she said.

The pantry thrives due to the long-time support from the Block family, owners of Darifair Company, America's first national dairy supplier. In early summer every year, the Block Family Foundation challenges other donors to give to the pantry, promising to match their collective contributions up to \$10,000.

"The relationship between the Block family and Jewish Family & Community Services is really what we wish all donor relationships were like," said Rodriguez. "They have a genuine desire to make sure that people in our community are not hungry. And we know, working with our clients, that if you are hungry, it's impossible to focus on academics, professional growth and strengthening your family. You have to satisfy basic needs first. The Block family knows this and steps up every time we need them."

Food drives are also initiated by local synagogues and Jewish community as well as children, who designate the pantry for their Bar and Bat Mitzvah projects, said Rodriguez.

The food pantry is always in need of food donations, especially peanut butter, cereal, pasta, and other items that can make a quality meal for a family, said Rodriguez. "Once our renovation is done, we will need volunteers on a consistent basis to greet clients and take them through the shopping experience."

RETIRED VOLUNTEER BUSIES HERSELF BY GIVING BACK

For seven years Paula Caplan has served once a week at the Jewish Family and Community Services' Max Block Food Pantry. Although she wishes she were out of a job because the people she feeds were no longer hungry and had need of the food pantry, obviously that will never be the case, she said, adding she has no plans to relinquish her volunteer service any time in the future.

"By working here I've learned it's a shame people have to come here for food, but there are plenty of people who need help, that's for sure. I keep threatening I want a raise," she joked.

Caplan, who is Jewish, learned of the Max Block Food Pantry through volunteer work at River Garden Hebrew Home, a nursing facility, and the extended Jewish community. As a volunteer, she checks in clients by reviewing their identification, finding out how many people are in their family, and helping them to fill out a form. As a retiree, she said she enjoys the work because it helps her keep busy and makes her feel good.

"It's good to be busy when you are retired," she said. "It's very important to give back, especially

when you're retired. People come in, and they are severely down on their luck at the time and need food. Of course, I ask them how many are in the family, how many children – that's what it's all about, helping the community."

Although Jewish Family and Community Services is heavily funded by Jacksonville's Jewish community, the Max Block Food Pantry is open to everyone and 98 percent of its clients are not Jewish, she said.

"We serve everyone, regardless of religion," Caplan said, noting that on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter, more than 75 or 80 hungry clients might come through the doors. "The holidays always bring out more people, especially if they are having company," she said.

This summer Caplan said she's noticed a slight dip in the number of clients coming to the food pantry. "I'm not saying it's seasonal because people have to eat every day," she said. "It just seems like this particular summer it hasn't been as busy as it was last fall and winter. It seems like things are improving, and some of us are surprised when the days are slow."



Paula Caplan at the Max Block Food Pantry

To meet the anticipated increase in food needs during the summer – due to children being out of school – JFCS challenges donors to the Max Block Food Pantry Match Challenge, where the Block Family Foundation matches all contributions to the Max Block Food Pantry up to \$10,000, said JFCS spokesman Ryan Allison.

"As part of JFCS's ongoing capital campaign, The Max Block Food Pantry is being remodeled to provide a better shopping experience for our clients. It will remain open throughout construction during the fall and winter of 2017," he said.

Volunteers from United Healthcare and Optum helped distribute hurricane relief supplies at St. Andrews Lutheran By-the-Sea Church in Jacksonville Beach after Hurricane Matthew.

- Lutheran Social Services - *Feeding the many faces of hunger*

For more than 35 years, employees at Lutheran Social Services (LSS) have been working to nourish hungry Northeast Florida residents through a wide array of hunger-relief initiatives.

"Food insecurity is a major problem in our community that affects more people than you might realize," said Mary Strickland, president and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida. "One in five people living in Duval County doesn't know when or where they will get their next meal. That means you are likely to run into someone who is food insecure every day, whether it's another parent at your child's school or someone driving the car next to you."

Helping to alleviate hunger was a top priority when members from a consortium of Lutheran churches and Jacksonville community leaders got together to incorporate LSS in 1979.

The nonprofit's first initiative was to start its Nourishment Network, a food bank located on Jessie Street, that fed hundreds of thousands of food-insecure families. In 2014, the nonprofit sold the warehouse to Farm Share and strategically shifted from operating a large food bank to running a smaller food pantry and managing specific hunger-relief programs.

In rebranding its Nourishment Network outreach to focus on specific populations it believed were slipping through the cracks, LSS started four programs targeting food insecurity – Backpack Program, Health Begins Before Birth, Serving Our Seniors, and the LSS Community Food Pantry.

The LSS Nourishment Network comprises 17 percent of Lutheran Social Services' annual budget of \$5 million. It has an operating budget of \$250,000, and takes in approximately \$667,000 in in-kind food donations for a total of \$917,000.

The LSS Backpack Program provides nutritious food to school children receiving free or reduced lunches during the school week. Food is also sent home with students each Friday to provide healthy meals and snacks over the weekend. In addition, nutritional support is made available through the summer months. The agency sends an average of 900 bags of food home with the students every month.

Health Begins Before Birth is an initiative that aims to reduce Duval County's infant mortality rate by providing healthy food and nutritional education to high-risk expectant mothers. The program has delivered powerful results since its inception, distributing nearly 170,000 pounds of food to at-risk pre-natal women and helping to ensure in the delivery of many full-term healthy babies.



Three little girls are happy to receive backpacks filled with food and supplies from Lutheran Social Services.

Serving Our Seniors is a program where bags of food from the LSS food pantry are delivered door-to-door every month to approximately 840 seniors who live in low-income housing complexes throughout Jacksonville. LSS works with service coordinators at each building to identify the residents most in need.

The LSS Community Food Pantry, located at 4615 Philips Highway, is open to hungry clients five days a week. Individuals can receive food once every month and must be Duval County residents. The food LSS distributes comes from Farm Share, Feeding Northeast Florida, and Feeding 904, as well as through private donations and public food drives. The pantry serves approximately 2,000 individuals each month.

Overall, LSS served approximately 10,500 people last year through its hunger-relief programs and helped tens of thousands over the past 10 years when it operated a comprehensive food bank, said Strickland.

"Hunger has many faces in our community, from working families to the elderly and the disabled. Hunger does not discriminate," Strickland said. "Many of the people we serve are forced to choose between buying food or other essentials such as rent, utilities, or life-saving medications. Although there are some who are chronically food-insecure, often our food outreach is temporary, giving them an opportunity for a new beginning," Strickland said.

Strickland recalled one such family, which LSS served over the last few years. "The father was working here in town, with the mother taking care of three young children while actively searching for work herself," she said. "We provided them with food during this transition period to

"Hunger has many faces in our community, from working families to the elderly and the disabled. Hunger does not discriminate."



In the wake of Hurricane Matthew, representatives from the Florida Highway Patrol and the Florida Department of Agriculture joined volunteers from Spirit of Life Lutheran Church in Jacksonville Beach to distribute food and hurricane supplies from the LSS mobile food pantry.

ease the burden for their family while they got back on their feet. Our goal for every person we work with is to help them become self-sustainable so that they won't need our assistance long term."

LSS is supported by United Way, the Jim Moran Foundation, UnitedHealthcare, Walmart, American Legion Post 197, the American Legion Auxiliary Yulee Chapter, and the Beaches Car Wash, as well as individual donors and local churches.

"Building awareness of the food insecurity problem in our city is the first step. We have come a long way in spreading the word, but many don't realize their neighbors or co-workers are food insecure. We need to continue speaking up for the food insecure and working together to find long-term solutions for our neighbors in need. Donations are essential," Strickland emphasized. "We have incredible community partnerships with other hunger-relief organizations that supply us with food to distribute to those in need. While food drives are certainly helpful, large organizations like ours have relationships and contacts that enable us to obtain quality food at low costs."

LSS is always in need of volunteers and food donations, but especially seeks financial support from the community. "LSS relies on monetary donations to ensure the food is delivered, and that we can continue participating in community-wide distributions to help the largest number of people in the most efficient way possible," Strickland said.

COMMITMENT TO UNDERSERVED SHINES THROUGH AGENCY'S WORK

It was Lutheran Social Service's mission to fill in the gaps for neighbors in need of a meal that attracted Jeff Viau and his wife, Joy, to begin volunteering in the nonprofit's food pantry nearly six years ago. The agency's passion and commitment in supporting underserved populations is what most impressed him, he said.

"My work with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) is very rewarding," said Viau. "You see these smiles on the faces of people as you hand them food. We help single-parent families,

grandparents on fixed incomes, and others who just need a helping hand. I'm proud to be a part of an organization that cares so deeply about the people it serves."

At least once a week Viau volunteers in the LSS community food pantry. He also is now an active member of the LSS Board of Directors. Demand at the agency's pantry has grown tremendously, especially in the past two years, he said. It has increased from serving approximately 100 people per month to nearly 2,000 people per month, Viau said.



Lutheran Social Services volunteer Jeff Viau delivers backpacks filled with nutritious food to students in a learning center in an apartment complex.

Volunteers
Michael Olson,
Pat Morrissey, Bill
Kornmayer, Rita
Kornmayer, Karen
Fregeau, and
Gary Gregeau
from Our Lady
Star of the Sea
Catholic Church
make a hot lunch
for the folks at
Mission House
once a month.

- Mission House -

Nonprofit provides 20 years of compassionate care to Beaches' homeless

It's been 20 years since members of four Beaches churches joined together to create Mission House, the only day facility at the Jacksonville beaches that provides two hot meals per day to homeless adult men and women.

The nonprofit, which is so much more than a soup kitchen, not only provides a place for homeless and low-income individuals to eat lunch and dinner every day, but also furnishes showers, fresh clothing, free haircuts, a medical clinic, spiritual services, and the opportunity to receive counseling from two full-time case managers who assist clients in finding jobs, housing, and anything else they need to become self-sufficient.

"We will help anyone who comes to our door," said Mission House Executive Director Lori Delgado Anderson. "People need to support places like this. A lot of people try to do things individually, such as taking sandwiches to the homeless on the beach, but until the homeless walk into a place like ours that can truly help them and give them the resources no one else can, they will remain like they are. The more support we have, the more people we can get off the streets," she said.

Last year, Mission House case workers helped 79 homeless people obtain permanent housing, saving the community \$325,085 in potential arrest costs. They also helped 49 homeless individuals find permanent employment with help from Beaches business owners. Manned by volunteers from the local medical community, the free clinic saw 259 new homeless or low-income patients and each month provides medical services worth more than \$20,000. In total, last year 405 new homeless individuals were assisted by case management, and 32 homeless veterans were given special support and referred to the Veterans Administration.

"Over the past 10 years our housing numbers have gone up, and the number of people we serve meals to has gone up, but that is not necessarily because there are more homeless at the beach," said Anderson,

adding that Mission House provided 26,342 nutritious meals – an average of 1,485 meals a month – during 2016. "Twenty-six thousand meals are the most we've ever done, but we get a lot of people from Downtown and from different areas of the city. They say we treat them like a person and not like a number. They say they get helped here."

Working from a \$642,000 budget, Mission House offers meals twice a day to between 40 and 60 clients. "We're the only ones that provide hot served meals, and it's not pork and beans. These folks get incredible food, including pork chops, steaks, chicken, and vegetables every day – we are only closed four or five times a year. Two-thirds of our 500 volunteers work in the kitchen," Anderson said, noting meal groups from 21 churches in the Beaches area provide food and cook the meals on a rotating basis each month.

"Because we have volunteers cooking, and food that is donated, there is not a lot of money spent on feeding people, except for repairing or replacing equipment, and salaries," she said.

Mission House employs a kitchen coordinator to organize the volunteers who pick up food from the stores and sort the groceries once they arrive. "We certainly have enough food thanks to the Fresh Market in Atlantic Beach and Ponte Vedra, and Trader Joes," Anderson said, adding that hamburger and other food is also obtained from Feeding Northeast Florida.

"Nothing is wasted. If things are donated that we cannot use, we share our food with Pablo Towers, the senior home on 3rd Street and a rehab center in St. Augustine," she explained.

Mission House was conceived in 1997 after four churches – Ponte Vedra's Christ Episcopal Church, and Jacksonville Beach's Palms Presbyterian, St. Paul's Catholic, and St. Paul's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, then known as St. Francis Seaside Ministry – decided a central location was needed help the homeless, for whom they had been providing

CHURCH GROUP PROVIDES TUNA CASSEROLE, SERVED WITH LOVE

On the last Friday of every month, Bill Kornmayer and his wife, Rita, join a small team of volunteers from Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church to serve homemade tuna casserole to 50-60 hungry adults who come to Mission House daily for a hot lunch with all the fixings.

The group provides the tuna, noodles, potato chips and special sauce, which make the tasty casserole so popular among the Shetter Avenue clientele. "We bring all the food except for the salad, dessert, and bread, which is provided by Mission House," said Kornmayer. "We've been doing tuna casserole for three years. Before that we used to make a stir fry, but the folks, they eat this easier. They just love it," he said.

Both faithful members of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra, the Kornmayers also volunteer for other church ministries, but reserve Mission House as their only "outside" volunteer activity.

An ardent supporter of Mission House since its inception, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church supplies volunteers and financial support to the nonprofit, which funds two hot meals, health services, counseling, employment opportunities, and help finding permanent housing to homeless individuals within Jacksonville's beach communities.

The Kornmayers began their monthly service as cooks at Mission House five years ago after becoming acquainted with Pat Morrissey, another church member who leads the group.

"I like cooking, and I enjoy helping people. I volunteer for other things at the church, but this is the thing I can do outside of church," Kornmayer said. "We see a need and, believe me, we get more out of it than they (the clients) do. We see the appreciation. The people are thankful."

Kornmayer, who lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, said observing how Mission House's street people live has been an eyeopener.

"Mission House is important because it provides more than just food. Food for these people is one issue, but here they get healthcare and help to get housing. Mission House helps get people off the street. Before I started working at Mission House, I didn't realize how many people are really in need. I thought it was a



Bill Kornmayer

smaller group," Kornmayer continued. "Now that I see what's occurring, I think the most important part is to help these people find work – employment – so they can live off the streets."



Gary Fregeau and his wife, Karen, of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church, prepare bread for lunch at Mission House.

food and clothing for more than a decade from parish halls, gymnasiums, and station wagons.

In February 1997, the four churches, along with more than 162 donors, purchased the Mission House property at 800 Shetter Avenue in Jacksonville Beach. In 1998, the medical clinic was added. Fifteen years later, Anderson's dream of expanding the physical plant was realized when a 1,000-square-foot second-floor addition was built and the ground floor was renovated and refurbished with new appliances and air conditioning.

"We started construction in July 2015 and moved back in January 2016," said Anderson. "We did not stop any services during that time except day showers for a week. We still fed out of our kitchen. I did not want to stop anything."

The nonprofit's greatest need is volunteers, particularly nurses who can serve in the clinic and folks to serve in the Mission's new Companion

Program, which uses volunteers to serve as a "welcoming committee" for new homeless while identifying their specific needs for the case managers.

Also needed are razors and men's underwear. "We run out of shampoos, but I have friends at the hotels that bring a case over when I call up," Anderson said. "The community is awesome. When I say we are supported by our community, we really are. I just have to pick up the phone and folks help us."

Eighty-nine cents of every dollar given to Mission House directly benefits client and patient services. Swisher International and Acosta Sales and Marketing are major corporate donors, and 21 percent of Mission House's support is made up of contributions from individuals, including the Chartrand family, and Kay and Andre Schwitter of Texas, who make a sizeable gift each year because it was their father's wish to feed the hungry. The McCann family is also a major donor. "Their father also wanted to feed the hungry," said Anderson. "Not only do they give monetarily, but they also cook once a month and bring their business clients in to help cook so their clients can see what we do."

Compassion by the Sea, the nonprofit's annual fundraiser takes place each October. Also, Mission House recently set up an Endowment Fund with the goal to raise \$1 million by August 1, 2018. The creation of the Endowment is to ensure the basic services of showers, meals, and general operations will be safeguarded in the future, said Anderson.

"We want to make sure our basic programs never have a hiccup due to a financial crisis or some disaster," she said, noting that donors contributing \$10,000 or more become part of Mission House's Circle of Hope.

"We are so blessed," said Anderson. "Often people will call us and say, 'Hey, we're having a fundraiser. Can you send somebody over to represent you?' We are really lucky in that sense. It's kind of huge."

A group of Salvation Army volunteers led by Miracle-on-the-Hudson plane crash survivor Casey Jones, center, distributes turkeys at Thanksgiving time. In 2016, Jones collected 510 turkeys.



- Salvation Army -

Meeting the needs of the hungry without discrimination

As a well-known advocate for the lost, the vulnerable, the needy, the poor, the hurting, the helpless, and the hopeless, it comes as no surprise that The Salvation Army takes food insecurity very seriously.

"From our perspective, we think food insecurity is just as serious of a problem in Jacksonville as homelessness," said Kelly Belich, community relations coordinator for The Salvation Army. "We can see how it affects the lives of vulnerable populations such as the elderly, the disabled, and veterans."

The Salvation Army of Northeast Florida seeks to assist the food insecure in two ways – through its food pantry and meal ministry.

"Our food pantry helps mainly low-income individuals and families. We see many elderly or disabled individuals and veterans," Belich said. "Our nightly meal ministry serves a hot meal to anyone who is hungry every night of the year. We mainly serve the homeless, but it is not uncommon to see families with children, particularly toward the end of the month when money is getting tight."

Staffed by volunteers from churches, civic groups, local businesses, families and individuals, the Meal Ministry serves a nutritious dinner for unsheltered homeless persons and the working poor seven days a week beginning at 6 p.m. as well as breakfast on Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the dining room of the Towers Center of Hope facility at 900 W. Adams Street in Downtown Jacksonville. In addition to a hot healthy meal, the dinner hour also provides its clients with valuable social interaction.

Meanwhile, residents staying in Salvation Army shelters receive three meals per day.

In the 10 years from 2007 to 2016, the Army served 482,735 meals to people not staying in their shelter. Last year, 44,010 meals were served, and this year, from January to July 2017, 28,824 meals have been served. "This figure will nearly double by the end of the year due to the holidays and colder weather," Belich said.

The food pantry supplies hungry individuals and families with supplemental groceries out of the warehouse of the Army's Social



The Salvation Army depends on volunteers to help sort, pack, and distribute food.

Services building located downtown at 140 North Davis Street. In the pantry, clients are offered access to free fresh produce and canned goods. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon. "Our general rule of thumb is that we serve 50 households per day, five days a week," Belich said.

In the past decade 36,729 families and 140,826 individuals have been served by the pantry. Last year 7,486 families and 32,818 individuals were served, while in 2017, between January and July, 3,557 families and 17,864 individuals were served. The family counts include only households with children and dependents, while the individual figures include single-person households and the head of the household with dependents, she said.

The Salvation Army is in the process of converting its food pantry to a "client choice" format. Currently, an average family receives a 10-pound bag of protein and a 10-pound bag of selected canned goods, plus any fresh fruits and vegetables that might be available that day. With the new format, clients can choose any items within the pantry, which will

Rebecca Parr helps out in The Salvation Army's food pantry.



offer a diverse selection of food as well as assistance to help clients prepare nutritional foods for the family.

"This model has the added benefit of reducing food waste," said Belich. "We are very excited about this because it gives the power of decision back to the family, restores dignity, and give people healthier food options," she said, adding the Army plans to also offer resources to educate families on nutrition and how to prepare healthy foods they may not be familiar with.

The Salvation Army food pantry receives its food from Feeding Northeast Florida, Farm Share, and the United State Department of Agriculture.

Volunteers are needed year-round to help sort and distribute food at the pantry and to serve meals at the Meal Ministry. Monetary and in-kind food donations are always welcome, and the Army particularly appreciates when churches, businesses, and schools hold food drives to help stock the pantry's shelves. "Making a financial contribution to The Salvation Army is a great way to help. Our mission is to meet human needs without discrimination, and we have long been recognized as excellent stewards of the resources given to us," said Belich.

"Donated food helps us serve more efficiently. We depend on the Can-U-Care food drive in September through November for our Thanksgiving food distribution to families who have demonstrated financial need for the holidays," she continued, the Army will furnish and pick up a large barrel to businesses, churches, and schools so they can collect food. The Can-U-Care drive supplies a lot of trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner. "A barrel of canned goods might not seem like a lot, but every donation makes a difference. Last year, in one day alone, we served nearly 1,600 families in Northeast Florida through our Thanksgiving food distribution," she said.

Assisting in rounding up turkeys for the holidays is Casey Jones of Julington Creek, a survivor of the Miracle-on-the-Hudson plane crash. Jones was so affected by his near-death experience that he started doing the annual turkey drive a few years ago, said Belich. "It's grown like crazy the past few years and last year he smashed his record with 510 turkeys!"

Funding for the Army's food programs comes from the United Way, Publix, and the City of Jacksonville as well as from the federal and state government. Supporting the Thanksgiving food distribution with turkeys are Sonny's BBQ, Walmart, and Sea Breeze Food Service.

The Salvation Army's food programs also get a boost from Publix's Food-for-All campaign, during which Publix customers donate at the register to help local organizations fight hunger, Belich said. "You can give any time of year and designate your gift for meals and/or food pantry if you would like your gift used specifically for that purpose," she said.

VOLUNTEERING TEENS GAIN CONFIDENCE



Maria Gumbayan's students at Sandalwood High School enjoy helping out at the Salvation Army food pantry.

When Sandalwood High School teacher Maria Gumbayan first brought her students to volunteer in The Salvation Army's food pantry 12 years ago, the experience came as kind of a shock.

"It was an eye-opener to me to see all the people in need. I had this idea in my head that in America no one ever had trouble getting food," said Gumbayan, a native of the Philippines. "But in America, there are much better support systems for people who need the help, just like their pantry," she said.

Volunteering through the school's community-based vocational program. Gumbayan said she enjoys bringing students with special learning needs from the Strategic Learning Academics program to the pantry, not only because she wants to allow them the opportunity to give back to the community, but also because working there is a learning experience.

By sorting donations and bagging them up for pantry clients, the teens not only learn real-world skills they can use after graduation, but also gain confidence in their abilities, which changes the way they view themselves, she said.

"This experience is their transition to life after high school. It shows them that they can be independent, which is so important for these students. We don't want them to graduate and just stay home. They can do so much!" she said.

"God is great and has been so good to me and my family, and that's why I'm doing this. I have been blessed, so I want to give back!" she continued, noting that The Salvation Army is the student's favorite volunteering location. "We make a party out of it. We hop in the car and crank up the tunes on our way over, and the kids always say 'You're the coolest, Mrs. G!'"

Volunteers make up plates so that dinner may be served at Sulzbacher Center.



- Sulzbacher Center -

Spirit of giving, dedication to homeless alive in downtown Jacksonville

As Northeast Florida's largest provider of comprehensive services for homeless men, women and children, I. M Sulzbacher Center plays a major role in the city's efforts to combat food insecurity. Last year, the Center, located at 611 East Adams Street, served more than 500,000 meals to hungry homeless people in the city.

"Jacksonville continues to struggle with both the homeless population and the working poor experiencing food insecurity issues," said Eileen Briggs, Sulzbacher's chief development officer. "You only have to look at the lines that form daily outside the kitchen of Sulzbacher Center to see the degree of need right before your eyes. At both lunch and dinner serving times, hungry individuals and families line up to receive a hot and nutritious meal."

Open 365 days a year, Sulzbacher Center is a place where anyone who is hungry can receive a nutritious meal twice a day. Last year, I.M. Sulzbacher Center sheltered 1,501 homeless residents – 732 men, 364 women and 114 families with children – adding up to 125,750 nights of shelter. During that time, nutritious meals were served in the center's state-of-the-art kitchen by more than 100 volunteer meal groups, according to I.M. Sulzbacher Center's 2015-2016 annual report.

"The I.M. Sulzbacher Center's meal program is supported almost exclusively by the community support of our meals program," Briggs said. "Groups from churches, corporations, fraternities and sororities, and other civic organizations come together to purchase, prepare, and serve the meal. The program allows us to defray the costs of additional kitchen staff and food, so we can serve the half a million meals we provide to the community each year," she said.

Volunteer meal groups provide over \$200,000 in support and more than 14,000 hours of their time annually to feed the hungry in the community, according to the I.M. Sulzbacher website, which states that "meals are served on a first-come, first-served basis, but no one is ever turned away."

In addition to the financial support of the meal groups, Sulzbacher also receives food from local food banks such as Feeding Northeast Florida and Farm Share, as well as U.S. Foods.

As a full-service homeless shelter, Sulzbacher provides homeless clients with health care – primary, behavioral, and dental – as well as high-quality children's programs, GED programs and education opportunities, job placement assistance, and life skills programs, in addition to shelter and

food. Last year its outreach supported 4,338 people living on the streets, and served 6,260 patients in its medical and dental clinics for a total of 40,554 clinic visits, according to the annual report.

I.M. Sulzbacher Center always welcomes monetary donations. Its income last year totaled \$16.45 million, with the bulk of its funding coming from state and federal government (31.5 percent), City of Jacksonville (7.5 percent) and foundations (33.2 percent). In-kind donations totaled 10.5 percent of its income. Private donations totaled 2.8 percent, and United Way kicked in 1.4 percent of its funding, according to the annual report.

“The I.M. Sulzbacher Center is extremely fortunate to have the support of both the business and philanthropic communities,” Briggs said.

Health services comprise the biggest chunk of the Center’s operating expenses at nearly 60 percent. Shelter and food services comprise only 22.7 percent of Sulzbacher’s annual expense budget – a total of \$75,600, Briggs said, adding that volunteer meal groups provided an additional \$110,400 last year.

In April 2017, Sulzbacher held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new Sulzbacher Village for Women and Families at the corner of 44th and Pearl Streets in Jacksonville. The Village will provide an additional 70 units of affordable housing to single women, families with children, and female veterans, said Briggs. “The Village will also offer wrap-around supportive services to these women and families so that they can truly thrive,” she said, noting a ribbon-cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 2018.

The addition of the women’s Village demonstrates a marked change in the Center since it opened its doors in 1995. Founded jointly by the City of Jacksonville, a group of area philanthropists and businessmen, and the United Way of Northeast Florida, the need in the community for a homeless center at that time was different, said Briggs.

“Back then we only served men and only had the capacity to provide breakfast to our residents. As the face of homelessness in Northeast Florida has evolved, so has our Center. Now the Sulzbacher Center is home to over 360 men, women, and children,” she said. “The Center was



Volunteers from Lakewood Presbyterian Church meal group, which has consistently served since 1999, get ready to serve in the Sulzbacher Center kitchen.

founded on the premise that homeless persons need and deserve more than a meal and a bed to facilitate their recovery and reintegration into the community. The Center provides a continuum of care approach to addressing all aspects of homelessness,” she said.

“We took our name and our inspiration from a man who exhibited extraordinary civic leadership and concern for the homeless,” Briggs continued. “I.M. Sulzbacher combined a successful business career with selfless dedication to our community. He took the lead in raising money and set high standards for the center that now bears his name. Although he passed away in 2001, his spirit of giving and his dedication to the homeless lives on at the I.M. Sulzbacher Center.”

BECOMING A BETTER VERSION OF SELF BY HELPING OTHERS

When North Florida School of Special Education students head out to the community, they are always encouraged to “be the best version of themselves.” However, when the students head to Sulzbacher Center to do volunteer work they manage to improve on that, said Ann Atkins and Matt Wiley, two representatives from the school in an email.

“Our director, Sally Hazelip, encourages all our students to be the best version of themselves, but at the Sulzbacher, each student becomes an even better version of themselves,” said the duo.

From 10 a.m. to noon every Wednesday, the school sends a handful of students to help make sandwiches, bag snacks and pack bags for

distribution to Sulzbacher clients and other homeless in nearby Jacksonville parks. The students typically make about 300 lunches per day, said Atkins and Wiley, noting the school has been connected to Sulzbacher Center in some capacity since 2005.

“We were looking for an organization where our students could gain vocational training while serving our community,” they said. “Beyond the vocational training, we were excited to work with an organization that empowers the individuals they serve. We work to empower our young adults with differing abilities,” she said.

At Sulzbacher Center, North Florida School of Special Education students learn new skills and are enriched by their experiences. Most important, by working at the center in food preparation, the students gain a sense of accomplishment.

“They enjoy seeing the individuals that they are serving. They also enjoy working as a team and being out in the community. They



Helping out at Sulzbacher Center from North Florida School of Special Education are Austin Borkowski, Trevin Lee, Tyler Elliott, Fletcher Schaier and Tamari Reynolds.

feel proud of their work at the end of the day,” Atkins and Wiley said, noting the pride comes from knowing the sack lunches they prepare help individuals who are not able to make it to the Center for lunch to have a healthy meal.

Sulzbacher Center is important because it helps a community in need. Its work is wide-reaching, said the duo.

Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry Volunteers Gary Hautau, Tom Culverwell, Darren Sirmans, Steve Thomaszewski, Tim Bush, Frank Garelick, Bill Hiers, Mary Bollingberg, Rick Redman, Byron Bollingberg and Jim Cates



- Trinity Lutheran Church -

Humbly feeding the hungry since 1995

Visiting Trinity Lutheran Church's Food Pantry in Riverside can offer deep lessons in humility, and not just for the clients.

"I'm always telling the volunteers, 'don't judge,'" said Pantry Coordinator Tom Culverwell, who has freely given his time for more than a decade, while long-time volunteer Bill Hiers agrees.

"We ask for a humble heart when we give out the food, because the people have a need, and we don't need to be judging what it is," Hiers said.

Staffed only by volunteers, Trinity Lutheran's food pantry got its start in the early 1990s when church members attended a religious conference and came back wondering how their congregation could reach out more to the surrounding community. It was then the church decided to start two programs – a food pantry and the Children's Enrichment Workshop, a free after-school program for elementary school children, which provides them a safe Christian environment until their parents can pick them up after work.

The food pantry began in 1995 as a two-day-a-week food give-away program through the church's side door, and originally served folks suffering from food insecurity who lived in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the church. Today it resides in a separate building on the church campus at 1415 McDuff Avenue and is open five days a week, from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, and Wednesday evenings from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

"If I could get enough volunteers I would reopen on Saturdays," Culverwell said. "I had to shut down Saturdays because I couldn't get enough volunteers."

Over the past 11 years that Culverwell has served as coordinator, the pantry has seen its impact on the food-insecure community increase. In 2006, it served 5,211 residents in 1,597 households, distributing 14,970 pounds of food, while last year, 337,056 pounds of food were distributed to 47,213 individuals in 13,204 households. Each month, the pantry currently serves between 1,300 and 1,500 households and distributes approximately 35,000 pounds of food.

Culverwell attributes part of the increase to his pantry no longer having location restrictions, but finds it interesting that the number of Riverside residents using the pantry has increased dramatically over the years. "When we did a computer breakdown, we found that only two percent came from Riverside/Avondale in 2006, and last year that area was up to 12 percent," he said.

Most of the clients who use the pantry are working poor or grandparents trying to support their grandchildren on a fixed income, Culverwell said. Clients may pick up food once every 30 days, while homeless can visit the pantry once a week. "We call them travelers," he said.

"We are fortunate to have a bus station outside of the church on the corner of Park Street and McDuff, so a lot of people come to us that way. Others like to partner up with each other in cars," he continued. "It is not unusual for us to carry food out to them and see their trunk already loaded with food because they have stopped at more than one pantry to try to feed their family. We don't have a problem with that. Once the food leaves our hands, we aren't going to worry about it. Truth be known, it's less than two percent of the people that take advantage," Culverwell said.

RETIREMENT LEADS TO A LIFE HELPING OTHERS

Six years ago, when he retired as a labor relations administrative manager with the Jacksonville Energy Authority's St. Johns River Power Park, Bill Hiers decided he would spend his free time giving back to his community by volunteering for both a civic and charitable organization.

For civics, he volunteered to become a member of Jacksonville's City Civil Service Board, a regulatory board with members appointed by the mayor, JEA, or the School Board.

As for the nonprofit, Hiers' choice was close to home. A member of Riverside's Trinity Lutheran Church, he signed on to volunteer 20 hours a week helping with the food pantry ministry.

"This was available, and many, many years ago I had worked for A&P while I was going through college. I felt I had a little background in the food area, and it seemed to be a good fit," he said. "I'm here quite a bit."

On Mondays, Hiers assists his wife, Karen, who heads the ministry's "bread crew," which receives a load of bread from Waste Not, Want Not in Orange Park, a volunteer-based group that exists to prevent the discarding of food and other items that can be used to fight hunger and poverty in the Jacksonville area.

"The bread comes in bags and our crew sorts and stacks it," he said. "I also help set up at the

pantry on Monday morning when we get two loads of food from Winn-Dixie in Mandarin and Harveys Supermarket on Edgewood Avenue. We have a couple of volunteers who pick up donated food. We bring it into the pantry, sort through it and store it on the shelves for distribution."

Similarly, Hiers also works Wednesdays when a truckload from Feeding Northeast Florida comes in. "The truck goes to various stores on the Westside and picks up their donation. Instead of taking it back to the warehouse where they have their people sort through it, they allow us to have it and we do the sorting for them and store it," he explained.

On Thursday, Hiers and his wife also work with a crew of volunteers by distributing food to clients who come to the pantry. "I get a good feeling helping out," he said. "There is no other way to put it. It just makes you feel good that you are helping others."

"And it's not just Trinity members that we work with. It's a community effort," he said, noting that members of Riverside Park United Methodist Church, Avondale United Methodist, Riverside Presbyterian, and many others assist with the pantry ministry. "Many other community churches send volunteers and contribute to it. I've met a lot of very good friends. We have a lot of fun doing this. We give each



Bill Hiers at work in the Trinity Lutheran Church food pantry.

other a hard time, but that's all part of the fun," he joked.

"One time we had folks from Riverside Presbyterian come over in the summer to help us sort through canned goods from a mail carriers' collection they had. There were a bunch of kids helping out, and I heard one of the kids as he was leaving – an eight-year-old – saying 'We helped people today.' Now come on, how can you beat that? An eight-year-old that did that and knew he was helping somebody. That's a darn good feeling," said Hiers. "It's a wonderful feeling to sit back and reflect that you helped somebody."

Existing on a budget of \$73,000, with most of its funding from the Trinity Lutheran Church congregation, the pantry is always in need of both food and monetary donations, particularly cash.

"We need money the most. For every \$1 we receive, we can procure over \$8 worth of food from Feeding Northeast Florida and Farm Share. Of course, we never turn down food donations. Our ultimate dream is to have a purpose-built facility that would enable us to unload pallets directly from the truck into the facility. At present we unload each pallet outside and bring the food into the pantry with hand trucks," he said, noting the pantry could also use a new refrigerator. "The one we have was donated by Lutheran Social Services in 2006 and Lord knows how long it was in their warehouse. According to the numbers, it was manufactured in the mid-1980s and is no longer repairable."

At present, Trinity Lutheran doesn't receive funding from corporations or major philanthropic supporters, but does receive some financial and other support from Feeding Northeast Florida, Avondale United Methodist Church, Riverside Park United Methodist Church, Riverside Presbyterian Church, Lutheran Social Services, Shepherd of the Woods Lutheran Church, and Farm Share, he said.

As of September 2017, the food pantry started a program in health screening (diabetes and blood pressure testing) in conjunction with Avondale United Methodist Church, AHEC (Area Health Education Centers) Northeast Florida, and ElderSource. The program will provide health screening, nutrition training and instruction in healthy eating.

"Clients from the food pantry will be asked if they want to participate in this free 12-week program that will teach good nutrition habits," Culverwell said. "A surprising number of clients have no knowledge of how to cook anything from scratch. It's all frozen food, fast food, high salt."

"That's why so many are obese," he said. "We give them what we get and some of what we give out is not healthy food, but it is what it is. Eventually we are going to do cooking classes. If we have an exotic vegetable that we are handing out, we are going to encourage them to bring it over to the church so we can teach them how to cook it."



Volunteers from Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry Ministry unload supplies from a Feeding Northeast Florida truck.

UCOM's Thursday workers Elaine Thompson, Malcolm Hanson, James Dell'Alba, and Brenda Thomas believe that no one should face hunger alone.



- United Community Outreach Ministry -

Serving so no one faces the crisis of hunger alone

United Community Outreach Ministry (UCOM) Executive Director Sara Mitchell often invokes the words of television personality Mr. Rogers when she thinks of the food insecure clients her nonprofit serves. “Mr. Rogers said, ‘Who are the people in your neighborhood?’ Our vision is to be Southside strong!” she said.

UCOM, a not-for-profit charity established by 12 local churches in 1979, provides education and helps hungry individuals on the Southside of Jacksonville. Over the years, its reach has expanded to include a coalition of 38 area faith organizations, which support its efforts in three areas – Meals on Wheels, Emergency Services/Food Pantry and a Certified Nurse Assistant scholarship program.

“We live in a ‘pull yourself up by your bootstraps’ culture,” said Mitchell. “The real shock came for me when our data showed that the highest percentage of people visiting our food pantry were over 60 years old, disabled, or were veterans. Our clients are basically anyone on a fixed income, and that should tell us something about the economics here in

Jacksonville. We can infer from our data that an individual with a fixed income will not have a comfortable debt-to-income ratio if they live in certain areas of Jacksonville.

“From our data we can also be plain, keeping it real, that most of us are one paycheck, one life event, or one crisis away from needing help. This is why there will always be hunger,” she continued.

“For some, we only see them until they are over the ‘hump.’ Meals on Wheels will only see them until they recover from surgery or their family moves them into a care facility. Our pantry will only see someone during a job transition or a relocation or during a huge medical bill season. Others we sustain because layers upon layers of reasons keep them in the cycle of crisis. They live so close to the edge that, without sustaining organizations, they would be homeless or worse,” she said.

UCOM partners with Aging True to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Southside area. Each day, volunteer drivers deliver close to 50 meals to housebound seniors, many of whom have no family in the area. Currently

"The real shock came for me when our data showed that the highest percentage of people visiting our food pantry were over 60 years old, disabled, or were veterans."

UCOM coordinates the largest Meals on Wheels volunteer-driven route in Jacksonville. Last year UCOM delivered 14,012 meals through its Meals on Wheels program. In addition to receiving a hot nutritious meal, the volunteers provided a safety check to their senior clients as well as shared a smile or a laugh.

The food pantry, located in the Old Congregational Church on St. Augustine Road, is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Food donations come from individuals, civic organizations, businesses, companies, and schools, many of which hold food drives. UCOM also partners with local grocers, picking up food that is close to its sell-by date. The Feeding Northeast Florida food bank also contributes to UCOM's larder.

Thanks to John and Sandy Davoli, owners of Metro Diner, and Vic Rukab, owner of B&B Restaurant Equipment, UCOM's food pantry recently added a large walk-in refrigerator/freezer so that it can provide more frozen meat and produce to its clients.

Last year UCOM provided supplemental groceries to 4,596 individual households, of which some come only monthly, said Mitchell. More than 2,830 children live in those households year around, she said, adding that an additional 1,992 children join other families in the summer months when UCOM hands out lunches to take the place of the luncheon meals they would receive if school was in session. UCOM also provided bagged lunches and hygiene kits to 1,275 homeless individuals last year.

"Our data doesn't show much fluctuation in the number of people served, but we have seen a difference in the demographic we serve that

is a little unsettling," Mitchell said. "There are more people being sustained with grocery assistance because of interlaced basic needs than there were 10 or 20 years ago. There is also a rise in service numbers to individuals over 60, as well as the disabled and veterans."

The nonprofit also awarded full CNA Scholarships to 30 students to help them raise their earning potential.

Three fundraisers are held each year to support UCOM. South Jacksonville Presbyterian Church donates 25 percent of the proceeds of its September Crop Walk to the agency, and in the spring, the participating faith organizations come together for a celebration with song where all the proceeds go to purchasing food for the pantry. In the fall the annual chili cook-off is held to support UCOM.

UCOM's greatest need, aside from monetary and food donations, are volunteers. "It takes many hands to keep an organization with lots of moving parts moving forward. We want to stay generous with what we provide families in need, and we want to stay generous with how we provide it," said Mitchell. "UCOM's Meals on Wheels drivers are sometimes the only face that a homebound person sees all week. Helping someone pack groceries from our pantry into their car may be the only kind 'neighbor' moment the client experiences that month. And what we do matters to us, too. After they spend exhausting mornings schlepping groceries for clients, our volunteers leave knowing they are rock stars and that the time they spent volunteering mattered," she said.

"It is our collective Southside vision that no one needs to face the crisis of hunger alone," said Mitchell.



SAYING 'YES' AS A WAY TO HELP CHANGE THE WORLD

Active as a volunteer with UCOM since 1997 through her church, Philip R. Cousin AME, Sandra Hicks said that volunteering was something she has always wanted to do.

"I thought I could change the world. I went to school and majored in sociology. It was my pastor who asked me to be our church's liaison with UCOM," she said.

Hicks and her husband, Charles, had moved to Jacksonville in 1990 when Charles was transferred to the First Coast by CSX. As a

stay-at-home mom, Sandra raised her children and served as a volunteer in the UCOM food pantry. She is now a member of UCOM's Board of Directors and continues to volunteer as does her husband, who has now retired.

"When I was asked to help, I said 'Yes,'" she explained. "I fell in love with the people that I volunteer with and with the people we serve. I don't know if I am the best person to show this kind of love. There is always someone better, isn't there? But if I don't try, shame on me!"



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LOVE LIVES ON IN THE HEARTBEAT OF A STRANGER

BY ROBERT DEANGELO



Jessica Moore cries as she hears her sister's heart beat in Anne Campbell's chest.

Perhaps the first sound Jessica Moore ever heard was her twin sister Haley's heartbeat in the womb. On April 25, Jessica listened to that heartbeat once again, this time in the chest of transplant recipient Anne Campbell.

Jessica, her mother Vickie, and father Lee, were overcome with emotion listening through a stethoscope to Campbell's heart at The Tree of Life ceremony at UF Health Jacksonville Medical Center. The event honored those who have given hope and life through organ donation.

"Words can't describe the way you feel when you hear that heartbeat again," Jessica said, wiping away tears. "It's something you haven't heard in so long. It's comforting. It brings so much peace, and it's healthy."

"Physically, Haley's not here anymore. Spiritually, she's here every minute of every day."

Following a car accident in early August of 2007, 17-year-old Haley was rushed to the hospital and placed on life support. A day later the teen was declared brain dead. Six months before the accident, Jessica said, Haley had expressed the desire to become an organ donor. In keeping with her wishes, the Moore family of Arlington Hills honored that commitment.

"It was the hardest decision I ever had to make," Vickie Moore said. "I didn't know how I would feel about my daughter's organs living on long after Haley was gone."

Haley's heart, liver, pancreas, lungs and both kidneys went on to save six lives. To date, Vickie Moore has met three of the six recipients.

But the Moore family feels closest to Campbell, a mother of three from Virginia, who struggled with a rare heart disorder for 13 years. After several tests failed to pinpoint the cause of her condition, doctors finally diagnosed Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Dysplasia (ARVD) in which the muscle of her right ventricle was being replaced by fat and fibrous tissue.

A competitive distance runner, Campbell recounted that the ailment resulted in an irregular heartbeat which became progressively worse, leaving her virtually bedridden, unable to work, barely able to walk, and with a dire prognosis from doctors.

On Aug. 5, 2007, however, Campbell received word that a donated heart was available.

Upon awakening following the transplant surgery, Campbell noted she was overcome by a flood of vivid emotions. "My illness was cured by Haley's heart," she said through tears at the ceremony. "It's just an unusual feeling to have a sense of joy and also a sense of sadness knowing one family has lost a loved one."

"But now, meeting Haley's family, they have personally told me how much it means to them to know her gift has saved so many people."

Almost immediately, Campbell returned to running and went on to set three world records while winning a gold medal in the 1,500 meters at the 2009 World Transplant Games in Gold Coast, Australia.

Meeting the Moores for the first time at a dinner the evening before April's ceremony, she gave them the gold medal. "That was a victory for Haley and her family," Campbell said.

The Tree of Life Ceremony is an annual event at UF Health Jacksonville to honor patients and families who have made the decision to donate their organs.

There are currently more than 120,000 people awaiting donated organs in the United States, according to Patrice Jones, chief nursing officer. Of those, around 22 individuals die each day before a match can be found.

"Every 10 minutes another name is added to the national donor registry," Jones said.

The names of UF Health Jacksonville patients who donated organs are added to the Tree of Life mural in a ceremony that has taken place over the last eight years. Since April of

last year, 21 names were added – 19 on leaves and two on butterflies – completing the mural. The first names of adult patients who donated organs are engraved on the leaves, while the names of children who donated are engraved on the butterflies.

"Of the 80 organs that were donated by these patients in 2016, 53 were transplanted to patients locally at Mayo Clinic and UF Health Shands in Gainesville," said Danielle Cornell, executive director of LifeQuest Donor Services.

April was designated Donate Life Month, and organizers hope stories like those of Haley Moore and Anne Campbell demonstrate the importance of organ donation and will encourage others to become organ donors.

"Our lives changed forever but we knew we had to make this unselfish act," Lee Moore said. "Since then, all of us have signed up to become organ donors."

Most often, organ donors are deceased but some organs can be donated by living donors.

Deceased organ donors can donate kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas, and intestines. In 2014, hands and faces were added to the organ transplant list.

Living organ donors can donate one kidney, a lung, or a portion of the liver, pancreas, or intestine.

By registering as a cornea donor, individuals can leave behind the gift of sight. In 2015, there were 48,792 successful corneal transplants.

Additionally, the middle ear, skin, heart valves, bone, veins, cartilage, tendons, and ligaments can be stored in tissue banks and used to cover burns, repair hearts, replace veins, and mend damaged connective tissue and cartilage in recipients.

Every organ donor can save up to eight people and improve up to 50 lives through various donations. Registration and additional information is available at DonateLifeFlorida.org.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT THE ‘BOARD’ WALK

LOCAL LEADERS SHARE INSIGHT, ADVICE AND THE PITFALLS OF NONPROFIT BOARD SERVICE

BY LILLA ROSS

When Ju’Coby Pittman was hired as executive director of Clara White Mission in 1992 she took the reins of an organization started in 1904 with a single focus — feeding the hungry.

Pittman said she wanted to revive and expand the vision of its founder, Eartha White. But she would need help. Pittman took her vision to the three dozen board members, some of whom had been on the board 20 or 30 years. Many of them resisted the idea of change.

To transform her organization Pittman would have to transform her board.

Attorney Whitney Harper joined the board of a startup nonprofit, Rethreaded, because she liked the idea of helping an organization invent itself and its brand.

Rethreaded was founded in 2011 to help victims of the sex trade by selling the products they make. It was only about four years old when Harper came on board, but it had already won attention at One Spark.

“I get great joy helping build something that has meaning and will last,” Harper said.

Michael Munz, a partner in the Dalton Agency, has served on half a dozen boards, all organizations that address his personal passions: animal welfare, children’s issues and homelessness.

One of the things he’s most proud of is Transformations, an annual fundraising event for the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless. He helped create it 19 years ago to highlight the lives Sulzbacher has transformed.

“I never thought it had this kind of staying power,” Munz said. “The first time I presented it to the board, they turned it down. But after the first Transformations, I got a call from a donor who had been at the event and had been really moved by the stories. He wanted to make a large contribution. That made all

the time and effort worth it. You can really make a difference.”

And that’s why Munz, Harper and thousands of other people in Northeast Florida serve on the boards of more than a thousand nonprofits. They can make a difference.

But there are other payoffs as well. Board service is a great way to learn new skills, network and have fun.

The nonprofit sector in Northeast Florida is huge and includes organizations that provide services, advocate for issues, operate institutions and manage philanthropic dollars.

“It’s part of the heartbeat of Jacksonville,” Munz said.

But a nonprofit is only as strong as its board.

RESTRUCTURING LEADERSHIP

When Pittman wanted to remake the board of Clara White Mission she reached out to a variety of resources in Jacksonville.

She got help from a consultant at the Small Business Development Center at the University of North Florida.

“I shared with him our issues. We had a small budget, \$295,000 and a staff of five including me. We had a large board 35 to 40 people, all African-American, not everyone was active. The only program we had was the feeding program but we had a lot of real estate that was not being utilized,” Pittman said.

With a grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund, she hired a consultant who met individually with the board members to get their insight and determine their level of commitment. An advisory board was established for people who left the board but wanted to stay involved.

“I get great joy helping build something that has meaning and will last.”

— Whitney Harper

The bylaws and procedures were rewritten and included term limits for members and a clear explanation of roles and responsibilities.

The board was restructured and reduced in size from 35 people to 21. To find new board members, Pittman turned to people she knew at Leadership Jacksonville, Jacksonville Urban League, the Junior League, and United Way of Northeast Florida.

“We looked at the scope and what we needed, the community connections, the expertise and we were able to identify those individuals,” Pittman said. “It took us seven years but we totally remade the board. We were able to make the paradigm shift from soup kitchen to an economic development center.”

The Mission still has its feeding program but now its programs include vocational training in culinary and janitorial industries, a catering service, a janitorial service, a wedding and conference center with in-house catering, a sustainable farm, transitional housing and veterans housing.

THE BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

Munz said when he joined his first board more than 20 years ago, he quickly realized there is a big difference between the roles of board members and staff members.

"There's a very strong distinction," he said. "Anyone who serves on a board needs to understand that and understand it quickly. Boards are about governance, policy setting, fundraising, and hiring and firing the CEO.

"The CEO runs the organization and implements the policies the board sets. You don't cross the line and get involved in the day-to-day. You can have opinions and share them with the CEO but it's not your job to run the nonprofit."

The bylaws dictate how the board functions: frequency of meetings, election of officers, quorum requirements, term limits and committee structures.

Nina Waters, president of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida, said board members need a clear understanding of their responsibilities, especially when it comes to their fiduciary responsibilities.

"Each person has a responsibility for the financial health of the organization," Waters said. "It is extremely important that each one take their role seriously. They need to be good stewards of the organization's dollars and services."

The Community Foundation makes grants to nonprofits, and Waters said they see a lot of confusion on boards when it comes to finance.

"Boards don't always understand they are responsible for looking at the monthly or quarterly financial statements. They don't always understand their job isn't just to set the budget but they have to pay attention to cash flow, too."

Munz said nonprofits need to think of themselves as businesses.

"Just because it's tax-exempt doesn't mean it shouldn't be operated like a business with a bottom line. Ignore the tax status and focus on operational excellence and results as the key metric and driver," Munz said. "A nonprofit damn well better make money or you won't be open."

For some nonprofits, making money is part of the mission.

Rethreaded operates a business, selling products made by the victims of the sex trade.

"It is extremely important that each one take their role seriously. They need to be good stewards of the organization's dollars and services."

— Nina Waters

"It's social entrepreneurship. It's a neat niche," Harper said. "We want to build a successful business. Doing that makes opportunities for more women to come out of their horrible situations. The more you sell, the more opportunities you create."

The other important job of the board is fundraising.

"Everyone does fundraising; it's a given," said Jim Whittaker, CEO of The Arc Jacksonville, which serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. "The pitch is never done. Annual appeals, fundraisers...it never stops."

Fundraising can take many forms: annual events like galas and golf tournaments, grants from foundations, and donations from individuals.

Pittman said that when she became executive director of Clara White Mission 25 years ago the board had car washes and fish fries that might raise \$1,200. The Mission now has several high-profile events such as its Pearls and Cufflinks gala and the Miracle on Ashley Street luncheon. Not only do they raise money, they raise an organization's profile in the community, attracting volunteers and donors.

Grants can benefit nonprofits in several ways. Sometimes they can mean an infusion of big money into an organization, sometimes across several years. But to qualify for a grant, a nonprofit needs to have its financial act together because foundations vet the organizations they give money to. A nonprofit that is a regular recipient of grants signals to donors it's a sound institution.

Donations of cash are the lifeblood of many nonprofits. It's the role of the board to provide a nonprofit with access to people who can write big checks.

"It's all about connections and contacts," Whittaker said. "That's where board members are helpful, introducing us to potential donors, breaking the ice for us to go in and tell the story."

They also are expected to make "The Ask," a job that makes some board members cringe.

"It's really amazing how many really high net worth people would much rather write a big check than ask someone to give. It's difficult for a lot of people to ask for money," Munz said. "You've got to believe in the cause. It's gotten easier for me and I think it does for others."

Munz remembers years ago when he was working on a capital campaign for the Sulzbacher Center going with the development director to ask a well-known donor for a six-figure gift.

"I was really nervous about it," Munz said. "But we did our homework, presented our case and he said yes. I was blown away."

BUILDING A BOARD

If a nonprofit is run like a business that means board members need annual evaluations both individually and as a board, said Joan Garry, a New Jersey-based nonprofit consultant.

Individuals need to be assessed for such things as their support of the organization's mission, their attendance at board meetings and events, their communication skills and their ability to deal with conflict, Garry said.

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"I'm not afraid to ask for money or ask someone to give time as long as it's something I believe in."

— Michael Munz

The board as a whole needs to look at its effectiveness in developing and carrying out a strategy, overseeing the finances and fundraising, their support of the executive director, the effectiveness of meetings and their adherence to board policies.

"We have an assessment that members are asked to fill out and then we collectively look at the results," Whittaker said. "That guides the board on where there may be gaps. It's a good way to get feedback. Always some are really engaged, others not so much. This helps us find out why they're not engaged. They may have time restraints or may not feel knowledgeable enough. Our industry is constantly changing, new policies are coming down from the Feds or grantors all the time."

And then the board needs to ask itself what it wants to accomplish that year and whether it has the board members to accomplish the task, Garry said. Ideally, they have a list of prospects who have been profiled to determine their skillsets, attributes and interests.

The pool of prospects can include volunteers, donors, clients and their families as well as businesses and corporations.

"We think it's important to have a balance," Whittaker said. "We want about half of our board to have a family connection. They are our guiding light."

The Arc's board includes a consumer. "He definitely contributes. He has an opinion. He reminds everyone why we're there," Whittaker said. "I highly recommend having consumers on the board."

Munz said that when, as a young professional, he decided to serve on a board, he chose the Boys and Girls Club because growing up in a single-parent family he had really benefited from the afterschool programs.

"I really understand what a difference they can make because they made a difference in my life and I wanted to give back," he said.

Every board needs expertise — accountants, attorneys, people with skills in marketing and strategy and knowledge of the sector.

Businesses and corporations are often happy to recommend young professionals or seasoned executives for board service. It's a great training ground and networking opportunity for employees, and good marketing and community relations for the company.

Pittman said she has always had someone from Citibank on the Mission's board. "Citi has provided us with staff training. We've been able to piggyback on some of the classes they have for employees in things like customer service or conflict resolution."

Munz said he understands that when he is approached about serving on a board why he is being sought out.

"I'm good at strategic thinking and solving problems. I have community relationships and connections and a broad reach across a lot of Jacksonville. I have organizational and governance skills and the ability to fundraise," Munz said. "I'm not afraid to ask for money or ask someone to give time as long as it's something I believe in."

JOINING A BOARD

For someone thinking about joining a board there are several things to think about. Do you want to serve on a board with a long, rich history and maybe a national presence, or is a startup more appealing?

"I have a lot of conversations about serving on boards," Munz said. "I begin by asking 'What is important to you? What do you care

about? What would fulfill you?' Serving on a board is like a job. You've got roles and responsibilities on a weekly or monthly basis. You've got to be happy doing it. You've got to be fulfilled. And you really have to make sure you are able to devote the time and energy when you take on that kind of responsibility."

In addition to attending board meetings, which are typically monthly or quarterly, board members are expected to serve on committees that oversee certain functions like finance, strategy or marketing.

"We project that a trustee not in a leadership role will put in at least 40 hours a year," Waters said. "We only meet four times a year but the chairman might have to spend two hours a week in that role."

Board members also are expected to prepare for meetings, which can involve reading or site visits, as well as attending special events, such as fundraisers or donor appreciations.

While it's flattering to be asked to serve on a board, it's important to be honest with yourself about how much time and passion you have to commit, Munz said.

"I have a personal rule. I won't serve on more than two or three boards," Munz said.

"I've seen people who have agreed to serve on too many boards and I watch them be non-effective."

Munz said he found it helpful to have mentors, experienced board members who showed him the ropes. Longtime community activist Pam Paul is one of several people who served that role for Munz.

"Pam helped me understand 20-plus years ago the importance of community service and giving back. I learned from her that board service was a way to do that with the skillsets that I have," he said.



"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35

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Other important resources for prospective board members include the Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, which offers training and other programs for the nonprofit sector; Leadership Jacksonville, which offers leadership development training, and service organizations that do volunteer projects are also good access points to board service.

Harper said she discovered Rethreaded through her business partner Gwen Griggs, who knows people in One Spark. Their law practice, ADVOS, specializes in entrepreneurial law, and they offered to host a focus group for Rethreaded, where they got acquainted with its founder, Kristin Keen.

"We realized we had some experience Rethreaded needed. It didn't have a lawyer. They needed someone who understood social entrepreneurship," Harper said.

Prospective board members also need to do their homework and vet the nonprofit — ask questions, look at the annual audit, the tax document called a 990 and charity monitors like guidestar.org, charitynavigator.org and charitywatch.org.

And, Harper suggests, "Go to lunch and get the real deal."

THE PAYOFF

The other thing about serving on a board is that members work very hard and don't get paid. Not in money, anyway.

So, what's the payoff?

For Munz, it was watching the old kennels at the Jacksonville Humane Society being torn down. "I used to clean those kennels when I was young," said Munz, who is board chair. "And when they came down — that was it — that was the payoff. I made a difference."

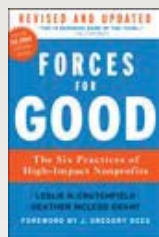
For Harper, it's the chance to build and shape a startup nonprofit she feels very passionate about.

"With a startup, you get to roll up your sleeves. You get to put your mark on it in an interesting way," Harper said. If we can build a model that can be used in other communities and countries that gives real possibility and hope where there had been none, if I get my name attached to that, that's a pretty good payment.

"My advice is you need to have a really true passion for what you're going to be doing. It can't be because it looks good on LinkedIn," Harper said. "But more important is you've got to be willing and able. They don't always go hand in hand. It's going to require extra time, effort, resources, including your money. You've got to be in a space where you can do that all joyfully or it's a bad thing for you and the organization."

BOOKS FOR NONPROFIT BOARDS, LEADERS AND PROFESSIONALS

Nonprofit leadership comes in all forms — from the board chair and members, to the chief executive officer or president, to committee heads — and the savvy leader will look for advice from a variety of sources. Here are a few "quick picks" that provide timeless tips for effective nonprofit leadership.

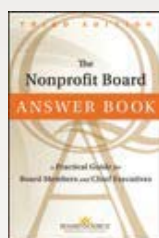


Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High-Impact Nonprofits

By **Leslie Crutchfield and Heather McLeod Grant**

Published by **Jossey-Bass, 2012**

What makes great nonprofits great? Authors Crutchfield and McLeod Grant studied 12 nonprofits that have achieved extraordinary levels of impact to distill six counterintuitive practices these organizations use to change the world. The book explores the new context in which nonprofits operate and the consequences for these organizations, and has lessons for all readers interested in creating significant social change, including nonprofit managers, donors, and volunteers.

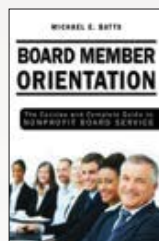


The Nonprofit Board Answer Book: A Practical Guide for Board Members and Chief Executives

By **BoardSource**

Published by **Jossey-Bass, 2011**

An essential guide to good governance for board leaders at all levels of experience and expertise, this third edition of the book for nonprofit board members and professionals offers a thoroughly revised and updated resource that answers the most-commonly asked questions on board governance. Covering topics such as board structure and process, board member recruitment and orientation, board-staff relations, and financial management, this edition includes updated information on topics like the new Form 990, dealing with the financial crisis, risk management, and mergers.

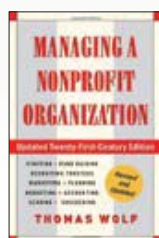


Board Member Orientation: The Concise and Complete Guide to Nonprofit Board Service

By **Michael E. Batts**

Published by **CreateSpace, 2011**

Serving on a nonprofit board can be an incredibly rewarding experience for the properly prepared board member. Written for busy people who agree to give their time and talents serving on nonprofit boards, the book provides simple, practical, nuts-and-bolts information in a concise and comprehensive guide to nonprofit board service, designed especially for new board members. The quick read addresses the most significant elements of board service, such as mission, responsibility, duty, risk, liability, and board meeting dynamics.

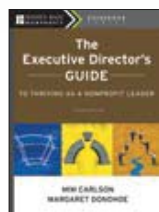


Managing a Nonprofit Organization: Updated Twenty-First-Century Edition

By **Thomas Wolf**

Published by **Free Press, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 2012**

This updated edition includes material that tackles the demands and challenges faced by nonprofit managers as a result of the legislative and policy changes enacted after 9/11 and in the wake of the economic collapse of 2008. Highlighting the generational issues facing many nonprofits, as current management ages and a younger generation prepares to take the reins, Dr. Wolf suggests ways for organizations to best manage these transitions and adapt to a rapidly changing world.

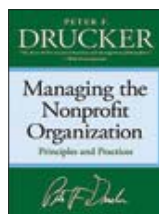


The Executive Director's Guide to Thriving as a Nonprofit Leader

By **Mim Carlson and Margaret Donohoe**

Published by **Jossey-Bass, 2010**

This book is filled with management advice for succeeding as an executive director, and includes thoroughly updated information and new content. It covers topics on timely issues and practical strategies including: Avoiding Burnout, Accountability, Professional Networking, Financial Literacy, Measuring Effectiveness, and much more. Ideal for executive directors and board members, the book also includes new cases and stories from the field and "practical tips" sidebars.



Managing the Nonprofit Organization: Principles and Practices

By **Peter F. Drucker**

Published by **Harper Collins, 2010**

The nonprofit sector is growing rapidly, creating a major need for expert advice on how to manage these organizations effectively. Management legend Peter Drucker provides excellent examples and explanations of mission, leadership, resources, marketing, goals, and much more. Interviews with nine experts also address key issues in this booming sector.



A rendering of the glittering state-of-the-art structure which dramatically expands the current Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center in San Marco.

Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center brings premier, individualized cancer care to region

BY MARCIA HODGSON

No longer do Northeast Florida patients need to leave the region to receive premier cancer care. Thanks to Baptist Health's vision of joining with MD Anderson in Houston to bring the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center to San Marco, Jacksonville residents can stay at home to receive the best care in the country.

"We want to ensure patients within this community, this region of the country, have access to the quality of care and outcomes they would receive in Houston," said Dr. Joe B. "Bill" Putnam, Medical Director, Baptist MD Anderson. "Baptist Health is Jacksonville's No. 1 preferred provider and the largest health care provider in the region. Our primary care network has over 150 doctors and 50 offices. They have a significant impact on the general health of Jacksonville. Having this cancer center be part of the Baptist Health system ensures the people within our community have access to that kind of quality care."

What Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center offers patients is one-stop cancer care. Within the walls of its state-of-the-art, outpatient facility are highly specialized cancer professionals recruited from the top programs in the country.

"What is attracting these providers is the opportunity to build something great and

collaborate with MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston as they do it," said LeeAnn Mengel, Administrator, Baptist MD Anderson. "When patients come to Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center, they don't receive a medical opinion from just one doctor or just one specialist. Instead, their case is reviewed by a team of professionals to ensure that their diagnosis is correct and that their care plan is designed for their specific needs. This collaborative approach to care extends beyond our walls, including peer reviews of cancer cases by specialists at MD Anderson Cancer Center," she said.

In fact, every aspect of care at Baptist MD Anderson is modeled after proven techniques and systems devised by MD Anderson in Houston. Its patient-based focus is apparent, from the design of its new building and the multi-disciplinary conferences it provides each patient, to clinical trials and research. In addition there will be specialized amenities such as plans for a retail store and spa in the new building, where patients receive help in preparing for changes in their appearance due to chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery.

At the end of their treatment, the patient's connection to Baptist MD Anderson continues through its survivorship program, LIFE (Living



LeeAnn Mengel, administrator for oncology services and Dr. Joe B. "Bill" Putnam, Medical Director of the Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Inspired, Fulfilled, Encouraged), which is beyond a support group, said Mengel. "The point of the program is to help people achieve the best quality of life possible."

The glittering new nine-story structure on San Marco Boulevard, which is scheduled to be open in August 2018, will dramatically expand the capacity of the current cancer center building located across the street. The new center was designed from the foundation up with only cancer in mind, said Dr. Edward Gorak, hematologist oncologist.

Its amenities include welcoming, open, airy spaces that take advantage of the natural light, an atrium for quiet time and reflection, a family

room with reclining chairs so traveling patients can rest, a specialized Walgreens pharmacy unlike any other in the country, coffee shop and café, and an infusion clinic on the ninth floor where patients receiving chemotherapy will have a calming view of the St. Johns River. Original artwork from local and regional artists will help create a healing environment in the new facility, and patients have played a role in helping the cancer center's art advisory committee make careful selections.

"I've been associated with half a dozen cancer centers, and this is by far going to be the best experience for patients. Many cancer centers are developed in refurbished spaces, but in the new Baptist MD Anderson, Baptist Health insisted the building have its only focus be what is best for cancer patients and their families," Gorak said.

Perhaps the most important way Baptist MD Anderson focuses on the whole patient is through the "synergy" of its multi-disciplinary conferences, where the oncologists who oversee the various aspects of cancer treatment – chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery – join together with support staff – nutritionists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, geneticists, pathologists, radiologists, social workers, patient financial counselors, psychologists, and pastoral care chaplains – to discuss each patient's individual case.

"We're bringing a new model of care to the community. There are a lot of great individual doctors in northeast Florida, but what makes this significantly different is our focus on coordination of the care and holistic approach instead of isolated management," said Dr. Seth Strobe, Head of Urologic Surgery.

Baptist MD Anderson's patients are assigned "navigators," specialized nurses who assist in shepherding them through their treatment process, said Mengel. "This is the person who connects with patients, coordinates care and addresses their questions, hopes, and fears



The multidisciplinary team of Baptist MD Anderson physicians work collaboratively to provide individualized care for every patient.

– often forming an enduring bond that lasts well beyond the cancer journey," she said.

"What the cancer center is bringing to this community is true multi-disciplinary care," Strobe said. "It provides one stop for the patient to get what they need through their cancer journey. One of the most gratifying parts of our partnership with MD Anderson in Houston is the ability to participate in clinical trials that give our patients access to new cutting-edge medicines and treatments in Jacksonville, where there are not a lot of clinical trials in the urologic specialty. We want to give people a chance to have access to those without leaving the area."

Putnam agreed. "We know that patients who are enrolled in clinical trials have a far better rate of survival. It is our promise to this community to ensure that our patients will have access to the novel therapies that will save lives and help forge the future of cancer

care. Our integration and alignment with the clinical and research teams in Houston is unparalleled and gives us the ability to ensure that our patients have the best outcomes, with survival rates that are better than the national benchmarks," he said.

"This is about transforming cancer care in our region, and we want to be a beacon of hope to cancer patients and families throughout the Southeast," Putnam said.

"The local community has been unbelievably supportive in embracing this model of care. As we continue to grow, build, and recruit talent, we are extremely grateful for the support of donors to help us accelerate the pace of progress," Putnam said. "Through our continued growth, as well as continued philanthropy and community support, we have the opportunity to impact tens of thousands of lives in Northeast Florida and beyond," he said.



Rendering of the interior of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center being built in San Marco.



Sunlit-filled spaces and calming river views are hallmarks of the design of the new Baptist MD Anderson Cancer Center building under construction in San Marco.

GIVING BACK. GIVING FORWARD. GIVING CIRCLES.

BY SUSAN D. BRANDENBURG

A book about the solar system, a book about colors, a book about the ocean! Wow! His eyes sparkle with intelligence and excitement. The small boy tightly clutches three books to his chest, searching the crowded room for his mother. “Mama! I found my books!” he exclaims, eager to get to the volunteer table, officially make the books his own and take them home.

More than 600 children of all ages attended the BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) Back to School event in August 2017, each receiving three brand new books of their own choosing. Coordinating the book fair, with thousands of books provided by Scholastic, were volunteers from the Beaches Community Fund, BEAM, City Year, Teach For America, Read USA, Jacksonville Public Education Fund and the Women’s Giving Alliance.

“What a way to make an impact! Families shopped for books together and we all worked together to make sure kids got a fresh start on the new school year,” said Ellen Wiss, President of the Women’s Giving Alliance, co-founder of Read USA (www.readusainc.com) and an active member of the Beaches Community Fund.

Comfortable wearing “three hats” at the event, Wiss is representative of many volunteers

serving in several capacities under the nurturing umbrella of the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida.

Originally the Greater Jacksonville Area Community Foundation, today’s Community Foundation for Northeast Florida was created in 1964 by Jacksonville philanthropists J. J. Daniel, Robert Feagin, Thomas R. McGehee and Laurence Lee, Jr.

Founding partner Tom McGehee called it “a depositor for the people of Jacksonville, both the large and small, the wealthy and the moderate, to be able to give for the betterment of their fellow man, not just today, but in a continuing way.”

Today, headed by President Nina Waters and Chairman Deborah Pass Durham, Florida’s oldest and largest Community Foundation continues to turn assets into action, “Giving Back, Giving Forward.”

With total assets of \$343.4 million, the Community Foundation for Northeast Florida funds hope for thousands of people throughout Northeast Florida. Since inception, the Foundation has granted nearly \$410 million on behalf of its 500 fund holders, directing its discretionary dollars to support public education, neighborhood revitalization, early childhood, aging adults, the arts, and strengthening the non-profit sector.

GIVING CIRCLES CREATE GREATER IMPACT

The Foundation’s circle of donors include generous individuals, families and businesses who have established hundreds of funds. It is also home to four

Giving Circles: The Women’s Giving Alliance (www.wganefl.org), the LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida (www.lgbtnefl.org), Beaches Community Fund (www.jaxcf.org/learn/beaches-community-fund), and MyVillage Project Fund (www.myvillageproject.org).

These giving circle are made up of philanthropic individuals or families who pool their charitable gifts in order to have a greater impact on the community.

The Women’s Giving Alliance (WGA), founded by Courtenay Sands Wilson, Helen Lane, Delores Barr Weaver, Ann Baker and Dr. Doris Carson (the latter two since deceased), celebrates its 15th anniversary in 2017. Each WGA member contributes \$1,500 annually, \$1,000 of which goes to grantmaking, \$300 toward the WGA endowment to ensure their work continues in perpetuity, and \$200 toward administrative expenses. To date, WGA grants totaling more than \$4.9 million have impacted the lives of women and girls.

INAUGURAL GIVING CIRCLE

Philanthropy is a fertile garden where good ideas grow and flourish. For instance, in 1998, the seed was planted for the Women's Giving Alliance when Courtenay Sands Wilson happened to read a People Magazine article about the Washington Women's Foundation initiated by Seattle philanthropist Colleen Willoughby. Willoughby's example resulted in the founding of the Women's Giving Alliance in 2001 as an initiative of The Community Foundation.

"By year-end, we had 163 founding members," recalls Wilson. "These members differed in age, professions and where they lived, but they all had a common goal – to help women and girls in our community." Today, the WGA has a membership of more than 400 women.

Walking the walk of shared responsibility on several different avenues, philanthropist Delores Barr Weaver has led myriad impactful community initiatives. In January 2013, with funding from the WGA, the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center (www.seethegirl.org) was founded by Dr. Lawanda Ravoirra with the goal of creating a community where all girls are safe, valued and have opportunities for a prosperous future.

Alyssa Beck, now an Advocacy Specialist at the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center, endured a tortured childhood...a violent, alcoholic father who beat her and her mother, drug addiction at age 13, a victim of sex trafficking, and then

a victim of the juvenile justice system, several suicide attempts, two years spent in jail on lockdown 23 hours a day until, at age 18, on July 14, 2014, she was released on her own recognition pending a sentencing hearing.

She remembers July 14, 2014 as the day her life changed. "I came across a place called the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center and this was the first place that didn't look at me as a victim or criminal. They looked at me as Alyssa. I was treated as an equal."

Since then, Beck has presented to state legislators, advocating on behalf of victims of sex trafficking and girls in the juvenile justice system. She's traveled around the country training various stakeholders on sex trafficking and issues relating to the juvenile justice system. "The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center believed in me," said Beck, "and that led me to believe in myself."

Dr. Ravoirra notes that WGA's investment in both the advocacy of the Policy Center as well as direct services for girls and young women in the justice system has made a significant difference in the community and throughout the State of Florida.

"Most important," she said, "it has made a significant difference in the lives of girls and young women who in the past were invisible and ignored. Thanks to the support of WGA, our community is seeing the girl for who she truly is and who she can become."

ONE CIRCLE BEGETS ANOTHER

Recently, past and present WGA presidents Wilson and Wiss engaged in a one-on-one conversation, sharing stories of the WGA – then and now. Discovering many commonalities, including lifetimes of dedication to volunteerism nurtured by family, church, and community, the two philanthropists agreed that the initial goal of the Women's Giving Alliance – to help women and girls – remains the same.

They shared memories of their time in the Junior League, agreeing that it is an excellent springboard for volunteerism. Wiss talked of how her Junior League volunteer work in the classroom led to co-founding Read USA with Vanessa Tussey in 2011. Since then, with the help of WGA and the Beaches Community Fund, Read USA book fairs have provided approximately 18,000 books to 6,000 students, with 10,000 more books going to schools due to the nearly \$50,000 matched by Scholastic.

"Literacy is a great first step out of poverty," said Wiss. "Readers are leaders."

Wiss sees no barriers or limitations for WGA going forward. "I believe in big dreams like a community without poverty and equality for all," she said. "We all share in the responsibility of this human rights issue and no one group can own solving it, but in the spirit of Mandela, just as it was created by humans, poverty and inequality can be eliminated by humans, and everyone will benefit. This will only happen through collective impact!"

In 2015, a WGA grant funded BEAM's Single Parent Program (SPP), created by Susan King and Linda Gilberto of BEAM to provide intensive case management services for single mothers.

Nekia J. was the first SPP mom to earn a higher education degree. Today, she and her two sons are economically stable, having broken the cycle of poverty and increased their income by 153 percent. Nekia's hard-earned surgical technology workforce certificate from FSCJ, resulted in her new job at Baptist Health. Her personal determination, coupled with collaborative support from Susan Schantz, Scott McGehee and many others in the WGA and Beaches Community Fund, made it happen.

Co-founded in 2015 by Community Foundation trustees Martha Baker and Tracey Westbrook, the Beaches Community Fund supports neighbors from Guana to Mayport, with their first grant of \$75,000 going to BEAM to partner with Feeding Northeast Florida's satellite food distribution center.

Since 2015, this Giving Circle has enhanced the lives of Beaches residents in many ways, ranging from a new playground at the Rhoda

"Thanks to the support of WGA, our community is seeing the girl for who she truly is and who she can become."



Founders Helen Lane, Courtenay Wilson, Dr. Doris Carson, Ann McDonald Baker and Delores Barr Weaver

Martin Center in Jacksonville Beach to helping create a Mental Health Wellness Center to supporting Read USA book fairs to funding Mission House and the Sulzbacher Center for the Homeless.

DONOR IDENTIFIES NEED FOR NEW CIRCLE

Planting a seed and helping it grow. Seeing a need and meeting it. The Foundation's Giving Circles work to meet the needs of many, including people in the LGBT community.

At the request of a donor, the LGBT Community Fund for Northeast Florida was created in 2014 and has awarded more than \$315,000 to non-profit organizations serving LGBT youth, elders and families. In view of the aging population of America (sometimes termed "the silver tsunami"), LGBT elders are a new focus.

"LGBT elders are very well hidden," said Linda J. Levin, Executive Director of ElderSource. "Having faced many challenges in their lives, they may have not come out of the closet or may even go back in as they've aged and, needing services and support, fear the way they will be treated by other older adults or service providers."

The LGBT Community Fund has made it possible for ElderSource to develop and provide LGBT Elder Cultural Competency training to help older adults access the services they need and deserve.

"The training that ElderSource has developed to train our associates on how to properly care for a person who is LGBT has been invaluable. As many seniors are feeling more comfortable being themselves, we as a company were excited that training was out there to help us in the healthcare field meet all of their psychosocial needs, not just their physical needs," said Jay Conner, District Director of Operations, Southeast Division, Brookdale Senior Living, Inc.

"With Jay's support, we have trained staff in seven of the Brookdale properties under his management, as well as all of his Executive Directors," said Heidi Katz, Director of Business Innovation and Development for ElderSource.

Hospice Nurse Rose Osachy received the ElderSource LGBT training, participating in an LGBT Focus Group that truly changed her life.

"I'm from California," said Osachy. "I considered myself open-minded and on top of everything to do with the gay community. I was wrong. There were many important details I didn't understand before. Now I do."

Osachy met Jamie, a transgender female, at the focus group, and they became friends. "Jamie was full of fun! She had a great sense of humor and she was so patient and kind. She didn't hold back – talked about her challenges and the difficulties she'd had with her family. She helped me understand what life was like for her and others on a day to day basis."

A few weeks after the focus group ended, Jamie fell and hit her head, arriving at the hospital unconscious. Her identification - VA I.D. and Driver's License – listed her as James. Although she had lived as a transgender female for years, she had never undergone surgery. Because she was unable to communicate, it was

assumed she was a male. Her family came in and reinforced this false assumption. "They were having none of this transgender stuff from Jamie's friends," recalled Osachy. "That is my brother James, and that's it!"

Jamie's friends called Osachy. "On my way to the hospital, I stopped at the drug store and bought make-up and nail polish and a pretty silk scarf. Jamie never regained consciousness, but I put on her regular make-up, painted her nails, tried to make her look like she normally looked."

Although Jamie's family continued to be resentful, Osachy and Jamie's other friends persisted for several days as she lay dying. "It was a tremendous learning experience for the hospice staff and the physicians," recalled Osachy.

The last time Osachy visited Jamie at the hospital, she was accompanied by her husband, a hospice chaplain. "Jamie was peaceful. We massaged her hands and talked quietly with her friends and the staff. I was appreciative that we were all able to have an honest conversation about the dynamics of the situation. Jamie taught me a lot. Her family didn't really know her and that was their loss. They missed out on an awesome person."



SINGLE MOTHER CREDITS BEAM FOR HER SUCCESS



Linda Gilberto with Nekia J., graduate of BEAM's Single Parent Program, former BEAM Executive Director Susan King and Sonte' Pollock, Single Parent Program manager

Nekia J. had a lot to celebrate at her graduation party – a surgical technology workforce certificate from Florida State College – Jacksonville, and a new job with Baptist Health that increased her income by 140 percent.

She and her two sons are economically stable now, having broken the cycle of poverty, and she has set her next goal: to own her own home.

Nekia's determination made it happen but she gives credit to BEAM (Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry) and its supporters. And BEAM gives a lot of credit to the collective giving of Women's Giving Alliance and some of its members individually.

In 2015, a WGA grant funded BEAM's Single Parent Program (SPP) to provide intensive case management services for single mothers. Nekia was the first SPP mom to earn a higher education degree.

The FSCJ program required her to attend classes full time and prohibited her working. Hearing about her opportunity for a significant step toward a better life, two WGA members enlisted about a dozen other Beaches women, many of them also WGA members, and collectively they established an education fund that provided Nekia a stipend for 10 months, ultimately leading her to self-sufficiency.

NEWEST, NOT LAST, GIVING CIRCLE

Awesome people abound in Northeast Florida, especially those who devote their lives to helping others. George E. Maxey, Executive Director of New Town Success Zone at Edward Waters College, is one of those. Energetic, enthusiastic and dedicated, Maxey is determined that all children will reach their dreams and aspirations. Maxey is at the helm of several initiatives geared to bring about positive change in the areas of health, education and economics.

"We are committed to highlighting and supporting the efforts of organizations like New Town Success Zone," said Ronnie King, who founded the MyVillage Project Fund with Imani Hope and Darryl Willie, fellow members of The Foundation's Weaver Philanthropic Initiative class of 2015. The Weaver Philanthropic Initiative identifies potential philanthropists, offering them the opportunity to learn more about needs and maximize their charitable giving to the community.

As the Community Foundation's newest Giving Circle, the MyVillage Project Fund distributed its first grants this year to eight non-profits serving and/or being led by African Americans, including New Town Success Zone.

"Accountability starts at home," said Maxey in a recent meeting with King. "You're right on with the MyVillage Project...we need to fix our village and empower our children and families to reach their full potential."

New Town's annual Back to School Event benefitted over 800 children and their families, including that of Ivy Wyche and her four daughters, ages 2 to 14. Ivy is the part-time assistant to George Maxey at New Town's Center for the Prevention of Health Disparities, 1401 Grunthal Street on the Edward Waters College campus, and can personally vouch for the hand-up provided through the organization's many initiatives.

"I'm blessed to work here," Wyche told King, as she and Maxey reviewed the full calendar of upcoming events at New Town Success Zone: "Fit Fridays," GED Reading & Math Classes, Parent/Caregiver Meetings, Economic Growth, Wellness RX Health Talks, New Town Future Scholars Program at S. P. Livingston Early Learning Center, and more.

Maxey invites all to attend the Vision Keepers meetings on the first and third Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the red brick building on Grunthal Street. He adds that the Vision Keepers New Town Success Zone Facebook page has all the latest happenings. "Change is happening," said Maxey. "We all need to be part of it."



MyVillage Project Fund founders: Darryl Willie, Imani Hope and Ronnie King

The seeds of change are everywhere across Northeast Florida through the collaborative efforts of The Community Foundation's four Giving Circles.

CARRYING ON, ENGAGING OTHERS

Courtenay Sands Wilson, still active in many of the Community Foundation's initiatives, is currently enjoying her work with Greenscape of Jacksonville. The Greenscape mantra, "As you breathe, thank a tree," is reflective of The Community Foundation for Northeast Florida and its Giving Circles.

"Trees support life...Greenscape supports trees...now it's your turn."

The same can be said for the Foundation and its Giving Circles...volunteers supporting life...creating a more verdant and beautiful future for all. Now it's your turn to Give Back, Give Forward.



From left to right:
Norm Allison, Caleb Cronic,
Sherill Christopher & Patty Otterson

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The good measure of a great community

GROWING SOLID CONNECTIONS, CAPABILITIES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

BY KATE A. HALLOCK & CHERYL B. LEMINE

It's been said that society is measured by its treatment of the most vulnerable among us. For the intellectually and physically challenged, this consideration is constantly evolving and steadily making progress. For families, caregivers, teachers, and mentors in our community, encouraging changes lie ahead and are gaining momentum.

A recently launched area-wide campaign, *Connectable Jax*, is providing people with intellectual and developmental differences (IDDs) ways to strengthen their opportunities – from the workplace to recreational activities – therefore increasing quality of life.

The goal? To foster the networks and support systems that have potential to maximize a sense of fulfillment and personal accomplishment for all parties involved.

Featured on the following pages are a sampling of participating organizations that have been working hard for many years to deliver for those with IDD. Consider supporting their missions to help everyone achieve more. Get Connected.

Parents' love results in opportunities for disabled

When it comes to providing hope and opportunities for a child, the power of parental love is a unique force, often greatest when the child has a disability.

That force is what sparked the beginnings of BASCA – Building Abilities of Special Children and Adults – in 1994. Because John and Linda Cone and Tony and Jo Knott each had a child with intellectual and developmental disabilities, they realized they were not alone in their concerns about the type and quality of lives their children would experience as little ones and adults.

They wondered about education, how their children would learn to interact socially and how they would learn to become as independent as possible. Long-term care into adulthood were other concerns.

Both families realized other local parents of children with disabilities shared the same concerns and realized that by becoming a “unified voice” with them they could all find and create the opportunities they wanted.

According to Pam Mylrea, director of community engagement, BASCA serves about 40 clients ranging in age from 22 to 56 through its residential program with four L.I.F.E. (Living in a Family Environment) group homes using a house parent model to provide care. There's also a day program in Orange Park.

BASCA offers five types of support services to help those who want to

live independently, to help those who want to work obtain employment and learn how to be a good worker to maintain the job, to help those already living independently but at times may sometimes simply need help ranging from light house-keeping to participating in community outings. Respite care and elder care are also available.

BASCA also has a Bargain Boutique that sells rolling PVC constructed carts for taking multiple recycle bins to the curb, picnic tables, benches, birdhouses and other items. It has a garden greenhouse where individuals have planted 500 pounds of seed, grown its produce and then make it part of their meals. There's also a training kitchen so they can learn to prepare meals and cook.

“They really understand the effort needed to produce the food,” Mylrea said. “The take the seed, nurture the seed and take care of the weeding.”

One of BASCA's most notable events is Tim Tebow's Night to Shine for those 14 and older. The multiple-site event, according to BASCA's website, is an “unforgettable prom night experience centered on God's love.” The special night brings together 375 churches from around the world who host 75,000 honored guests with 150,000 volunteers. Tebow made a surprise appearance at the Jacksonville event in February 2017.



BASCA Day Program participants learn about food preparation in the new training kitchen.



Dan works at BP dusting shelves, cleaning the glass and helping customers.



Susan on an outing at Top Golf

Connecting clients to community for meaningful experiences

Whether it's teaching a new social or self-care skill, providing group activities, offering vocational training, providing comfortable group homes, or helping with a job search – everything Pine Castle does supports a single goal: empower people to achieve their highest potential.

Since 1952, Pine Castle has served people with special needs, beginning with children, then in 1965 when the public school system started a program for students with special needs, the nonprofit located on Spring Park Road transitioned to a work and life skills training and activity center

for adults, like Dan, who now has a job at a BP station.

"I like Pine Castle because I learn work and social skills, which help me at my job. While I work at BP, I learn new skills, too," said Dan.

"It's been a great opportunity for Dan to apply the skills learned at Pine Castle into a job at BP. He is committed to the job he performs and ensures that he is well-dressed and prepared for his customer service position," said Michel Johnson, director of the Adult Day Training Program. "He also has been able to travel by his wheelchair each day to and from work not depending on anyone or public transportation to get him there. Having a job and getting to and from work with no issues is a dream come true for Dan."

But it's not all work and no play for the adult clients and residents at Pine Castle. Day trips, such as a fishing marathon courtesy of Publix, and an outing at Top Golf, are some of the many ways the

nonprofit makes sure social activities are part of the curriculum.

"I like our group home outings, especially golfing! It is fun to meet new people," said Susan, a Pine Castle group home resident.

"It is vital to connect our individuals to the community to ensure inclusion for meaningful life experiences," said Cynica Jackson, director of Residential Services. "By connecting our individuals, it allows them to meet people beyond their usual social circles and allows community members to get to know us."

Recently, Pine Castle celebrated the first anniversary of the Terry G. Clark Radio Studio, where the Pine Castle Morning News is broadcast live Monday through Friday with state-of-the-art equipment. It's the first radio show written and produced by adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the state of Florida.

"It's been a great opportunity for Dan to apply the skills learned at Pine Castle into a job at BP."

— Michel Johnson

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Greenwood School challenges students toward success

When a child's inner drum beat is hip hop while the rest of the class marches in lockstep, learning can become difficult to the point of frustration and defeat. For children who struggle in the classroom, Greenwood School offers a success-oriented curriculum geared toward students with different learning styles.

Believing there's no such thing as a child who can't learn, Greenwood School teachers are trained to recognize which learning style most benefits the child. Linear learning and rote memorization isn't easy for many students, so Greenwood School provides a multi-sensory educational approach that captivates, engages and motivates a child to reach his full potential.

This approach was true for Hannah T., who has dyslexia and was unable to get the help she needed in other schools. "She is pushed and challenged at Greenwood but it is not outside of her comfort zone to where she disengages from the classroom and learning," said Hannah's mother, Chryssi. "We see a far more self-assured teenager. Almost all of her self-doubt and negative self-image, imposed by educational systems that never helped her obtain her potential, is gone."

Emlyn B. James, Head of School, said they take a different approach at Greenwood.

"We help students explore and find their strengths, and affinities. We then use those skills to help support any learning differences that the students have struggled with over the years," he said.

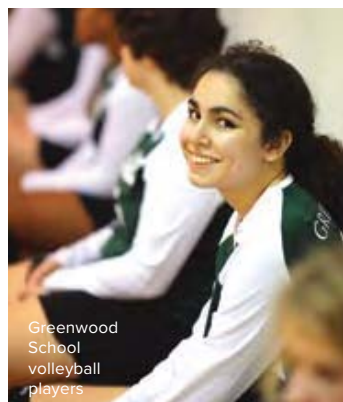
With small class sizes, a wealth of worldly and experienced teachers, and no high-stakes testing, Greenwood is able to fine-tune classes and programs that best suit its students, James said.

"We also foster well-rounded students with over 30 different enrichment classes and after school sports and clubs," said James. "I invite any child who has not been receiving grades that reflect their level of intelligence and who have demonstrated behavior that is conducive to a positive learning environment to consider Greenwood School."

For over 30 years, Greenwood School has provided the tools and knowledge necessary for developing skills for a lifetime. In fact, two-thirds of the school's high school graduates continue on at a higher-learning institution – the same rate of U.S. high school graduates overall who go on to college, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.



Biology class students meet in an outdoor classroom at Greenwood School.



Greenwood School volleyball players



Greenwood School students participate in a chess tournament.

Chryssi said because her daughter has found success at Greenwood School, she is actually talking about college. "If we stayed on the path we were headed, I don't know

if college would have been an option," she said. "I wonder if she would have finished high school if we kept her in the wrong type of school."

Caring makes the difference at Angelwood

From one group home for three children to serving more than children, adults and families who are living with disabilities, 25 years later Angelwood continues to make a profound impact on the community.

"Angelwood focuses on community integration of those it helps with developmental differences," explained Tera Lageman, Angelwood's development director. "Developmental differences include a variety of conditions that interfere with the ability to function in everyday activities. As a result, those with them grow, learn and function differently."

The nonprofit takes into account each individual's goals by providing services such as behavioral services, residential group homes,

respite care, adult day training, supported employment, transportation and even a summer day camp. It also takes a long-term approach for care across a person's lifetime.

Angelwood also provides up to 150 days of employment coaching for clients when they obtain a job.

Ivy Suter, whose son lives in a group home through Angelwood, said she loves that they look at people and their abilities – not just the disabilities. She called Angelwood a supportive presence and she is especially proud of its community integration.

"Its structure and caring – this combination makes the Angelwood difference," Suter said. "Everyone can have a life and a role."



Angelwood's summer day camp provides a fun, safe environment for kids to play and experience new things in a setting adapted to their abilities.

Championing inclusion, distinction without difference

Long before *Connectable*, a year-long public awareness campaign launched to enhance connections with people who have intellectual and developmental differences (IDDs), rolled out in Jacksonville in late 2017, The Arc Jacksonville had a rich, 50-year-plus history of engaging people with IDD.

In April 2016, the opening of The Arc Jacksonville Village proved the nonprofit had attained its vision to provide a community where disability is a distinction without a difference.

"I am so proud to tell anyone that will listen about The Village. We are so fortunate to have it right here in Jacksonville," said MaryJo Culliton, whose son, Robbie, is a resident there. "And for the first time in 21 years I don't have to worry... because of The Arc Jacksonville, Robbie has his own home!"

Championing the inclusion of persons with unique abilities since 1965, The Arc Jacksonville empowers more than 500 adults in earning an education or a living, creating a home, and engaging with the community.

In addition to programs such as community employment or the Triumph Industries Day Program, which offers training in The Arc Jacksonville's production facilities, clients also

enjoy social and recreational programs, both on- and off-campus, which offer options for slower-paced activities as well as more vigorous ones, such as ice skating.

"When I'm at the ice rink, people don't know that I have a disability," said Hayley Hess, an active client who takes the bus to the ice rink every week and also works at Top Golf in the Guest Services department.

The On Campus Transition (OCT) program at the University of North Florida is responsible for helping young adult clients increase their education, transition into adulthood and begin to live independently.

Robbie Culliton is in his third year in the OCT program at UNF and said he found a fuller life as a result. "The OCT program taught me to be independent, and living at the Village has given me a full life!" said Robbie, who just celebrated five years working at Winn-Dixie and is a manager on the UNF Men's Basketball team.

The Arc Village won over Hayley's mother's misgivings about her daughter living far from home.

"While I was skeptical about Hayley staying in Jacksonville after she graduated from OCT – rather than moving back to Tampa, where



Hayley Hess finds time from her job at Top Golf to skate every week

"When I'm at the ice rink, people don't know that I have a disability."

– Hayley

she was born, raised and has family – she had clearly found a community of friends that made her happy and was working well for her," said Janet Hess.

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Morning Star School serves learning-challenged children in spiritual setting

There's no better accolade for a principal to hear than praise from another principal.

For Morning Star School Principal Jean Barnes, it was the words of Dr. John Luciano, principal of Holy Spirit Catholic School that warmed her heart. "There is no better place for your special needs child than Morning Star,"

said Luciano, who is also the parent of a former student.

When Morning Star opened in 1956 it served about 60 children with varying disabilities in kindergarten to eighth grade. Now the private school serves 132 students through Grade 12.

"The majority of our students have learning challenges such as SLD, ADD, processing deficits, mild intellectual disabilities and High Functioning Autism," said Barnes.

Morning Star is fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference. Some of its students will leave after eighth grade to attend a typical high school.

When students are ready to transition back to a typical classroom setting, they may take one or more



Alex Pineda at a school assembly



Morning Star School therapy dog Nova with Matthew, Alex, Chyann, Marnie and Colin

"One of our biggest successes is opening a high school program for students with special needs."

— Jean Barnes



Dylan Jackson and Lorenzo Hall



Laura Street Trio



Cowford Chophouse



Lofts at LaVilla

The Downtown Investment Authority serves as a clearinghouse to establish an identity for the region that capitalizes on partnerships to guide the revitalization of the core of the City of Jacksonville. To attract investment, facilitate job creation and residential density, while assuring a unified effort is strategically focused to implement action through capital investments, planning, advocacy, marketing and the establishment of policy for the general community and downtown stakeholders.



Results Driven Planning

- Downtown Investment Authority leveraged approximately \$30 million in public capital to induce over \$240 million in private capital investment within downtown.
- There are currently 700 new residential units under construction in the downtown core.

classes at nearby Christ the King Catholic School. "This gives them the opportunity to gradually make the transition from the level of accommodations and support they receive here to a regular classroom setting," said Barnes.

Students who attend through high school and who satisfactorily complete a regular course of study will receive a high school diploma. Other graduates will continue their education, others will participate in transition classes and be able to get jobs or go to technical or trade schools.

"The high school is amazing and a huge blessing, to be in a new facility, to feel like we are wanted,"

said Kammy Cenicerros, mother of tenth-grader Raphael Cenicerros.

"One of our biggest successes is opening a high school program for students with special needs," said Barnes. "Our parents have searched for an appropriate high school placement for their students. No other high school program in Northeast Florida meets the unique social and academic needs of our students."

Additionally, Morning Star's partnership with Bishop Snyder High School gives its students the opportunity to participate spiritually and socially with their non-disabled peers, while having their individual learning needs met at Morning Star.



Jose Morales visits the Senate Floor in Tallahassee during a Youth Advisory Council advocacy trip.

Nonprofit adapts to fit individual needs, goals for independence

Enabling people with disabilities to work toward their most independent and self-empowered lives possible since 1978, The Independent Living Resource Center is unique to Northeast Florida because it serves anyone with any disability, said Executive Director Tyler Morris.

“If you walk into our doors and you have a disability you will not be turned away,” Morris explained. “Our service approach is as unique and diverse as the needs we see. It’s very fluid as we adapt to help people

achieve their goals for independence. Everyone’s definition of independence differs and most people don’t realize that this group – being disabled – is one any of us could join at any time.”

Part of a national and international network for Centers for Independent Living, The ILRC is undergoing a name change to the Center for Independent Living – Jacksonville (CIL).

CIL focuses on three main self-sufficiency goals: accessibility, education and employment. For

example, to address accessibility, CIL has a \$250,000 inventory of medical equipment through its temporary loan closet, which operates Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Educationally, only 34 percent of people with disabilities have earned a high school diploma, according to CIL – Jacksonville. To combat this, career-focused mentoring is available, as well as a Youth Advisory Council composed of members of the community who are 13 to 25 years old. Through the YAC, members learn to become better communicators, to find ways to volunteer and serve others as well as strengthening their negotiating skills and learning time management skills.

Unemployment for the disabled runs about twice what it is for non-disabled peers, according to Morris. To improve these numbers, programs strengthen work readiness, placement and retention for both employers and job seekers.

CIL – Jacksonville has a pool of vetted, highly-qualified candidates from which employers can explore. These members are “looking and ready for work,” said Morris.

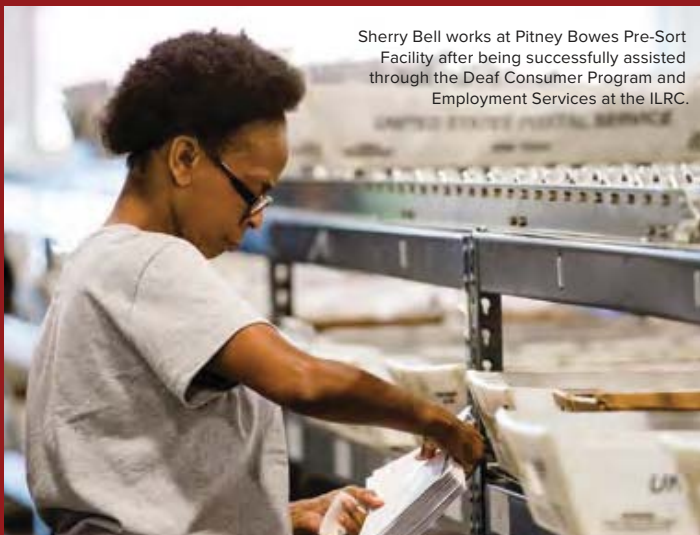
In fact, companies such as Pitney Bowes, Publix and Winn Dixie, among others, work with CIL to obtain employees. About 15 members

of the deaf community are now working at Pitney Bowes.

“A cornerstone of our culture at Pitney Bowes is the fundamental recognition that the health of our company, the well-being of our employees, and the opportunities we can create in the communities where we live and work are inextricably intertwined. Our partnership with the ILRC is a shining example of those guiding principles in action,” said Debbie Pfeiffer, President, Pitney Bowes Presort Services. “We are so pleased to help employ workers with disabilities and to serve as an example of the effectiveness of this program. It has truly been a win-win partnership as the individuals we employ through ILRC make positive contributions to our business and immeasurable contributions to our team and culture.”

CIL – Jacksonville also offers disability sensitivity training and will come to your workplace to share information about hiring and working with the disabled.

For individuals who have the time to invest four hours a month, they can influence the future by becoming a mentor – a buddy – for students. It can be as simple as helping with schoolwork to just hanging out, or providing opportunities to share events that might be part of everyday life.



Sherry Bell works at Pitney Bowes Pre-Sort Facility after being successfully assisted through the Deaf Consumer Program and Employment Services at the ILRC.

Creating wholeness for those with unique abilities

The North Florida School of Special Education (NFSSE) is more than its 1:6 teacher-student ratio, its 135 students, 55 post-graduate students, and its 10 classrooms with six different instructional levels.

NFSSE sees itself as a community catalyst aimed at helping us all understand that we're more alike than different. To accomplish that, the school's vision is to be the leading innovator in education creating wholeness for students with unique abilities.

First, its K-12 students have individualized education plans and access to various therapies as well as vocational and social skills coaches.

Then, students 18 to 22 experience vocational and continued academic training in addition to learning the value of work and skill development. They obtain employment at local companies ranging from Publix and Burlington Coat Factory to Beaches Emergency Medical Services and Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens.

Finally, those age 22 to 40 have access to a post-graduate program with four options and two microenterprises through Berry Good Farms, which originated in 2011 to provide on campus vocational training.

The first two options – Landscaping and Groundskeeping – help participants learn to use appropriate tools to keep the campus beautiful. Next, post-grads in the Horticulture program work in a 30-by-60-foot greenhouse and have responsibilities that include supporting the last program – Culinary Arts – by planting, harvesting and providing vegetables and herbs and other responsibilities.

This dovetailed approach helps provide fresh foods from garden to table. These fresh ingredients are used to create healthy, \$5 evening meals at the clubhouse in The Arc Village.

"This is a win-win for Arc residents and our students," explained Sally Hazelip, Head of School for NFSSE. "The commercial kitchen at Arc Village gives our Culinary Arts Program a



Transition student Shawn Barry picks sweet potatoes at Berry Good Farms.



Joe Oswalt washes a car at Berry Good Foamers, a North Florida School of Special Education on-campus company that washes staff cars, while Job Coach Matt Wiley looks on.



Brandon Reardon gets items ready for the pound warehouse at the Lakewood Goodwill.

brick-and-mortar existence and we are able to pour back into our community with really healthy meals planned, cooked and provided by our Culinary Arts participants."

The Culinary Arts Program instruction teaches post-grads about how to select nutritious menus, shop for ingredients and create recipes using the farm's seasonal produce.

Hazelip said the evening meals – served Monday through Friday – are open to the public and provide an opportunity for the community to meet and interact with Arc Village residents and students.

Another two microenterprises – Berry Good Farms on the Go Food Truck and Barkin' Biscuits – exist. Post-graduates who work the "farm-to-truck" vocational program shop, prep and cook the food in addition to serving the customers.

In 2014, Barkin' Biscuits began as a BGF pilot program. The all-natural dog treats are prepared by post-grad chefs who do everything from reading the recipes to weighing and packaging retail and custom orders and everything in between.

The school, whose campus is on Mill Creek Road, opened in 1992 and is accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools and is a member of *Connectable Jax*.

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From safety net to success

BY MARIAN JOHNS

Sometimes all you need is a chance. A leg up. A helping hand. The means to turn your life around.

Thankfully, there are hundreds of charitable institutions on the First Coast which do just that. They provide safety nets in the form of a hot meal, a bed for a night, a new home, clothing for a job interview, dental, medical or vision care, counseling, tutoring, job training, and more.

The stories of lives impacted by the kindness and generosity of others often go untold. Here, in our Charity

Register, are just a few of hundreds that could be shared. As you page through the list of charitable organizations in this book, take a moment to thoughtfully read the success stories shared here by young and old.

Our annual list is, by no means, comprehensive, but it likely touches every nonprofit sector that touches our residents' hearts. We hope that you can find a cause near and dear to your own heart to which you can volunteer or donate.

Success Stories



Cindy Brunner with
her daughter Diana

American Cancer Society: Cindy Brunner

When Cindy Brunner was diagnosed with breast cancer last year, she began treatment with Herceptin, a very specific immune system protein that inhibits the growth of HER2+ cancer cells. The research funding from the American Cancer Society helped to make the development of the drug possible, which is something cancer patients like Brunner are thankful for every day.

Brunner was also diagnosed with colorectal cancer six years ago, so she is also thankful for the American Cancer Society's new initiative of promoting colorectal screenings, as it was a screening that resulted in the early detection of her colorectal cancer and helped save her life.

"One in three people will be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, so just about everyone will be affected whether as a patient, a family member, a co-worker or a friend," Brunner said.

Today Brunner is active in the American Cancer Society's new "80% by 2018" national initiative designed to increase colorectal cancer screenings.

"80% by 2018 is a National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable initiative in which hundreds of organizations have committed to reducing colorectal cancer as a major public health problem by working toward the shared goal of regularly screening 80 percent of adults age 50 and older for colorectal cancer by 2018," said Mel Toran, the American Cancer Society's Executive Director of Community Development.

"I want us to find a way to prevent and find a cure for cancer in my lifetime," said Brunner.

CHARITY REGISTER

PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS vs. PUBLIC CHARITIES

Magenta – Private foundations: Created to distribute money to public charities or individuals, primarily through the making of grants to other nonprofit organizations. A private foundation does not solicit funds from the public.

Black – Public charities: Direct services with broad public purposes, including educational, religious, scientific, and the literary activities, among others, as well as the relief of poverty and other public benefit actions. Public charities can accept donations from the general public while serving the public good.

5 STAR VETERANS CENTER

40 Acme Street, 32211 | (904) 723-5950 | 5starveteranscenter.org

CEO: Col. Len Loving

Mission & Vision: The 5 Star Veterans Center works to ensure a positive impact in North Florida by offering safe/secure housing to displaced veterans, in an attempt to alleviate veteran homelessness.

ABILITY HOUSING OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.

76 S. Laura Street, #303, 32202 | (904) 359-9650 | abilityhousing.org

Executive Director: Shannon Nazworth

Mission & Vision: Ability Housing focuses on the development and operation of quality affordable rental housing for individuals and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness and adults with a disability.

AGING TRUE

4250 Lakeside Drive, Suite 116, 32210 | (904) 807-1203 | agingtrue.org

CEO: Teresa K. Barton

Mission & Vision: Aging True has been helping seniors maintain their independence and age gracefully by designing and administering programs in Northeast Florida for the past 54 years.

ALFRED I DUPONT TESTAMENTARY TRUST

510 Alfred duPont Place, 32202 | (904) 394-9800 | alfrediduponttrust.org

Chief Operating Officer: Kara P. Riley

Mission & Vision: The Trustees and staff of the Alfred I. duPont Testamentary Trust act as loyal stewards of Alfred I. duPont's legacy through prudent financial management and faithfulness to his mission, and by advancing his mission appropriately through the Trust's charitable beneficiary, The Nemours Foundation.

ALLEN ROBINSON'S WITHIN REACH FOUNDATION

59 Cavalier Blvd., Ste. 310, Florence, KY 41042 | (859) 448-3430 | allenrobinson15.org

Founder: Allen Robinson

Mission & Vision: The mission of the Foundation is to provide educational opportunities and resources to low-income and inner-city students in Jacksonville to help put success within their reach.

THE ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE JACKSONVILLE

1628 San Marco Boulevard, Ste. 9, 32207 | (904) 469-4964 | afjacksonville.org

President: Sheila Kloc

Mission & Vision: AFJax's mission is to encourage and develop knowledge of the French language and French and Francophone cultures, and to foster cultural, intellectual and artistic exchanges between the United States, France and French-speaking countries.

ALL I KNOW INC.

5501 Wesconnett Boulevard, #7534, 32244 | (904) 305-4124 | alliknowjax.com

Founder/CEO: Claresa Baggs

Mission & Vision: All I Know is committed to providing valuable, insightful, purpose-focused life skills to children and families.

ALS ASSOCIATION FLORIDA CHAPTER

Regional Headquarters - 3242 Parkside Center Circle, Tampa, FL 33619-0907
(888) 257-1717 | alsaf.org

President/CEO: Kim A. Hanna

Mission & Vision: The ALS Association is leading the fight to treat and cure ALS through global research and nationwide advocacy while also empowering people with Lou Gehrig's disease and their families to live fuller lives by providing them with compassionate care and support.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

4237 Salisbury Road, Suite, 406, 32216 | (904) 281-9077 | alz.org

CEO: Kay Redington

Mission & Vision: The Alzheimer's Association is working to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

1430 Prudential Drive, 32207 | (904) 398-0537 | cancer.org

Executive Director, Community Development: Mel Toran

Mission & Vision: The American Cancer Society is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

AMERICAN CIVILITY ASSOCIATION

1 Independent Drive, Suite 102, 32202 | (904) 612-5031 | americancivility.org

President: Amy Barnett

Mission & Vision: The American Civility Association works to reverse the rising tide of anger, rude behaviors and bullying by educating individuals and families about the dangers of incivility, and equip them with heart tools to live safer and happier lives.

AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION

7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite 104A, 32256 | (904) 730-7200 | diabetes.org

Executive Director: Nicole Donelson

Mission & Vision: The American Diabetes Association works to prevent and cure diabetes and to improve the lives of all people affected by diabetes.

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION/AMERICAN STROKE ASSOCIATION

5851 St. Augustine Road, 32207 | (904) 256-5700 | americanheart.org

Executive Director: Kristin Kyle

Mission & Vision: The American Heart Association is helping build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTHEAST

6852 Belfort Oaks Place, 32216 | (904) 743-2933 | lungfla.org

President/CEO: Martha Bogdan

Mission & Vision: The American Lung Association helps save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease.

AMERICAN RED CROSS NORTHEAST FLORIDA

751 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 358-8091 | nefloridaredcross.org

CEO: Victoria Raleigh

Mission & Vision: The American Red Cross works to prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.

AMPUTEE FITNESS COUNCIL, INC.

P.O. Box 40807, 32203 | (904) 258-6862 | amputeefitnesscouncil.org

Co-founders: Charlene Hixon, Jennifer Simms

Mission & Vision: The Amputee Fitness Council's mission is to provide accessible and adaptive fitness and recreational opportunities to those who are living with life-changing limb loss.

ANGELS FOR ALLISON

4155 Oxford Avenue, 32210 | (904) 312-9490 | angelsforallison.org

Executive Director: Sissy Crabtree Horn

Mission & Vision: Angels For Allison is an opportunity to gather together in God's name to help with the financial needs of families who are suffering with the loss of a child.

ANGELWOOD

P.O. Box 24925, 32241 | (904) 288-7259 | angelwoodjax.org

Executive Director: Diane Tuttle

Mission & Vision: Angelwood proudly provides unparalleled services to children, adults and families living with disabilities.

AQUAJAX

3832-10 Baymeadows Rd. #183, 32217 | aquajax.net

Founder/President: George Harrell

Mission & Vision: An advocacy group determined to advance projects for the city of Jacksonville that will provide greater prosperity, growth, and revenues to benefit all citizens. The first AquaJax project will be to place a world-class aquarium on the riverfront in downtown Jacksonville.

THE ARC JACKSONVILLE

1050 North Davis Street, 32209 | (904) 355-0155 | arcjacksonville.org

President/CEO: Jim Whittaker

Mission & Vision: The ARC works to serve people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential and to participate in community life.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION

14499 N. Dale Mabry Highway, Suite #139 - Tampa, Florida 33618

(813) 968-7000 | arthritis.org/florida/

Mission & Vision: The Arthritis Foundation helps to conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections.



Good libraries build collections. Great libraries build communities.

The Jacksonville Public Library was awarded 2017 Library of the Year, recognizing innovative community-building programs. Private dollars - your support - to the JPL Foundation makes those programs a reality. Learn more or donate today by visiting

www.JPLFoundation.org

Success Stories



Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida: Alex Dickerson

Before Alex Dickerson, 15, became involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida, he described his life as “rough.” Thanks to the Boys & Girls Clubs, the William Raines High School sophomore went from diving into dumpsters to look for food and hanging out on dangerous streets to serving as a role model for other young people going through rough circumstances of their own.

“I wasn’t going to school, I was skipping classes, hanging out in the street and doing things I am not happy to mention,” said Dickerson, before his father encouraged him to become involved with the Boys & Girls Clubs.

“The earlier years of my life weren’t pretty,” said Dickerson. “Life with my mom was scrounging in one of the deadliest neighborhoods in Jacksonville, Washington Heights. Without lights and food, and nowhere to go, then just like that, an angel, my dad, came and showed me the Boys & Girls Club,” he said.

Today, Dickerson has a 3.8 grade point average and is active in sports, which “keeps his head in the books and off the streets.” He also volunteers at the Boys & Girls Clubs.

“Meeting new, positive people has added another aspect in my life that I didn’t have,” said Dickerson. “This positive place gave me a safe haven away from drug dealers in my neighborhood.

“My goal now is to become that ideal role model for those who see no way out. I can help them see a different path,” he said. “Doesn’t matter your size, just pick up and keep going, no matter what happens, keep trying and going. One day, someone will come through.”

CHARITY REGISTER

ART WITH A HEART IN HEALTHCARE

841 Prudential Drive, 32207 | (904) 306-0390 | artwithaheart.info

Founders: Lori Guadagno, Lisa Landwirth Ullmann

Executive Director: Christy Ponder

Mission & Vision: Art with a Heart in Healthcare provides personalized fine art experiences that enhance the healing process for patients and their families.

ATLANTIC INSTITUTE OF JACKSONVILLE

2032 Southside Blvd., 32216 | (904) 379-2915 | atlanticinstitutejax.org

President & CEO: Turan Kilic

Mission & Vision: Atlantic Institute seeks to proactively contribute to educational, cultural, social, and humanitarian issues in the community, with the hope and motivation to find common denominators as global citizens.

BAIRFIND FOUNDATION

8777 San Jose Boulevard, Ste. 803, 32217 | (412) 926-7456 | bairfind.org

Founder: Dennis Bair

Mission & Vision: BairFind Foundation's goal is getting the public more involved with finding missing children: More eyes looking means more children found.

BAPTIST HEALTH FOUNDATION

841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1300 32207 | (904) 202-2912 | foundation.baptistjax.com

Chief Development Officer: Pierre N. Allaire, Ph.D.

Mission & Vision: The Baptist Health Foundation, Inc. supports the health system's mission through philanthropy and stewardship of gifts that enable Baptist Health hospitals — Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville, Baptist-MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baptist Beaches, Baptist Nassau, Baptist South and Wolfson Children's Hospital — to continually serve patients and their families and other community health care needs.

BARNABAS CENTER

1303 Jasmine Street, Suite 101, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

(904) 261-7000 | barnabasnassau.org

Executive Director: Wanda Lanier

Mission & Vision: The Barnabas Center works to provide assistance to individuals and families in crisis throughout Nassau County.

BASCA, INC.

841 Plainfield Avenue, 32073 | (904) 541-1742 | bascainc.org

CEO: Beth Clark

Mission & Vision: BASCA's mission is to improve the quality of life for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities in Northeast Florida.

BEACHES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

797 Mayport Road, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | (904) 241-1222 | beacheshabitat.org

President/CEO: Guy Cuddihee

Mission & Vision: Beaches Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing in Jacksonville's Beaches. In addition to building and rehabilitating quality, affordable homes for qualified families in need at no profit, the nonprofit guides its partner families through home ownership and provide educational opportunities.

BEAM (BEACHES EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE MINISTRY)

850 6th Avenue S., Ste. 400, 32250 | (904) 241-2326 | jaxbeam.org

Interim Executive Director: Betsy Fallon

Mission & Vision: BEAM is a community-based organization serving low income residents in Jacksonville's beaches communities. The nonprofit relies heavily on community support to assist those in need of food or shelter.

BEN'S PLACE

1956 Blanding Boulevard, 32210 | (904) 379-7570 | bensplacecof.org

Co-Founders: Ben Shay, Melody McFadden

Mission & Vision: Ben's Place mission is to provide social experiences and support the independence of individuals with disabilities. Its vision is based on the premise that individuals with disabilities will be respected and appreciated for their own individual capabilities as they strive toward their own personal dreams.

BEST BUDDIES INTERNATIONAL

4130 Salisbury Road, Suite 2200, 32216 | (904) 296-0510 | bestbuddiesflorida.org

Area Director: Erika Hatch

Mission & Vision: Best Buddies works to establish a global volunteer movement that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

BETTY GRIFFIN HOUSE

1375 Arapaho Avenue, St. Augustine, FL 32084 | (904) 808-8544 | bettygriffinhouse.org

Executive Director: Joyce Mahr

Mission & Vision: The Betty Griffin House offers protection and quality services for victims of Domestic Violence and their minor children and/or victims of Sexual Assault and their families of St. Johns County, through operation of a shelter offering assistance, counseling, and transitional support.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3100 University Boulevard South, Suite 120, 32216 | (904) 727-9797 | bbbsnefl.org

CEO: Sara Huke-Alford

Mission & Vision: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida provides children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever.

BLAKE BORTLES FOUNDATION

5757 W. Century Blvd, Ste. 410, Los Angeles, CA 90045

(310) 649-5222 | blakebortlesfoundation.com / givingback.org

Founder: Blake Bortles

Mission & Vision: Support children with intellectual and developmental challenges in their pursuit of full, independent lives. Provide support to first responders, with the goal of improving their ability to safely carry out their vital lifesaving work.

THE BOSELLI FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 16385, 32245 | (904) 619-8298 | bosellifoundation.com

Executive Director: Jen Vihrachoff

Mission & Vision: The Boselli Foundation is a faith-based non-profit organization striving to help children living in at-risk neighborhoods on the Northside of Jacksonville.

BOUQUETS OF KINDNESS

info@bouquetsofkindness.org | (904) 553-0505 | bouquetsofkindness.org

Founder: Lisa Kirkwood

Mission & Vision: To strengthen the community, show kindness to neighbors and grow friendships in unexpected places with the gift of flowers.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB NORTHEAST FLORIDA

555 West 25th Street, 32206 | (904) 396-4435 | bgcnf.org

President/CEO: Paul Martinez

Mission & Vision: Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida helps to inspire and enable all young people, especially those from disadvantaged circumstances, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

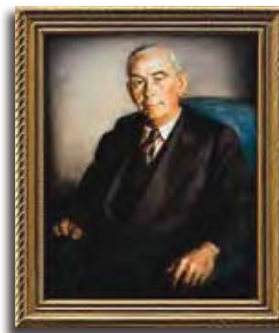


VANGUARD REALTY
Historic Districts Office

In 1906, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck San Francisco and devastating fires broke out in the city that lasted for several days. After this event, speculating investors began buying affected properties for pennies on the dollar, taking advantage of distraught and displaced



Benjamin
Arthur Banker



Colbert Coldwell

families. Colbert Coldwell believed these families deserved representation and started a company determined to succeed by treating customers fairly, ethically and professionally. Coldwell Banker was founded on this commitment and is the cornerstone of our company's philosophy. We are the nation's oldest real estate company and you can learn more at www.coldwellbanker.com/history

904.394.2316

3610 St Johns Avenue

Success Stories



Verna Fields with
Sarah Hagins

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida: Sarah Hagins

When 16-year-old Sarah Hagins was going through some of the most difficult times in her life, having a mentor like Verna Fields from Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida made all the difference in the world.

Sarah's "Big Sister" Verna has been there for her when Sarah was struggling with school attendance, reading and was often bullied and left without friends. Verna has been there for plenty of good times as well, as the pair enjoy visits to the Jacksonville Zoo, local museums, cooking together and even dinner shows.

Sarah's mom Julie said the two are inseparable as Verna remains a constant and positive force in Sarah's life.

"Verna is very much a member of our family and Sarah's future will be much better because of her," Julie said. "Sarah is not as quick to give up on school and life and her future as she once was. Verna is the best Big Sister I could have ever hoped for to be with Sarah."

"The genuine connection shared by Sarah and Verna is truly unique," said Sara Huke Alford, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida's vice president of programs. "Sarah has grown in her confidence and assurance as a young woman, Verna is proud of Sarah and better yet, Sarah is proud of Sarah. We couldn't ask for more."

CHARITY REGISTER

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA, NORTH FLORIDA COUNCIL

521 S. Edgewood Avenue, 32205 | (904) 388-0591 | nfcscouting.org

Scout Executive/CEO: Jack Sears

Mission & Vision: The Boy Scouts of America helps to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices in their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scouts' Oath and Law.

BRIGHT MINDS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

P.O. Box 441963, 32222 | (904) 644-8594 | brightmindsyouth.org

Board Chair: David Bright

Mission & Vision: Bright Minds Youth Development cultivates young minds for excellence and success by providing opportunities, skills, experience, exposure and positive challenges for children, teens and young adults to improve their quality of life.

CAF & CNL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

136 Sawmill Lakes Blvd., 32082 | (904) 545-2771 | cafcnl.org

Founder: Jim Houston

Mission & Vision: To raise funds for Challenged Athletes Foundation and Camp No Limits, which provide opportunities and support to people with physical disabilities.

CAMP I AM SPECIAL

235 Marywood Drive, St. Johns, FL 32259 | (904) 230-7447 | campiamspecial.com

Executive Director: Lauren Weedon Hopkins

Mission & Vision: Camp I Am Special, a program of Catholic Charities, helps to reflect the compassion and love of God in Christ, by providing persons with disabilities the opportunities to know, love and serve God based on the value and dignity of human life.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST - INNER CITY MINISTRY

5860 Mt. Carmel Terrace, 32216 | (904) 448-0737 | cru.org

President: Steve Douglass

Mission & Vision: Campus Crusade For Christ, Jacksonville, serves and mobilizes the church to live out God's heart for the poor by training and resourcing volunteers in partner ministries.

CANINE COMPANIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE (CCI)

Southeast Regional Office - 8150 Clarcona Ocoee Road, Orlando, FL 32818

(407) 522-3300 | cci.org

SE Region Executive Director: Bryan Williams

Mission & Vision: Canine Companions For Independence enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing highly trained assistance dogs and ongoing support to ensure quality partnerships.

CATHEDRAL ARTS PROJECT

207 N. Laura Street, Suite 300, 32202 | (904) 281-5599 | capkids.org

President/CEO: Rev. Kimberly Hyatt

Mission & Vision: The Cathedral Arts Project works to enrich the quality of life in Northeast Florida through unleashing the creative spirit of young people.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES BUREAU JACKSONVILLE

134 E. Church Street, 32202 | (904) 354-4846 | ccbjax.org

Executive Director: Lauren Weedon Hopkins

Mission & Vision: Catholic Charities provides services to anyone in need, regardless of race or religion; to advocate justice, human dignity and quality of life; and to call all people to join in these efforts; thereby reflecting the compassion of God in Christ.

CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF THE DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE11625 Old St. Augustine Road, 32258 | (904) 262-3200 | dosafll.com/catholic-foundation**Executive Director:** Christopher "Kit" Parker**Mission & Vision:** The mission of the Catholic Foundation of the Diocese of St. Augustine is to expand the opportunities for Christ's work in the Diocese-its parishes and schools, its ministries and clergy by encouraging stewardship, philanthropy and the growth of perpetual endowment.**CECIL FIELD POW/MIA MEMORIAL**P.O. Box 440625, 32222 | cecilfieldpowmia@gmail.com | powmiamemorial.org**President:** Michael Cassata**Mission & Vision:** The memorial will honor all former prisoners of war, remember and never forget those quiet, missing in action heroes and the families that wait for their return.**CHAMPION WOMEN**3116 St. Johns Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-8484 | championwomen.org**Founder/CEO:** Nancy Hogshead-Makar**Mission & Vision:** Champion Women is an advocacy organization for girls and women in sports, and uses sports to improve the lives of girls and women.**CHILD CANCER FUND**4720 Salisbury Road, 32256 | (904) 396-4223 | childcancerfund.org**Executive Director:** Carla Montgomery**Mission & Vision:** The Child Cancer Fund provides emotional, practical, educational, and financial support to families of children battling childhood cancer.**CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER**5776 St. Augustine Road, 32207 | (904) 448-4700 | childguidancecenter.org**President/CEO:** Theresa Rulien**Mission & Vision:** Invest in the community by providing counseling and support services to assist children and families in reaching their fullest potential. Improve the lives of children and families by offering a full range of comprehensive, state-of-the-art behavioral health services.**THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY OF FLORIDA - BUCKNER DIVISION**3027 San Diego Road, 32207 | (904) 493-7744 | chsfl.org**Executive Director:** Kymberly Cook**Mission & Vision:** The Children's Home Society embraces children and inspires lives by helping to break generational cycles of child abuse and protecting children from harm.**CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK JACKSONVILLE**580 W. 8th Street Tower 1, 3rd Floor, 32209 | (904) 244-9354 | cmnjax.com**Executive Director:** Emily Williamson**Mission & Vision:** Children's Miracle Network Hospitals are dedicated to improving the health and welfare of all children by raising funds and awareness for the pediatric programs of UF Health Jacksonville and Wolfson Children's Hospital.**CHRISTIAN HEALING MINISTRIES**438 W. 67th Street, 32208 | (904) 765-3332 | christianhealingmin.org**Director of Ministry/President:** Judith MacNutt**Mission & Vision:** Jacksonville's largest non-profit organization dedicated to the practice and teaching of healing prayer strives to make Christian healing prayer a way of life in families, churches, and medical professions, and to be a visible presence of Jesus' desire to heal in the world today.**CHRIST'S STARFISH FOUNDATION**11750 Coastal Lane, 32258 | (904) 612-8522 | christstarfish.org**President:** Carldon Lahey**Mission & Vision:** Christ's Starfish Foundation share the love of Jesus Christ providing assistance to children's hospitals through child life specialists and by assisting families of non-cancer patients who are experiencing financial hardships due to medical expenses.**CISV INTERNATIONAL - JACKSONVILLE CHAPTER**1650 Market Street, Suite 302 | (904) 568-0818 | cisvjax.org**President:** Lynn Buff**Mission & Vision:** CISV International helps participants develop skills to become informed, responsible and active global citizens to make a difference in our community and the world.**CITY RESCUE MISSION**426 S. McDuff Avenue, 32254 | (904) 387-9377 | crmjax.org**Executive Director:** Penny Kievet**Mission & Vision:** The City Rescue Mission exists to transform the lives of the homeless and needy, serving them through the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.**CIVIC ORCHESTRA OF JACKSONVILLE**3305 Riverside Avenue, 32205 | civicorchestrajax.org**President:** Nadine Terk**Mission & Vision:** To cultivate classical music connoisseurship through education, performance, and collaborative programming to engage, enrich, and strengthen our community.**CLARA WHITE MISSION**613 W. Ashley Street, 32202 | (904) 354-4162 | clarawhitemission.org**President/CEO:** Ju'Coby Pittman**Mission & Vision:** The Clara White Mission works in partnership with the community to prevent and reduce homelessness through advocacy, housing, job training and employment.**CLAY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER**3292 County Road 220, Middleburg, FL 32068 | (904) 291-5561 - ccbhc.org**CEO:** Irene M. Toto, LMHC**Mission & Vision:** Clay Behavioral Health Center is dedicated to being a resource that provides mental health and substance abuse counseling and treatment to adults, teens, children and families in Clay County.**CREATING THE WORKFORCE OF TOMORROW**

FSCJ WORKS is our five-year, \$50 million fundraising initiative aimed at uniting area employers, supporters of higher education and community leaders in a shared goal: *to educate, empower and expand the local workforce now and far into the future.*

📍 fscj.edu/fscjworks 📞 (904) 632-3237 ✉ foundation@fscj.edu

FSCJ | Foundation

Success Stories



Catholic Charities: Shawanda Rolack

When Shawanda Rolack was laid off from her security job, things in her life began to quickly unravel. The mother of four had already lost their car and suddenly found herself and her family close to losing their home. However, everything started to come back into place with the help of Catholic Charities.

"I was going through a lot of hardships," Rolack said.

Through Catholic Charities' work force development program, Rolack was able to receive job referrals, get help creating her resume and preparing for interviews and even obtain business attire for her job interviews. She was also given the opportunity to learn money management skills through the program.

"They even helped with rent so I was able to keep a roof over my head," said Rolack, who is extremely grateful for the support she received from Catholic Charities. "It made me feel reassured."

Today, Rolack is happily employed and working in security for Allied Universal with her sights set on saving for a car.

"Catholic Charities has been serving families in Jacksonville for more than 72 years," said Lauren Weedon Hopkins, Catholic Charities regional director. "Last year, our five major programs served more than 26,000 individuals in need."

"With the combined efforts of our Emergency Assistance, Immigration, Refugee Resettlement, Camp I Am Special and Workforce Development staff, donors and volunteers, we look forward to serving even more people in need in 2017," said Hopkins.

"I feel like I prevailed over peril," said Rolack.

CHARITY REGISTER

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS - JACKSONVILLE

One Riverside Avenue, Suite 400, 32202 | (904) 366-6350 | cisjax.org

CEO: Steve Gilbert

Mission & Vision: Communities In Schools works to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life.

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR NORTHEAST FLORIDA

245 Riverside Avenue, Suite 310, 32202 | (904) 356-4483 | jaxcf.org

President: Nina Waters

Mission & Vision: The Community Foundation For Northeast Florida stimulates philanthropy to build a better community through civic leadership, philanthropic leadership and by providing products and services to help donors fulfill their philanthropic goals.

COMMUNITY HEALTH OUTREACH

5126 Timuquana Road, 32210 | (904) 573-1333 | chojax.org

Executive Director: Bernice Mauras

Mission & Vision: Community Health Outreach works to cloth the needy, feed the hungry and heal the sick in the name of God.

COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE

4266 Sunbeam Road, 32257 | (904) 268-5200 | communityhospice.com

President/CEO: Susan Ponder-Stansel

Mission & Vision: Community Hospice & Palliative Care works to improve the quality of life for patients and families, and to be the compassionate guide for end-of-life care in our community.

COMMUNITY REHABILITATION CENTER

623 Beechwood Street, 32206 | (904) 358-1211 | communityrehabcenter.org

CEO: Reginald Gaffney

Mission & Vision: The Community Rehabilitation Center promotes the mental, physical and emotional well-being of individuals and families in Northeast Florida by providing easily accessible, culturally competent, quality-based clinical services.

COMPASSIONATE HEARTS FOR KIDS

731 Duval Station Road, 32216 | compassionateheartsforkids.org

Founders: Christina and Richard Wood

Mission & Vision: To show love to children dealing with difficult situations by bringing comfort and joy in their time of need, we desire to show compassion to all children experiencing difficulties by demonstrating love through action: the Caden Project provides Build-A-Bears® to children in hospitals, and Caleb's Helping Hands finds special solutions for special needs children who need help participating in life's activities.

COUNCIL ON AGING ST. JOHNS COUNTY

180 Marine Street, St. Augustine, FL 32084 | (904) 209-3700 | coasjc.com

Executive Director: Becky Yanni

Mission & Vision: The Council On Aging St. Johns County provides leadership and advocacy for the dignity, independence, health and community involvement of older St. Johns County residents.

COUNCIL ON AGING NASSAU COUNTY

1367 S. 18th Street, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 | (904) 261-0701 | nassaucountycoa.org

Executive Director: Janice Ancrum

Mission & Vision: The Council on Aging of Nassau County works to improve the lives of older adults with a special focus on those who are vulnerable and disadvantaged through their Senior Life Centers as well as compassionate care designed to improve the health, independence and economic security of area seniors and their families.

CROHN'S & COLITIS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA

P.O. Box 124, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004
(904) 553-9743 | www.ccfa.org, www.cctakesteps.org

Take Steps Walk Manager: Ginger Peace

Mission & Vision: To cure Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis, and to improve the quality of life of children and adults affected by these diseases.

CULTURAL CENTER AT PONTE VEDRA BEACH

50 Executive Way, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | (904) 280-0614 - ccpvb.org

Executive Director: Judy Hixenbaugh

Mission & Vision: The Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra Beach works to bring the arts into the life of our communities through arts education, art appreciation and community outreach.

CULTURAL COUNCIL OF GREATER JACKSONVILLE

300 Water Street, 32202 | (904) 358-3600 - culturalcouncil.org

Executive Director: Tony Allegretti

Mission & Vision: The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville champions the appreciation, relevance, and expression of art and culture.

THE CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART & GARDENS

829 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 356-6857 - cummermuseum.org

Chief Operating Officer/Chief Curator: Holly Keris

Mission & Vision: The Cummer Museum works to engage and inspire through the arts, gardens, and education.

CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION

7899 Baymeadows Way, Suite 200, 32256 | (904) 733-3560 - cff.org

National President/CEO: Preston Campbell III, M.D.

Mission & Vision: The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is dedicated to improving the daily lives of people with Cystic Fibrosis and to finding a cure for all people with CF.

DANIEL KIDS FOUNDATION

4203 Southpoint Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 296-1055 | danielkids.org

Executive Director: Doug Standard

Mission & Vision: Daniel Kids Foundation, Inc. works to improve the lives of children and families through various community-based services.

DARE – DACHSHUND ADOPTION, RESCUE & EDUCATION

4495-304 Roosevelt Blvd., PMB 179, 32210 | daretorescue.com

President: Alicia Duval

Mission & Vision: DARE views its mission as increasing public awareness through education against animal cruelty, related issues and overpopulation while rescuing and re-homing displaced and unwanted dachshunds and dachshund mixes.

DAVID GARRARD FOUNDATION

1021 Oak Street, 32204 | (904) 376-7029 | www.davidgarrardfoundation.org

Director: Heather Surface

Mission & Vision: Founded in 2009, the David Garrard Foundation supports programs that enhance the awareness, education and research of breast cancer and Crohn's disease. The foundation also aims to support healthy lifestyle choices for youth.

DELORES BARR WEAVER POLICY CENTER

40 E. Adams Street, Suite 130, 32202 | (904) 598-0901 | seethegirl.org

President/CEO: Lawanda Ravoira, Ph.D.

Mission & Vision: The Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center is a local nonprofit organization that works to engage communities, organizations and individuals through quality research, community organizing, advocacy, training and model programming to advance the rights of girls and young women, especially those in the justice and child protection systems.



INDEPENDENCE

Found by him.
Empowered by you.

The Independent Living Resource Center provides programs to support full opportunity through access, education and employment.

Help us empower people with disabilities in reaching their goals for independence.

JaxDisability.org
(904) 399-8484

Success Stories



Clara White Mission: James Hightower

U.S. Army Veteran James Hightower never thought he would find himself in a homeless situation. However, when he was at one of the lowest points in his life, it was the assistance he received from the Clara White Mission that pulled him up and helped him get his life back on track.

"I had a lot of stress in my life and I was dealing with depression," said Hightower. "The staff at the Clara White Mission gave me a different perspective. I went from being homeless and depressed to self-sufficient and employed."

Thanks to the Clara White Mission transitional/permanent housing program as well as a government program, Hightower transitioned from being a resident at Clara White to an employee. He currently works in the Mission's administration office and also became OSHA-certified so he could teach environmental and janitorial classes at the Mission.

"I meet a lot of interesting people and it gives me a chance to give back," Hightower said. "The staff at Clara White is phenomenal."

"James has excellent leadership skills and enjoys giving back," said Ju'Coby Pittman, Clara White CEO and president. "He greets visitors and volunteers daily with a positive attitude while lending a helping hand. There is no job too big or small, we can always count on him."

CHARITY REGISTER

DEPAUL SCHOOL OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3044 San Pablo Road South, 32224 | (904) 223-3391 - depaulschool.com

Head of School: Dr. Amber Oliveira

Mission & Vision: The DePaul School of Northeast Florida is committed to understanding and educating students with specific learning differences such as visual and auditory processing disorders, memory or attention deficits and dyslexia.

DLC NURSE & LEARN

4101 College Street, 32205 | (904) 387-0370 | dlcnl.org

Executive Director: Amy Buggle

Mission & Vision: DLC Nurse & Learn provides year-round high-quality education, nursing care, and therapies to children of all abilities so that children and families have the opportunity to reach their maximum potential.

DONNA FOUNDATION

11762 Marco Beach Drive Suite 6, 32224 | (904) 242-0034 | thedonnafoundation.org

Director: Amanda Napolitano

Mission & Vision: The Donna Foundation raises money to be used exclusively for the critical needs of First Coast women living with breast cancer.

THE DONOVIN DARIUS FOUNDATION

13245 Atlantic Boulevard, 32225 | (904) 290-0020 | donovindariusfoundation.com

Founder: Donovan Darius

Mission & Vision: To educate, equip and empower individuals in identifying their purpose and to maximize their potential, serving the hearts, souls and minds of families in Northeast Florida.

DON'T MISS A BEAT

PO Box 6697, 32226 | (904) 385-4001 | dontmissabeat.org

Director of Programs: Esther Poitier

Mission & Vision: The mission of Don't Miss a Beat is to blend music, art, academic achievement, and civic engagement to inspire and enlighten children and teens in the Riverside and Brooklyn communities.

DOUGLAS ANDERSON SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS FOUNDATION

2445 San Diego Road, 32207 | (904) 208-0962

Executive Director: Jacqueline Cornelius

Mission & Vision: The Foundation strives to further the arts program at Douglas Anderson School for the Arts and the talents of the students who attend the school.

DOWNTOWN ECUMENICAL SERVICES COUNCIL

215 N. Ocean Street, 32202 | (904) 358-7955 | descjax.org

Director of Operations: Beth Hood

Director of Programs: Beth Wilson

Mission & Vision: The Downtown Ecumenical Services Council provides emergency assistance to people in need through food distribution, clothing assistance and financial assistance.

DOWN SYNDROME ASSOCIATION OF JACKSONVILLE

630 May Street, 32204 | (904) 353-6300 | dsaj.org

Executive Director: Debbie Revels

Mission & Vision: The Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville is committed to helping people with Down Syndrome achieve their full potential and to helping create a community that is educated, supportive, and inclusive of individuals with Down Syndrome.

DREAMS COME TRUE OF JACKSONVILLE

6803 Southpoint Parkway, 32216 | (904) 296-3030 | dreamscometrue.org

Executive Director: Sheri K. Criswell

Mission & Vision: Dreams Come True is dedicated to fulfilling the dreams of children with life-threatening illness.

DUCKS UNLIMITED

National Headquarters - One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, Tennessee 38120
1-800-45DUCKS or (352) 262-9252 | ducks.org/florida

Area Director: Jarrett Lafferty

Mission & Vision: Ducks Unlimited is the world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

EARLY LEARNING COALITION DUVAL COUNTY

8301 Cypress Plaza Drive, Suite 201, 32256 | (904) 208-2044 | elcduval.org

President/CEO: Susan Main

Mission & Vision: The Early Learning Coalition helps lead and support the early learning community in building the best foundation for children from birth to age five.

ELDERSOURCE

10688 Old St. Augustine Road, 32257 | (904) 391-6600 | myeldersource.org

Executive Director: Linda Levin

Mission & Vision: ElderSource works to empower individuals to age with independence and dignity by providing leadership, direction, advocacy and support for a comprehensive, coordinated continuum of care.

EMPOWERMENT RESOURCES

3832-010 Baymeadows Road, Suite 348, 32217
(904) 268-8287 | empowermentresourcesinc.org

Executive Director: Elexia Coleman-Moss

Mission & Vision: Empowerment Resources works to make children and families stronger and empower them to be successful leaders in the community today, for a better tomorrow.

EPIC ANIMALS OUTREACH

(904) 274-1177 | epicanimals.org

Compassion Creator: Jessie Miller

Mission & Vision: Humane education to create a more compassionate world for people, animals, and the environment.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION OF FLORIDA - JACKSONVILLE

5209 San Jose Boulevard, Suite 101, 32207 | (904) 731-3752 | efof.org

CEO: Karen Egozi

Mission & Vision: The Epilepsy Foundation of Florida leads the fight to stop seizures, find a cure and overcome challenges created by epilepsy.

EPISCOPAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES

8443 Baymeadows Road, Suite 1, 32256 | (904) 726-1500 | ecs4kids.org

CEO: Connie Stophel

Mission & Vision: Episcopal Children's Services is a recognized leader in early childhood education serving more than 59,000 children and their families, using research and best practices to ensure children enter school ready to learn.

EXCHANGE CLUB FAMILY CENTER

3119 Spring Glen Road, Ste. 111, 32207 | (904) 306-9318 | exchangeclubfamilycenter.com

Executive Director: Barbara Alexander

Mission & Vision: For 25 years, the Exchange Club Family Center of Northeast Florida has offered free, in-home Parent Aide services to at-risk families across Jacksonville's First Coast to deter child abuse and strengthen families

EXCHANGE CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

president@jaxexchangeclub.com | jaxexchangeclub.com

President: George Mann

Mission & Vision: Through camaraderie and a shared spirit of service, Exchange Club is a group of men and women who come together, working to make Jacksonville a better place to live through four pillars of service: Americanism, child abuse prevention, community service and youth programs.

FAMILY NURTURING CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

2759 Bartley Circle, 32207 | (904) 389-4244 | fncflorida.org

Executive Director: Stella Johnson

Mission & Vision: The Family Nurturing Center is dedicated to the needs of children and families in crisis throughout Florida.

FAMILY PROMISE OF JACKSONVILLE

225 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 354-1818 | familypromisejax.org

Executive Director: Mark Landschoot

Mission & Vision: Family Promise is an interfaith hospitality network providing temporary assistance, hospitality and case management for families with children experiencing homelessness.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES OF NORTH FLORIDA

130 Riverplace Boulevard, Suite 700, 32207 | (904) 421-5800 | fssjax.org

President/CEO: Lee Kaywork (retires Jan. 15, 2018); Robert Miller succeeds

Mission & Vision: The Family Support Services of North Florida, Inc. works to be the leader in providing safety, stability, and quality of life for all children by working with the community to strengthen the family unit.

FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA

1116 Edgewood Avenue North, Units D/E, 32254 | (904) 513-1333 | feedingnefl.org

Interim Director: Frank Castillo

Mission & Vision: Feeding Northeast Florida's strives to banish hunger from all 17 counties in Northeast Florida.

FIREHOUSE SUBS PUBLIC SAFETY FOUNDATION

12735 Gran Bay Parkway, Ste. 150, 32258 | (904) 606-5148 | firehousesubsfoundation.org

Executive Director: Robin Peters

Mission & Vision: The foundation's mission is to impact the live-saving capabilities, and the lives, of local heroes and their communities.

FIRST COAST NO MORE HOMELESS PETS, INC.

6817 Norwood Avenue, 32208 | (904) 425-0005 | fcnmhp.org

Founder & Executive Director: Rick DuCharme

Mission & Vision: First Coast No More Homeless Pets seeks to end the killing of dogs and cats in shelters in our community, Northeast Florida and the nation.

FROM TROUBLE TO TRIUMPH.



SEE THE GIRL.

Help us advocate for policies, processes, and practices that correct the disparate treatment of girls in the juvenile justice system. seethegirl.org/join

Success Stories



Down Syndrome Association: Arik Ancelin

Arik Ancelin of San Marco had no intention of letting his disability prevent him from his goal – to earn a second-degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

A dance major at LaVilla School for the Arts, Ancelin has Down syndrome and earned his second black belt in the sport during a special test in March 2017 at Watson Martial Arts in San Marco.

“Four years ago, I took my first Tae Kwon Do class. We started doing stretches, then [Tae Kwon Do] Master [Jason] Watson told everyone to count to 10. I heard really weird sounding numbers and thought, ‘What?!’” said Ancelin. “Next, the punching and kicking was so cool, I knew right away this was the sport for me.”

Watson said the school did not change its standards for Ancelin, adding the young boy’s skills are so strong he expected Ancelin would have no trouble earning the second-degree black belt.

Over the past six years, Ancelin has earned 10 under-belts, won a silver medal for his forms in an AAU-sanctioned Tae Kwon Do tournament, and earned his first black belt.

“I have not discovered another young person in this area, or even in Florida, with Down syndrome, to have accomplished this milestone,” said Ancelin’s mother, Jennifer.

CHARITY REGISTER

FIRST COAST YOUTH ORCHESTRAS / FIRST COAST COMMUNITY MUSIC SCHOOL

11901 Beach Blvd, Building N102, 32246 | (904) 515-5092 | firstcoastyo.com

Artistic Director: Scott Gregg

Administrative Director: Tami Chacon

Mission & Vision: The mission of the First Coast Community Music School is to serve as a nonprofit, non-degree-granting institution dedicated to bringing high quality professional music instruction to students of all ages, from a broad spectrum of the community in order to enrich the cultural life of the greater Jacksonville Community.

THE FIRST TEE OF NORTH FLORIDA

4401 Cypress Links Boulevard, 32033 | (904) 810-2231 | thefirstteenorthflorida.org

Executive Director: Jeff Willoughby

Mission & Vision: The First Tee of North Florida works to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that build character, instill life-enhancing values and promote healthy choices through the game of golf.

FLORIDA BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

11900 Biscayne Blvd., Ste. 288, N. Miami 33181 | (305) 631-2134 | FloridaBreastCancer.org

Executive Director: Russell Silverman

Mission & Vision: Dedicated to ending breast cancer through advocacy, education and research.

THE FLORIDA NONPROFIT ALLIANCE

40 E. Adams Street, Ste. 229, 32202 | (407) 694-5213 | flnonprofits.org

Executive Director: Sabeen Perwaiz

Mission & Vision: The Florida Nonprofit Alliance informs, promotes, and strengthens the nonprofit sector in order to create more vibrant communities across the state.

FLORIDA PANCREAS CANCER COALITION, INC.

flpcc.org

Founder: Patrick McLaughlin

Mission & Vision: The goal of FLPCC is to invest in local, world class, pancreas cancer research, where our neighbors are part of the team and can see the value of their contributions and know where they are being spent.

FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

501 W. State Street, Suite 104, 32202 | (904) 632-3237 | fscjfoundation.org

Executive Director: Cleve Warren

Mission & Vision: Florida State College Foundation strives to secure financial resources for Florida State College at Jacksonville to provide students in need access to an affordable, quality education and to enhance the lives and the economic development of Northeast Florida.

FLORIDA THEATRE

128 E. Forsyth Street, 32202 | (904) 355-5661 | floridatheatre.com

President: Numa C. Saisselin

Mission & Vision: Florida Theatre works to enhance the North Florida community’s quality of life by providing diverse and memorable arts and entertainment experiences, and by preserving a unique historic Jacksonville landmark.

FOLDED FLAG FOUNDATION

601 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (844) 204-2856 | foldedflagfoundation.org

Executive Director: John W. Coogan III

Mission & Vision: The Folded Flag Foundation’s mission is to provide scholarships and educational support grants to the spouses and children of the United States military and government personnel who died as a result of hostile action or in an accident related to U.S. combat operations.

Hope Has a Home in Jacksonville!

Thank you to our generous campaign donors
who have made the Hope Lodge possible!

Beating Cancer Takes More Than Medicine

That's why we do much more than breakthrough research. We also offer free rides to treatment, a live 24/7 helpline, and free lodging near hospitals for people dealing with every type of cancer.

Coming Winter 2018-2019



Photographed (left to right): Mr. Gary Reedy, American Cancer Society CEO, Mr. Richard M. Schulze, Founder of Best Buy, Dr. Gianrico Farrugia, Mayo Clinic CEO

What is Hope Lodge?

The Hope Lodge offers cancer patients and their caregivers a free place to stay when their best hope for effective treatment may be in another city. Not having to worry about where to stay or how to pay for lodging allows guests to focus on getting better. Hope Lodge provides a nurturing, home-like environment where guests can retreat to private rooms or connect with others. Every Hope Lodge also offers a variety of resources and information about cancer and how best to fight the disease.

For more information on the American Cancer Society's Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Hope Lodge visit,

cancer.org/hopelodgejacksonville

or contact the local campaign staff:

Kellie Ann Kelleher, Campaign Director
(904) 391-3606 | kellieann.kelleher@cancer.org

BUILD HOPE. YOUR GENEROSITY SAVES LIVES. THANK YOU.



Success Stories



Alyce and daughter Ariana

Growing Parenting Partners: Alyce

When Alyce found out she was going to be a first-time mother, the support and guidance she received from the staff at Growing Parenting Choices came as such a relief to the young 18-year-old high school student who was feeling scared and alone.

"They reassured me that everything was going to be okay," said Alyce, who also had the stress of a blood clotting disorder which raised concerns about her health during the pregnancy.

"Finding out that you are going to be a first-time mom is nerve racking, but Kiersten from Growing Parenting Partners helped me realize that I wasn't alone," said Alyce. "If I didn't have this program I wouldn't have gotten set up with the things I need for my daughter and I would have been lost during the beginning of my pregnancy."

Growing Parenting Partners also connected Alyce with Healthy Start and other local programs where she received help with her prenatal care, maternity clothing, baby supplies and took a Safe Sleep Class.

"Alyce had many obstacles and challenges throughout her pregnancy," said Kiersten McGuinness, Growing Parenting Partners volunteer coordinator. "Through it all, she stayed focused on what was best for her and her baby. She was strong and I could not be more proud of how she took on her new title of 'mom.' Even now, to see the young lady and mom she has become is amazing."

Thanks to Growing Parenting Partners, today Alyce is working on her high school diploma and concentrating on raising Ariana, her beautiful and healthy baby girl.

CHARITY REGISTER

FOOD ALLERGY FAMILIES OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

(904) 654-2681 | fafofstjohns.org

President: Lori Cordell

Mission & Vision: Food Allergy Families (FAF) of Northeast Florida is a volunteer-run support group for families managing food allergies. The organization's vision is to provide support, educate the community and members on food allergies, and advocate for policy improvements for the safety of the food-allergic.

FOSTER CLOSET

8307 Beach Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 629-2116 | fostercloset.org

Founders: Tammy and John McGuire

Mission & Vision: "To look after the orphans..." Foster Closet provides support and free resources for foster families and independent living teens.

FRESHMINISTRIES/BE THE CHANGE INTERNATIONAL

1131 N. Laura Street, 32206 | (904) 355-0000 | freshministries.org

Founder, Chairman & CEO: Rev. Dr. Robert V. Lee III

Mission & Vision: FreshMinistries is an interfaith organization working to eliminate extreme poverty by empowering communities and individuals to realize their full potential.

FRIDAY MUSICALE

645 Oak Street, 32204 | (904) 355-7584 | fridaymusicale.com

Executive Director: Naomi Sheridan

Mission & Vision: For 125 years, Friday Musical has supported the Jacksonville community through concerts, educational outreach and scholarships.

FRIENDS OF HEMMING PARK

303 N. Laura Street, 32202 | (904) 515-5098 | hemmingpark.org

Interim Director: Bill Prescott

Mission & Vision: The mission of Friends of Hemming Park is to transform Jacksonville's oldest public park into a modern, urban space that engages diverse communities and restores vitality to our city's public square.

FRIENDS OF JACKSONVILLE ANIMALS

c/o Animal Care and Protective Services, 2020 Forest Street, 32204

friendsofjaxanimals.com

President - Executive Committee: Alicia Strayer

Mission & Vision: Friends of Jacksonville Animals works directly with Jacksonville's Animal Care and Protective Services to benefit the lives of shelter animals by focusing on fundraising to assist with medical care, enrich the shelter environment, and promote adoptions to reduce euthanasia.

FUNK-ZITIELLO FOUNDATION, INC.

830 A1A North, Ste. 13, #187, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32082

(904) 373-0737 | championsforhopegolf.com

Director: Judith Zitiello

Mission & Vision: The mission of the Funk-Zitiello Foundation is to help the community by taking the challenges of individuals and turning them into initiatives that can provide hope and funding to those dealing with extraordinary obstacles.

GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE

4599 Worrall Way, Jacksonville, 32224 | (904) 821-8995 | gabrielhouseofcare.org

Executive Director: Valerie Callahan

Mission & Vision: Gabriel House of Care provides hope and compassionate support to patients and their caregivers in a "community of healing" environment by providing temporary lodging and support to those who come to Northeast Florida from other communities to receive life-saving medical care.

GARDEN CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

1005 Riverside Avenue, 32204 | (904) 355-4224 | gardenclubofjacksonville.org

President: Carol Waters

Mission & Vision: The Garden Club of Jacksonville is dedicated to education, beautification, and conservation citywide with projects such as the gardens at The Jacksonville Zoo, the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens, Tree Hill, and The St. Johns Riverkeeper.

GATEWAY COMMUNITY SERVICES

555 Stockton Street, 322-4 | (904) 387-4661 | gatewaycommunity.com

President/CEO: Candace Hodgkins, Ph.D., LMHC

Mission & Vision: Gateway Community Services helps deliver effective treatment and recovery services based on proven steps to help people suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction and related mental health issues.

THE GIRLS GONE GREEN

P.O. Box 331745, 32233 | thegirlsgonegreen.com

Executive Director: Julie Watkins

Mission & Vision: The mission of The Girls Gone Green is to draw attention and proper action to critical issues through outreach and education in an effort to protect our planet's resources, animal welfare and human health.

GIRLS INC. OF JACKSONVILLE

1627 Rogero Road, 32211 | (904) 731-9933 | girlsincjax.org

CEO: Robin Rose

Mission & Vision: Girls Incorporated works to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by being a leading advocacy organization dedicated to extending girls' voices, issues, and concerns to policy makers, corporations, and the media.

GIRLS ON THE RUN

6850 Belfort Oaks Place, 32216 | (904) 619-6763 | gotrnefl.org

Executive Director: Laura Lasko

Mission & Vision: To inspire girls to be joyful, healthy and confident using a fun, experience-based curriculum which creatively integrates running. We envision a world where every girl knows and activates her limitless potential and is free to boldly pursue her dreams.

GIRL SCOUTS OF GATEWAY COUNCIL

1000 Shearer Avenue, 32205 | (904) 388-4653 | girlscouts-gateway.org

CEO: Mary Anne Jacobs

Mission & Vision: Girl Scouts of Gateway Council helps to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

GLEANERS DISPATCH

8207 103rd Street, 32210 | (904) 777-6344 | gleanersdispatch.org

Founder/Board Chair: H. David Fountain

Mission & Vision: To challenge hunger by bringing relief to people on fixed but inadequate incomes: Senior Citizens, Disabled, Single Parents, the Under-Employed or Unemployed between jobs.

GOODWILL INDUSTRIES OF NORTH FLORIDA

4527 Lenox Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1361 | goodwilljax.org

CEO: Bob Thayer

Mission & Vision: Goodwill Industries is the nation's largest private provider of training and employment services for people with disabilities and special needs.

GRACE MINISTRY OF HELPING HANDS

8834 Goodby's Executive Drive S., Ste. F, 32217 | (904) 731-4846 | graceministriesjax.org

Co-Founders: Kathleen McDaniel and Jan Miller

Mission & Vision: Grace Ministry of Helping Hands rescues women on the streets and provides intervention for women recently released from incarceration.

GREATER JACKSONVILLE AREA USO

P.O. Box 108, NAS Jacksonville, 32212-3028 | (904) 778-2821 | usojax.com

Executive Director: Mike O'Brien

Mission & Vision: The Great Jacksonville Area USO provides more than \$1 million annually in services through a wide variety of programs, and is the channel for community participation during every war effort and in peacetime.

GREENSCAPE OF JACKSONVILLE INC.

1468 Hendricks Avenue, 32207 | (904) 398-5757 | greenscapeofjacksonville.com

Executive Director: Anna Dooley

Mission & Vision: Greenscape of Jacksonville is dedicated to enriching Jacksonville through planting, protecting, and promoting trees.

GREENWOOD SCHOOL

9920 Regency Square Blvd., 32225 | (904) 726-5000 | greenwoodjax.org

Head of School: Emlyn James

Mission & Vision: Greenwood School is dedicated to providing a challenging and supportive learning environment for average to above-average middle through high school students who struggle with reading disabilities, need ADHD support, or have other learning differences.

GREYHOUNDS AS PETS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

P.O. Box 959, Orange Park, 32067 | (904) 388-6034 | greyhoundpetsjax.org

Mission & Vision: Greyhounds as Pets of Northeast Florida is a nonprofit corporation which provides a unique opportunity to adopt and enjoy the loving companionship of this versatile breed as a pet.

GROUNDWORK JACKSONVILLE

P.O. Box 13295, 32206 | (904) 598-5664 | groundworkjacksonville.org

Chief Executive Officer: Kay Ehas

Mission & Vision: Groundwork Jacksonville's mission is to bring about the sustained regeneration, improvement and management of the physical environment by developing community-based partnerships which empower people, businesses and organizations to promote environmental, economic and social well-being.

GROWING PARENTING CHOICES

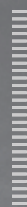
1637 King Street, 32204 | (904) 308-7510 | growingparentingchoices.org

Executive Director: Sandy Duggan

Mission & Vision: Growing Parenting Choices, a ministry of St. Vincent's Healthcare, empowers women to make informed decisions regarding pregnancy, saves lives, counsels and mentors teens and women through pregnancy.



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BLOW DRY BAR HAIR CARE KERATIN TREATMENTS SKIN CARE WAXING MAKE-UP SESSIONS & LESSONS

Success Stories



Habitat For Humanity: Alberta Brooks

Neither age nor ailment stopped Alberta Brooks from getting what she most desired. At 70 years old, Brooks could finally say she achieved her dream of being a homeowner. If it were not for the HabiJax homebuyer program, she might not have gotten the encouragement and resources she needed to own her very own home.

After being encouraged by her pastor to apply for the HabiJax program, Brooks was accepted, then received counseling and classes on what it takes to buy and own a home. Even while battling a bout with pneumonia during the process, Brooks managed to complete her courses, counseling and 300 hours of “sweat equity” in building her new home.

“It was the happiest day of my life,” said Brooks about the day she moved into her new home. “I was in and still could not believe that God blessed me with a home.”

Brooks now takes literacy classes at Schell Sweet Center at Edward Waters College and is working on becoming a licensed in-home care provider for ailing seniors.

“Alberta’s story is just an example of how access to affordable homeownership can open doors and provide opportunities for individuals to grow in other areas of their lives,” said Mary Kay O’Rourke, HabiJax president and CEO.

“We are thrilled that Alberta is happy and thriving in her home and she is an inspiration for other current and potential homebuyers,” said O’Rourke.

CHARITY REGISTER

GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOUNDATION

214 N. Hogan St., FL 6, 32202 | (904) 255-8440 | galfirstcoast.org

Board President: Heather Solanka

Mission & Vision: The mission of Florida’s 4th Judicial Circuit’s Guardian ad Litem program is to recruit, train, support and supervise volunteers, also known as court appointed special advocates, to speak for the best interests of children, thereby giving abused, neglected or abandoned children in the dependency court system a voice in the outcome of their future.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY JACKSONVILLE

2404 Hubbard Street, 32206 | (904)798-4529 | habijax.org

CEO: Mary Kay O’Rourke

Mission & Vision: Habitat For Humanity Jacksonville (HabiJax) seeks to put God’s love into action, and bring people together to build homes, communities and hope.

HART FELT MINISTRIES

7235 Bonneval Rd #123, 32256 | (904) 861-2799 | hartfelt.org

President/Executive Director: Kelly Moorman Coggins

Mission & Vision: Hart Felt Ministries helps Jacksonville seniors stay independent and age gracefully in their own homes. Donations help fund emergency financial assistance, minor home repairs, gift cards for groceries and other essential services, including veterinary services.

HAVEN HOSPICE

8301 Cypress Plaza Drive Suite 119, Jacksonville, FL 32256

(904) 733-9818 - havenhospice.org

Executive Director: Kelly Wells

Mission & Vision: Haven Hospice helps to honor life by providing comfort, care and compassion to those they serve.

THE HEAL FOUNDATION

226 Solana Road #211, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082 | (904) 716-4198 | healautismnow.org

Executive Director: Jason Gurka

Mission & Vision: The Heal Foundation serves as an outreach organization providing educational programs and camps tailored to the needs of the Autism Community.

HEALTHYUNOW FOUNDATION

3800 Joe Ashton Road, St. Augustine, 32092 | (904) 834-2938 | healthyunow.org

Executive Director: Dr. Julie Buckley

Mission & Vision: The HealthyUNow Foundation’s mission is to develop virtual and physical communities that support the treatment of autism for individuals and their families in a Healthy Living environment.

HEARING LOSS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

11250 Old St. Augustine Road, Ste. 15123, 32257

(904) 631-6357 | hearingloss.org, www.hla-jax.org

Chapter President: Tom Logue

Mission & Vision: The mission of HLAA is to open the world of communication to people with hearing loss by providing information, education, support and advocacy.

HEART FOR CHILDREN INC.

1429 Winthrop Street, 32206 | (904) 619-6792 | heartforchildreninc.com

Founder/CEO: Joyce Brinson

Mission & Vision: Heart for Children a family-oriented organization that teaches the importance of education and team building. One of HFC’s many goals are for the children to grow into productive adults who will one day positively give back to their communities.

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JACKSONVILLE ZOO
& GARDENS
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OFFICES-JACKSONVILLE  

Success Stories



Nick with his mother, Annie

Hope Haven: Nick

For the last seven years, Annie has been bringing her 13-year-old son Nick to Hope Haven, where he can get specialized tutoring tailored to his needs.

In kindergarten, Nick had been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) and starting having difficulties with learning, so Annie reached out to Hope Haven, where his evaluation revealed Nick had Dyslexia.

"As much as you don't want to hear that your child has a certain struggle, Hope Haven made this process easier from the diagnosis, tutoring and knowledgeable professionals," Annie said. "The staff and programs here (at Hope Haven) have given Nick confidence to push through the challenges and have allowed him to have a more positive outlook."

Now in 8th grade, Nick has made incredible strides and attends LaVilla Middle School, where he plays percussionist in the school band, loves to hang out with his friends and to perform for others, according to his mother.

Hope Haven, founded in 1926, was originally a children's hospital and today provides 5,000 special needs children each year with evaluations, education, psychological, developmental and therapeutic care.

"Dr. [Richard] Skinner started the tutoring labs in the old hospital realizing some children learned differently," said Barbara Brutschy, Hope Haven's historian. "This is when specific disabilities began being recognized and diagnosed."

"Hope Haven has given our family confidence," said Annie.

CHARITY REGISTER

HER SONG

7235 Bonneval Road, 32256 | (904) 513-0203 | hersongjax.org

Founder: Rachel White

Mission & Vision: Her Song addresses the issue of sex trafficking of young women in Northeast Florida by providing restorative aftercare services to survivors and by offering community awareness and outreach programs. The organization works to create a fully operational Her Song residential community where young women can heal from the devastating effects of sexual exploitation, find the confidence to succeed and the courage to move forward.

HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE

4727 Sunbeam Road, 32257 | (904) 333-9448 | hopeforabetterlife.com

President/Board Chair: Dr. Mary Pentel

Mission & Vision: Hope For A Better Life, Inc. is dedicated to improving the quality of life for socially and economically disadvantaged children and adults in Northeast Florida by focusing on a different local nonprofit each year to promote its mission, raise awareness and funds.

HOPE HAVEN CHILDREN'S CLINIC & FAMILY CENTER

4600 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 346-5100 | hope-haven.org

Chief Executive Officer: Stella Johnson

Mission & Vision: Hope Haven provides excellence in educational, psychological and related therapeutic services for children, families and young adults with special needs.

HOPE SPRINGS FLORIDA

25 N. Market Street, 32202 | (904) 805-3497 | facebook.com/HopeSpringsFlorida

Founders: Joe and Ann Rodgers

Mission & Vision: Hope Springs Florida is a vacation respite home for families, primarily those with autism, with all services necessary for an affordable beach experience. By caring for the caregiver, HSF seeks to strengthen families and to make northeast Florida known as the "go to" destination for compassionate vacationing for special needs children.

HUBBARD HOUSE

P.O. Box 4909, 32201 | (904) 354-0076 | hubbardhouse.org

CEO: Dr. Gail A. Patin

Mission & Vision: Hubbard House strives to make every relationship violence-free and to ensure safety for victims and their children, empowerment of victims, and social change through education and advocacy.

HUMBLE HARVEST MINISTRIES

4446-1A Hendricks Avenue, Ste. 310, 33207 | humbleharvestministries.com

Founders: Lori Ibach and Janice Jurkovic

Mission & Vision: The goal of this annual outreach is to continue to give, in Jesus name, to those in need in our communities, through a super-size, free garage sale.

HUNGER FIGHT

3811 University Boulevard West, Unit 4, 32217 | (904) 374-5623 | hungerfight.org

Executive Director & Co-Founder: Sherri Linden Porter

Mission & Vision: Hunger Fight works to eradicate hunger in Northeast Florida and the surrounding area.

HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

11604 Hartman Road S., 32225 | (904) 641-7984 | hdsa.org/nofl

President, Northeast Florida Affiliate: Tina Helling

Mission & Vision: Dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by Huntington's disease, HDSA offers community services, education, advocacy and research.

I'M A STAR FOUNDATION

3909 Soutel Drive, 32208 | (888) 984-0015 | imastarfoundation.org

Executive Director: Betty Seabrook Burney

Mission & Vision: The foundation provides the training that helps today's young people learn to become leaders in their schools and in their communities. I'M A STAR empowers youths to realize their potential, graduate high school and become productive citizens.

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

2709 Art Museum Drive, 32207 | (904) 399-8484 | theilrc.org

Executive Director: Tyler Lasher Morris

Mission & Vision: The center serves to empower all people with a disability to live independent, self-empowered lives, and envisions full opportunity for all through self-empowerment, self-determination and equal access.

INN MINISTRY

1720 Hamilton Street, 32210 | (904) 388-7730 | innministry.org

Executive Director: Judith Newberg

Mission & Vision: The Inn Ministry promotes and encourages mothers to become spiritually, physically and mentally stable so they will be capable of providing a home for their children and to become productive members of society.

IN RIVER OR OCEAN

1625 Atlantic Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 384-0775 | inriverorocean.org

Founders: Gary and Terry Roberts

Mission & Vision: The nonprofit promotes the protection, restoration and rational management of all river and ocean resources, and supports environmental education through scholarships, conservation programs and fishing tournaments.

JACKSONVILLE ALUMNAE PANAHELLENIC ASSOCIATION

jacksonvillepanhellenic.org

President: Mary Freeman

Mission & Vision: Founded in 1914, the philanthropic association has a continuous history of supporting the greater Jacksonville community. Recognized for its achievements by the National Panhellenic Council, JAPA members have given over 25,000 volunteer service hours to help those in the community.

JACKSONVILLE ARBORETUM & GARDENS

1445 Millco Road, P.O. Box 350430, 32225 | jacksonvillearboretum.org

President, Board of Directors: Willis Jones

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens seeks to cultivate a unique environment for recreation, education and inspiration.

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID

126 W. Adams Street, 32202 | (904) 356-8371 | jaxlegalaids.org

Executive Director: James A. Kowalski, Jr. Esq.

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Area Legal Aid works to assist low-income neighbors in our community with civil legal problems.

JACKSONVILLE AREA SEXUAL MINORITY**YOUTH NETWORK - JASMYN**

P.O. Box 380103, 32205 | (904) 389-3857 | jasmyrn.org

Executive Director: Cindy Watson

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network works to support and empower lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) youth by creating safe space, providing youth development services and bringing people and resources together to promote diversity and human rights.

JACKSONVILLE ARTISTS GUILD

4129 Oxford Avenue, 32210 | jacksonvilleartistsguild.org

President: Denise Wood

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Artists Guild is dedicated to elevating artistic awareness and participation by artists through dynamic programs and exhibitions that enhance, encourage and promote the arts.

JAX CHAMBER FOUNDATION

3 Independent Drive, 32202 | (904) 366-6634 | jaxchamberfoundation.org

President: Dawn Adams

Mission & Vision: The JAX Chamber Foundation serves Northeast Florida in funding workforce development, leadership and entrepreneurial education programs in support of long-term regional prosperity.

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS

225 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 353-1636 | jaxchildrenschorus.org

Artistic & Executive Director: Darren Dailey

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Children's Chorus works to provide a high-quality choral music education for children of diverse backgrounds, fostering teamwork, self-discipline, accomplishment and pride while filling an important cultural need in the community and sharing the beauty of the choral art form through artistically excellent performances.

JACKSONVILLE CIVIC COUNCIL

800 W. Monroe Street, 32202 | (904) 354-0530 | jaxciviccouncil.com

President: Jeanne Miller

Mission & Vision: To help resolve community issues by studying a problem, proposing one or more solutions, advocating for change, and providing resources and support.

JACKSONVILLE DOG CAFÉ

(904) 610-0746 | jaxdogcafe.com

Executive Director: Carolyn Snowden

Mission & Vision: The Jax Dog Café assists other animal rescue nonprofit organizations with adoption efforts by providing a small, intimate, stress-free environment for homeless dogs to meet and greet with prospective forever families.

JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

314 Palmetto Street, 32202 | (904) 665-0064 | jaxhistory.org

Executive Director: Emily Lisska

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Historical Society works to foster and promote appreciation of the history of Jacksonville and Northeast Florida.



Acknowledging the dedication and trust of Mr. David Stein along with the collaborative efforts of trustees, donors, colleagues and families, we thank you for many years of leadership and support.

9920 Regency Square Blvd. • Jacksonville, FL 32225 • www.greenwoodjax.org • 904-726-5000

Success Stories



I'm A Star Foundation: Sabon Greene

When Sabon Greene was just 15 years old, he faced circumstances most teens would never dream of. After his mother lost her job, Sabon, his mom and younger brother were evicted from their home. The family spent two weeks sleeping in public areas until they could get admitted into a shelter.

"It was an early morning when we packed our bags and suitcases with very little money and no vehicle. We had been evicted and law enforcement would be showing up to remove everything," Greene explained.

Today, things are dramatically different for Sabon and his family, thanks to I'm A Star Foundation Teen Servant Leaders who learned about Sabon's situation.

Part of the assistance Sabon received was a \$2,000 HELPS scholarship which he now uses as a student at the University of North Florida majoring in civil engineering with a specialization in transportation and roadways. He is also the treasurer of the UNF American Society of Highway Engineers student body group and is employed by Publix. His mother was also recently promoted to manager of a local Dunkin' Donuts.

"Students in the I'm A Star Foundation understand that the essence of leadership is service to mankind," said Betty Seabrook Burney, I'm A Star Foundation founder and executive director. "I am proud that our students have stepped up to provide resources, awareness and funds to their peers who need assistance and a hand up. To date, they have provided nearly \$60,000 to help homeless children and their families."

CHARITY REGISTER

JACKSONVILLE HUMANE SOCIETY

8464 Beach Boulevard, 32216 | (904) 725-8766 | jaxhumane.org

Executive Director: Denise Deisler

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Humane Society provides care, comfort and compassion to animals in need while engaging the hearts, hands and minds of the community to bring about an end to the killing of abandoned and orphaned shelter animals.

JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND

40 E. Adams Street, Suite 110, 32202 | (904) 356-7757 | jaxpef.org

President: Trey Csar

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Public Education Fund strives to inform and mobilize the community to advocate for universally high-quality public schools for all children.

JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

300 N. Laura Street, #334, 32202 | (904) 630-1995 | jplfoundation.org

Foundation Director: Jamie Self, Ed. D

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Public Library Foundation helps to strengthen the ability of the Jacksonville Public Library to serve as an educational and cultural resource for the community.

JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL FOR AUTISM

9000 Cypress Green Drive, 32256 | (904) 732-4343 | jsakids.org

Founder & Executive Director: Michelle Dunham

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville School for Autism is dedicated to helping children with autism and their families by tapping into all available resources to provide "outside of the desk" thinking.

JACKSONVILLE SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

117 W. Duval Street, Suite 275, 32202 | (904) 630-1304 | jsca.org

President: Tongila Manly

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Sister Cities Association fosters and encourages mutual understanding, friendship and peace through cultural, economic, educational and professional exchanges between the people of Jacksonville and the people of our Sister and Friendship Cities.

JACKSONVILLE SPEECH & HEARING CENTER

1128 N. Laura Street, 32206 | (904) 355-3403 | shcjax.org

President/CEO: Mike Howland

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Speech and Hearing Center helps provide the highest quality professional and compassionate care to all individuals with hearing, speech and/or language disorders in our community.

JACKSONVILLE SPORTS COUNCIL

1 Gator Bowl Boulevard, 32202 | (904) 798-1700 | gatorbowlsports.com

President/CEO: Rick Catlett

Mission & Vision: The Gator Bowl Association works to create an economic impact through increasing tourism and meaningful charitable giving.

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY

300 Water Street, Suite 200, 32202 | (904) 354-5479 | jaxsymphony.org

President/CEO: Robert Massey

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Symphony's mission is to enrich the human spirit through symphonic music. Its vision is to be the premier orchestra in the Southeast.

JACKSONVILLE URBAN LEAGUE

903 W. Union Street, 32204 | (904) 723-4007 | jaxul.org

President/CEO: Dr. Richard Danford

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Urban League works to assist African Americans and others to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights.



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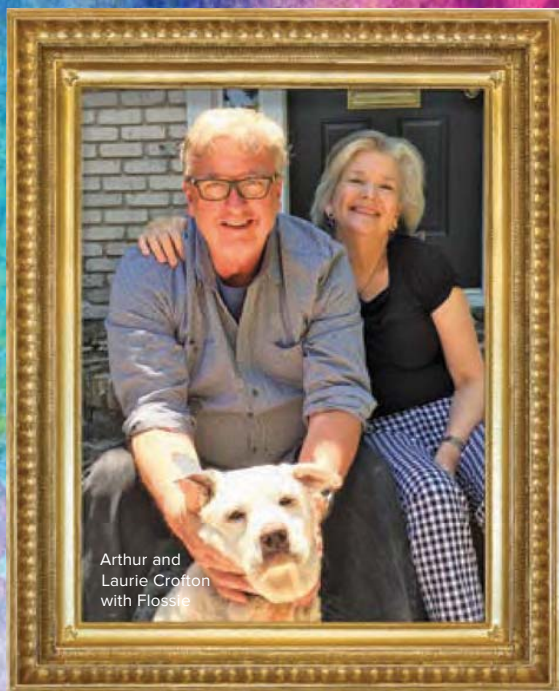
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Success Stories



Arthur and
Laurie Crofton
with Flossie

Jacksonville Dog Café: Crofton Family

During a visit to the Jacksonville Dog Café in Ortega, Arthur and Laurie Crofton saw a photo of a sweet, lovable hound mix that led them to adopt their beloved Flossie. Flossie, who is in her senior years, had been found as a stray and nursed back to health at The Old Dog House pet shelter.

"I saw Flossie's photo and I just knew she was ours. She is the perfect fur baby," said Laurie. "Flossie has helped us heal from the loss of our Wolfie. Everyone deserves to be loved and especially in their senior years," Laurie said.

"We always adopt older dogs. You don't know if you have two weeks or two years, but that doesn't matter," said Arthur.

"The café is a community of many different people with the common goal of connecting with adoptable dogs," said Carolyn Snowden, Jax Dog Café founder and owner.

"Some are coming to the café because they are actively looking for a dog to adopt or because they cannot have a dog but crave that experience and interaction. Others come because they have lost a beloved pet and are not ready to adopt but find healing in being at the café with dogs," said Snowden.

"Flossie is love," said Laurie. "She has had a few bad chapters but that is not her story, she is now home."

CHARITY REGISTER

JACKSONVILLE ZOO & GARDENS

370 Zoo Parkway, 32218 | (904) 757-4463 | jacksonvillezoo.org

Executive Director: Tony Vecchio

Mission & Vision: The Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens works to foster understanding of the interaction of people, wildlife, and their environment.

THE JED FUND

66 Evans Drive, Jacksonville Beach, 32250 | thejedfund.org

Founder/President: Dione Garnand

Mission & Vision: The Jed Fund assists animal welfare organizations which work diligently to save the lives of homeless cats and dogs. The project-based mission identifies the needs of these groups, fundraises and markets for them in order to provide life-saving and life-enhancing funds.

THE JERICHO SCHOOL

1351 Sprinkle Drive, 32211 | (904) 744-5110 | thejerichoschool.org

Executive Director: Angelo Martinez

Mission & Vision: The mission of The Jericho School is to provide comprehensive, individualized science-based education not otherwise available in the community. Children with autism and other developmental delays deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential.

JESSIE BALL DUPONT FUND

40 E. Adams Street, 32202 | (904) 353-0890 | dupontfund.org

President: Sherry P. Magill

Mission & Vision: The Jessie Ball duPont Fund works to expand access and create opportunity by investing in people, organizations and communities that were important to Jessie Ball duPont.

JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE

8505 San Jose Boulevard, 32217 | (904) 730-2100 | jcjax.org

Executive Director: Myron Flagler

Mission & Vision: The Jewish Community Alliance strengthens Jewish life, serves as a common meeting ground, and enhances the quality of life of the entire community.

JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

4932 Sunbeam Road, Suite 200, 32257 | (904) 394-0720 | jewishfoundationnefl.org

Interim Executive Director: Laura Thompson, Esq.

Mission & Vision: The goal of the Jewish Community Foundation of Northeast Florida is to help donors develop their own charitable giving plans.

JEWISH FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

6261 Dupont Station Court, East, 32217 | (904) 448-1933 | jfcsjax.org

CEO: Colleen Rodriguez

Mission & Vision: Jewish Family & Community Services is committed to the mission of helping people help themselves and serves all persons in a non-discriminatory manner.

JEWISH FEDERATION OF JACKSONVILLE

8505 San Jose Boulevard, 32217 | (904) 448-5000 | jewishjacksonvilleorg

Executive Director: Alan Margolies

Mission & Vision: The Jewish Federation of Jacksonville is a fundraising organization that supports the local and global Jewish community by funding local and overseas partner agencies. It also forges strong connections with Israel and helps Jews across the Diaspora as well as fellow Jews in need. It works to inspire the next generation to embrace Jewish identity and value Jewish education while providing programs and services designed to engage the local Jewish community.

JIM & TABITHA FURYK FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 2867, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004
(904) 735-0624 | jimandtabithafurykfoundation.com

Executive Director: Tabitha Furyk

Mission & Vision: The Jim & Tabitha Furyk Foundation helps to provide necessary funding to help the community become healthier, stronger, and educationally enriched.

JTC RUNNING

P.O. Box 24667, 32241 | (904) 384-8725 | jtcrunning.com

President: Larry Roberts

Mission & Vision: As a promoter of the next generations of runners, JTCRunning supports high school track and cross-country programs and awards scholarships that enable many high school athletes to attend running camp each summer. JTCRunning frequently collects used running shoes which are donated to local homeless shelters.

JT TOWNSEND FOUNDATION

830 A1A North, Suite 187, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
(904) 373-0737 | jttownsendfoundation.org

Interim Board Chair: Tommy Donahoo

Mission & Vision: The JT Townsend Foundation helps First Coast families with children and adults with disabilities by providing adaptive equipment or comprehensive financial assistance.

JUDY NICHOLSON KIDNEY CANCER FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 50127, 32240 | (904) 309-0502 | jnfkidneycancer.org

President: Linda Ostoski

Mission & Vision: The Judy Nicholson Kidney Cancer Foundation is dedicated to furthering awareness and education, providing support, and funding research.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NORTH FLORIDA

4049 Woodcock Drive, Ste. 200, 32207 | (904) 398-9944 | JAjax.com

President: Steve St. Amand

Mission & Vision: Junior Achievement is dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices.

JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSONVILLE

2165 Park Street, 32204 | (904) 387-9927 | jljacksonville.org

President: Gina Atienza Floresca

Mission & Vision: The Junior League of Jacksonville is committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers.

JUSTICE COALITION

1935 S. Lane Avenue, Suite 1, 32210 | (904) 783-6312 | justicecoalition.org

Chair: Robert Bracewell

Mission & Vision: The Justice Coalition works to reach out to victims, the community, law enforcement, legislators, the faith-based organizations and local officials.

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION NORTH FLORIDA CHAPTER

9700 Philips Highway, Suite 106, 32256 | (904) 739-2101 | jdrf.org

Executive Director: Brooks Biagini

Mission & Vision: The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation works to find a cure for type 1 diabetes (T1D) and its complications through the support of research.

KAMP KRITTER

1650-31 Margaret Street, Suite 208, 32204 | (904) 384-2111 | kampkritter.com

Executive Director: Sue Towler

Mission & Vision: Kamp Kritter is a nonprofit, no-kill sanctuary committed to finding permanent homes for strays, abused or unwanted dogs, and provides a loving environment for unadoptable dogs to live out their days in peaceful surroundings.

KATIE CAPLES FOUNDATION

914 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 1A, Amelia Island, FL 32034 | (904) 491-0811 | katiecaples.org

Executive Director: Jennifer Cook

Mission & Vision: The Katie Caples Foundation is committed to increasing the number of registered organ donors and eliminating the wait for the more than 125,000 adults and children in need of a lifesaving organ transplant.

KIDS FIRST OF FLORIDA

1726 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073 | (904) 278-5644 | kidsfirstofflorida.org

CEO: Irene M. Toto

Mission & Vision: Kids First of Florida works to ensure the safety of children through a holistic approach designed to support the health and well-being of families in order to build a healthier community one family at a time.

KIDS TOGETHER AGAINST CANCER

1 Shircliff Way, 32204 | (904) 308-5822 | ktacjax.com

Program Coordinator: Jenny Lehman

Mission & Vision: Kids Together Against Cancer offers support for children whose parents are diagnosed with cancer.

L'ARCHE HARBOR HOUSE, INC.

700 Arlington Road North, 32211 | (904) 721-5992 | larchejacksonville.org

Executive Director: Melanie Saxon

Mission & Vision: The L'Arche Harbor House believes that by creating an environment where people with intellectual and physical disabilities can share their gifts, we are affecting a positive change in the world.

LEADERSHIP JACKSONVILLE

40 E. Adams St., Ste. 230, 32202 | (904) 396-6263 | leadershipjax.org

CEO: Jill Langford Dame

Mission & Vision: Leadership Jacksonville's mission is to educate, connect and inspire diverse leaders to build and strengthen their communities. Its vision is to be the catalyst for vibrant, connected communities where diverse perspectives are valued and encouraged for the greater good.



HELPING SENIORS AGE IN PLACE

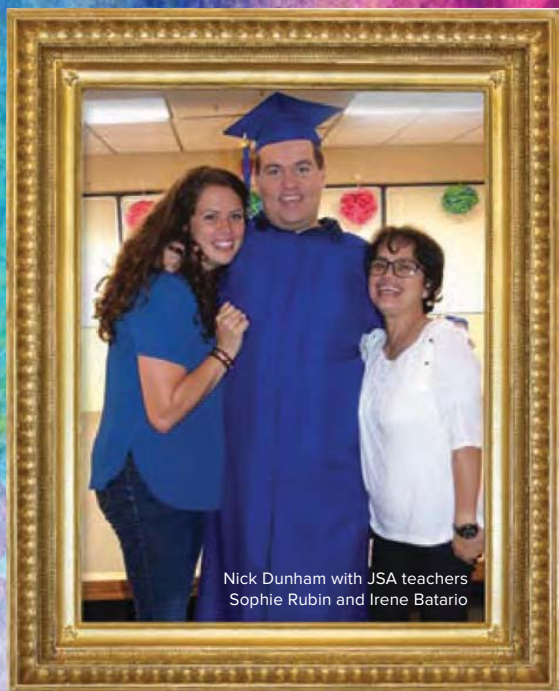
Hart Felt Ministries utilizes a network of community volunteers to demonstrate love and provide, at no charge, non-medical services that build relationships, enhance environments, and preserve the independence of frail seniors.



7235 Bonneval Road, Suite 123
Jacksonville, FL 32256

P 904-861-2799 info@hartfelt.org
F 904-861-0441 www.hartfelt.org

Success Stories



Nick Dunham with JSA teachers
Sophie Rubin and Irene Batarlo

Jacksonville School for Autism: Nick Dunham

Like many proud parents, Michelle and Mark Dunham were beaming with pride during their son Nick's recent graduation, one that had special meaning for the Dunham family because they had faced many challenges throughout Nick's education, due to his Autism Spectrum Disorder. It was that challenge and their love for Nick that would turn out to be the inspiration for the development of the Jacksonville School for Autism (JSA).

"Our journey began out of fear and hope with a desperate desire to provide a learning environment that enriched our son's life," said Michelle, who, along with her husband, founded the Jacksonville School for Autism.

Thanks to the specialized approach and programs his parents developed for JSA, today Nick is thriving as he continues in the school's post-secondary vocational program where he works at several vocational sites. His favorite worksite is the produce department at Publix.

Nick said he loves working with people and having them see beyond his autism and for them to "see me as an individual...see me as Nick."

"When Nick was diagnosed, one in 160 children were diagnosed with Autism," said Michelle. "Today, almost one in 50 children are diagnosed with Autism. Fast forward to 2030 and it is projected that one in two boys will be diagnosed. These numbers are staggering," explained Michelle.

"Mark and I now look to the future as Nick transitions into adulthood and we want the same opportunities for him as other parents want for their children. We want him to be engaged and motivated to have a purposeful life," Michelle said.

CHARITY REGISTER

LEARN TO READ

303 N. Laura Street, 32202 | (904) 238-9000 | learntoreadjax.org

Executive Director: Judy Bradshaw

Mission & Vision: Learn to Read Jacksonville is dedicated to improving adult literacy in Duval County.

LISC JACKSONVILLE

10 W. Adams Street, Ste. 100, 32202 | (904) 353-1300 | liscjacksonville.org

Executive Director: Janet Owens

Mission & Vision: LISC Jacksonville is the leading nonprofit community development organization in the nation, focused on transforming challenged urban communities into neighborhoods of choice and opportunity—good places to work, do business and raise families.

LIVE FOR TODAY

P.O. Box 10432, 32247 | (904) 619-9071 | live-for-today.org

Founders: Todd Blake, Katie Pearsall, Kaitlyn Ash

Mission & Vision: To help young adults with cancer by providing dynamic opportunities, fostering community support, and promoting healthy living.

LUTHERAN SERVICES OF FLORIDA

1) DUVAL CO. HEAD START

1095 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard, 32206 | (904) 423-8637 | lsfnet.org

2) SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH

10450 San Jose Boulevard, Unit A, 32257 | (904) 900-1075 | lsfnet.org

Central Services President & CEO: Samuel M. Sipes

Mission & Vision: Lutheran Services Florida serves to bring God's healing, hope and help to people in need in the name of Jesus Christ.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

4615 Philips Highway, 32207 | (904) 448-5995 | lssjax.org

President/CEO: Mary Strickland

Mission & Vision: Motivated and guided by the compassion of Christ, Lutheran Social Services serves and cares for people in need.

MAINSRING ACADEMY

6867 Southpoint Drive, Suite 103, 32216 | (904) 503-0344 | mainspringacademy.org

Head of School: Garrett Adamson

Mission & Vision: Mainspring Academy helps students with special needs and learning challenges reach their fullest potential.

MAKE-A-WISH® NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3938 Sunbeam Road, Suite 3, 32257 | (904) 580-5906 | cnfl.wish.org

Regional Director: Claudia Foxworth

Mission & Vision: Make-A-Wish wants each wish experience be a game-changer for a child with a life-threatening medical condition. The vision compels the foundation to be creative in exceeding the expectations of every wish kid, and drives it to make donated resources go as far as possible.

MALIVAI WASHINGTON KIDS FOUNDATION

1096 W. 6th Street, 32209 | (904) 359-5437 | malwashington.com

Executive Director/CEO: Terri Florio

Mission & Vision: The MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation works to develop champions in classrooms, on tennis courts and throughout communities.

MANDARIN MUSEUM AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

11964 Mandarin Road, 32223 | (904) 268-0784 | mandarinmuseum.net

President: Sandy Arpen

Mission & Vision: The Mandarin Museum and Historical Society shares the stories of Mandarin's history, culture and natural resources by providing engaging programs that educate, entertain and inspire.



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Success Stories



Learn to Read: Veronica

After Veronica, who worked for the Greyhound Bus Company, injured her back in an accident, she was not able to continue working in the same capacity. Veronica knew her employment options were limited if she did not further her education, so she set a goal of completing her GED.

Thanks to the assistance she received from Learn to Read, Veronica is well on her way to achieving that goal.

Veronica enrolled in Learn to Read reading, math classes and labs and went from reading at a fourth-grade level to a seventh-grade level which allowed her to take the next step and enroll in the GED preparation classes. Today, her positive attitude and role in the community as a volunteer with the local food pantry serves as an inspiration to other students.

"I hope that I can be an example to other students in the Learn to Read programs as proof of how increasing reading skills can improve your life," Veronica said.

She recently was honored with Learn to Read's New Horizon Award which is awarded to a student who has completed their program and who is continuing on their path to further education.

"We are so proud of Veronica's progress and her continued commitment to furthering her education and future," said Judy Bradshaw, Learn to Read executive director. "It's inspiring and rewarding to see how improving literacy skills can transform the lives of adults in our program, their families and their future."

CHARITY REGISTER

MARCH OF DIMES

4040 Woodcock Drive, Suite 147, 32207 | (904) 398-2821 | marchofdimes.org/florida

Executive Director: Ann Geffen

Mission & Vision: The March of Dimes works to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality.

MARGARET'S MEMORIES

819 Park Street, 32204 | (904) 355-5491 | margaretsmemories.org

Founder: Nicole Remo

Mission & Vision: Margaret's Memories is a standing mission project of the Riverside Park United Methodist Church and makes Bereavement Memory Boxes for parents who lose a child(ren) to miscarriage, stillbirth, or death shortly after birth. The boxes are donated to local hospitals in Jacksonville, Florida.

MCKENZIE NOELLE WILSON FOUNDATION

13936 Ascot Drive, 32250 | (904) 992-0124 | caregivegrow.org

Foundation Director: Adrian Gibbs

Mission & Vision: The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation desires to inspire and help young people find their purpose in a world of challenges.

MEMORIAL PARK ASSOCIATION

1650-302 Margaret Street, Ste. 322, 32204 | info@memparkjax.org | memparkjax.org

President: Percy Rosenbloom III

Mission & Vision: The Memorial Park Association seeks to protect and preserve Memorial Park, which was dedicated in 1924 to honor Floridians who died in service during World War I.

METHODIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

7915 Herlong Road, 32210 | (904) 783-1681 | methodistchildrensvillage.com

Executive Director: Ginger Lee

Mission & Vision: The Methodist Children's Village works to enhance the quality of young children's lives through nurturing, early intervention, and developmentally-based education.

MICAH'S PLACE

P.O. Box 16287, Fernandina Beach, FL 32035 | (904) 491-6364 | micahsplace.org

Executive Director: Heather Woody Jones

Mission & Vision: Micah's Place provides prevention and intervention services to victims of domestic violence; and to provide education within our community to effect change in behavior and attitudes relating to domestic violence.

MISSION HOUSE

800 Shetter Avenue, 32250 | (904) 241-6767 | missionhousejax.org

Executive Director: Lori Anderson

Mission & Vision: Mission House helps meet the needs of homeless adults at the beaches through compassion, faith and programs designed to provide assistance at an individual level.

MONIQUE BURR FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN

7807 Baymeadows Road, East, Suite 205, 32256

(904) 642-0210 | mbfchildsafetymatters.org

Executive Director: Lynn Layton

Mission & Vision: The Monique Burr Foundation works to make a positive impact on the community at large, to create change in a family's life for the better, and to give hope in the life of a child by providing bullying and child abuse prevention safety education that is relevant to issues facing children today, including all forms of abuse, neglect, bullying, and internet safety.

MORNING STAR SCHOOL

725 Mickler Road, 32211 | (904) 721-2144 | morningstar-jax.org

Principal: Jean Barnes

Mission & Vision: Morning Star School's mission is to provide a strong foundation of faith, service and academics for students with learning differences, encouraging all students to reach their full potential. Fully accredited by the Florida Catholic Conference, Morning Star is the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

MURRAY HILL THEATRE

932 Edgewood Avenue S., 32205 | (904) 388-3179 | murrayhilltheatre.com

Founder/President: Tony Nasrallah

Mission & Vision: Murray Hill Theatre is an alcohol-free, drug-free, smoke-free, all-ages nightclub that showcases live music with a positive message to present things of faith in a positive light. As an alternative to typical bars and nightclubs, it gives people a safe nightspot to enjoy live entertainment.

THE MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

6196 Lake Gray Boulevard, Suite 105, 32244 | (904) 296-7434 | mda.org

Executive Director: Lauren Herringdine

Mission & Vision: The Muscular Dystrophy Association works to save and improve lives of people fighting muscle disease.

NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

P.O. Box 24783, 32241 | (904) 388-3932 | namijacksonville.org

President: Kent Rutherford

Mission & Vision: The National Alliance On Mental Illness Jacksonville helps support and improve the quality of life for family members and those living with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance abuse through compassion, education, and advocacy.

NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY NORTH FLORIDA

8940 Western Way, Suite 16, 32256 | (904) 332-6810 | nationalmssociety.org

Chapter President: Corrina Steiger Madrid

Mission & Vision: The National Multiple Sclerosis Society North Florida Chapter works to improve the quality of life for people affected by MS in North Florida and raise funds for critical MS research.

NEMOURS FOUNDATION

807 Children's Way, 32207 | (904) 697-3600 | nemours.org

CEO: David J. Bailey

Mission & Vision: Nemours is committed to improving the health of children.

NEW HEIGHTS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

3311 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 396-1462 | newheightsnefl.org

President/CEO: Sue Driscoll

Mission & Vision: Formerly Cerebral Palsy of Northeast Florida, New Heights works to enrich the lives of persons with disabilities and their families and empower their independence and lifelong growth through quality services.

NEXT STEPS, INC.

3545 St. Johns Bluff Road S., Suite 1, PMP 255, 32224 | (904) 434-1054

President: Vena Patton

Mission & Vision: Next Steps is a financial and referral resource for women released or about to be released from the Duval County Detention Center.

THE NONPROFIT CENTER OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

40 E. Adams Street, Suite 100, 32202 | (904) 425-1182 | nonprofitctr.org

CEO: Rena Coughlin

Mission & Vision: The Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida connects, strengthens, and advocates for nonprofits, creating a more vibrant Northeast Florida.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA AIDS NETWORK

2715 Oak Street, 32205 | (904) 356-1612 | nfanjax.org

Executive Director: Donna Fuchs

Mission & Vision: Northeast Florida AIDS Network provides compassionate leadership, services, and advocacy in meeting the prevention, health, spiritual, and social needs of individuals, families, and communities.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

7801 Deercreek Club Road, 32256 | (904) 394-9494 | nefarcharitablefoundation.org

CEO: William Glenn East

Mission & Vision: With a vision to be the charity of choice for real estate professionals, the mission is to serve as an advocate and resource for local nonprofit communities in Northeast Florida.

NORTHEAST FLORIDA WOMEN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

2133 Broadway Avenue, 32209 | (904) 862-6039 | womenveteransresources.org

President: Deloris Moton Quaranta

Mission & Vision: Northeast Florida Women Veterans, Inc. is focused on ensuring women who have served on active duty, National Guard or Reserves and their children, transition into the civilian community with the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

NORTH FLORIDA HEALTHY START COALITION

644 Cesery Boulevard, Suite 210, 32211 | (904) 723-5422 | nefhealthystart.org

Executive Director: Faye Johnson

Mission & Vision: The Healthy Start Coalition leads a cooperative community effort to reduce infant mortality and improve the health of children, childbearing women and their families in Northeast Florida.

NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST

2038 Gilmore St., 32204 | (904) 479-1967 | northfloridalandtrust.org

Executive Director: Jim McCarthy

Mission & Vision: North Florida Land Trust preserves the natural areas, historic resources and working lands of North Florida.



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www.gabrielhouseofcare.org

Success Stories



Morning Star School: Jake Russell

Thanks to Morning Star School, 13-year-old Jake Russell and his family found the hope they were searching for – the hope that Jake, despite having Autism Spectrum Disorder, would be able to reach his full potential in a traditional school environment.

“I dropped him off at school on that first day with a lot of hope, but trying not to have any expectations,” said Angela Russell, Jake’s mother.

“Once in the carpool lane, I saw him standing outside smiling from ear to ear. He got in the car and before I could get a word out he declared ‘I go to the best school ever!’ I had never seen him so happy in all my life about school and this was only day one,” she said.

“We understand that children with learning challenges require specialized strategies to support and enhance full learning potential,” said Jean Barnes, Morning Star’s principal. “Learning disabled students are not incapacitated or unable to learn, rather they need differentiated instruction tailored to their distinctive learning abilities.”

Now in his 3rd year at Morning Star School, Jake is not only an honor student, but also performs in the school’s talent shows, attends school dances, helps with the afternoon announcements and served as a school crossing guard.

“He told me, ‘You know, Mom, my new school has put a rainbow in my heart,’” said Angela. “All he needed was the right environment to be a success.”

CHARITY REGISTER

NORTH FLORIDA SCHOOL FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

223 Mill Creek Road, 32211 | (904) 724-8323 | northfloridaschool.org

Head of School: Sally Hazelip

Mission & Vision: The North Florida School of Special Education works to improve the lives of students with mild to moderate intellectual disabilities through the achievement of academic, vocational, and social skills.

THE OLD DOG HOUSE SENIOR DOG RESCUE

1650 Margaret Street, Ste. 302, PMB 137, 32204 | (904) 419-7387 | theolddoghouse.org

Founder: Erik Stordahl

Mission & Vision: The Old Dog House is Northeast Florida’s first nonprofit dedicated to giving older and senior dogs a chance at living out their lives in dignity.

ONEJAX

1 UNF Drive, #53, 32224 | (904) 354-1529 | onejax.org

Executive Director: Nancy Broner

Mission & Vision: OneJax seeks to promote diversity as the foundation for a strong community. It works to increase respect and improve relationships among people who represent the rich menagerie of religious, ethnic, racial and cultural groups that compose our community.

ONEBLOOD

7595 Centurion Parkway, 32256 | (904) 353-8263 | oneblood.org

President/CEO: George “Bud” Scholl

Mission & Vision: OneBlood provides a safe, available and affordable blood supply to more than 200 hospital partners and their patients throughout most of Florida, parts of Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina.

OPERATION NEW UNIFORM

8825 Perimeter Park Blvd., 32216 | (904) 328-1600 | operationnewuniform.org

Executive Director: Justin Justice

Mission & Vision: Operation New Uniform’s mission is to train veterans and their families for fulfilling careers and develop their skills as they grow within an organization, and its vision is to produce confident veterans who are coveted and embraced in the business community.

PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

1 W. Adams Street, Suite 301, 32202 | (904) 421-8585 | pacecenter.org

President/CEO: Mary Marx

Mission & Vision: PACE provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.

PAJIC FAMILY FOUNDATION

102 Palm Place, Neptune Beach, 32266

President: Helen Pajic Nicholson

Mission & Vision: The Pajic Family Foundation promotes social justice, animal welfare and the preservation of mother nature, with a focus on the Jacksonville community.

PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

National Office - 1500 Rosecrans Avenue, Suite 200, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266

(310) 725-0025 | pancan.org

President/CEO: Julie Fleshman

Mission & Vision: The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is a nationwide network of people dedicated to working together to advance research, support patients and create hope for those affected by pancreatic cancer.

PASTORAL COUNSELING SERVICES

2140 Mango Place, 32207 | (904) 398-2437 | pastoralcounselingservices.net

Executive Director: Cliff Thomas

Mission & Vision: The mission of the nonprofit is to work with people to foster healing, growth and life-giving change through holistic mental healthcare and community-building.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE FOUNDATION OF CANCER SPECIALISTS OF NORTH FLORIDA

7015 AC Skinner Parkway, Suite 1, 32256 | (904) 519-2739 | pafcsnf.org

President: Bob Phelan

Mission & Vision: The Patient Assistance Foundation of Cancer Specialists of North Florida offers short-term financial assistance for day-to-day living expenses to patients undergoing treatments for cancer or blood-related diseases.

PATRONS OF THE HEARTS

841 Prudential Drive, Suite 1300, 32207 | (904) 202-2919 | foundation.baptistjax.com

Vice President/Chief Development Officer: Pierre Allaire, Ph.D.

Mission & Vision: Patrons of the HeARTS is a program that functions under the umbrella of the Baptist Health Foundation and benefits international children that live in corners of the world with no access to the specialized care they require.

THE PERFORMERS ACADEMY

3674 Beach Boulevard, 32207 | (904) 322-7672 | theperformersacademy.org

Executive Director: Kathryn McAvoy

Mission & Vision: The Performers Academy works to increase access to the performing arts for all children in the Jacksonville Area.

THE PETER BRAGAN FOR BETTER BASEBALL FOUNDATION

1010 E. Adams Street, Suite 105, 32202 | (904) 327-5069 | peterbraganbbf.org

Founders and co-chairs: Peter and Nancy Bragan, Jr.

Mission & Vision: The Peter Bragan for Better Baseball Foundation financially supports and promotes the game of baseball for betterment in Northeast Florida and provides scholarships for higher education. The foundation's vision includes the opening of The Jacksonville Baseball Museum to provide a cultural destination to showcase the historical legacy of baseball in Jacksonville.

THE PGA TOUR – THE PLAYERS

100 PGA TOUR Boulevard, Ponte Vedra, FL 32082 | (904) 285-3700 | pgatour.com

Executive Director: Matt Rapp

Mission & Vision: The PGA TOUR, its players and tournaments support more than 3,000 charities. These local and national organizations work in a range of areas affecting the lives of millions in the communities where we live and play.

PINE CASTLE INC.

4911 Spring Park Road, 32207 | (904) 733-2681 | pinecastle.org

CEO: Lori Ann Whittington

Mission & Vision: Pine Castle works to enrich the lives of people with developmental and acquired disabilities by providing opportunities to learn, work and live in our community.

PINK RIBBON CLASSIC

P.O. Box 483, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 567-6180 | pinkribbonjax.org

Co-Chairs: Joanne Ghiloni and Nancy Morrison

Mission & Vision: The Pink Ribbon Golf Classic is an all-volunteer, nonprofit group of events created to raise funds for local breast cancer research and related services at Baptist Medical Center Beaches and Mayo Clinic-Jacksonville.



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Success Stories



Operation New Uniform: Adam Singletary

After serving in the United States Navy for eight years, Adam Singletary had big plans for the next chapter of his life and, with the help of Operation New Uniform, he made a successful transition from military to civilian life.

After going through the Department of Defense's transition process for military members, the young veteran said although he had a clear road map as to what he wanted to do, he just needed a little reassurance.

"I quickly realized that I was trying to do the right things but I had no way to verify if I was doing them right," said Singletary. "Operation New Uniform allows veterans to do it right the first time without getting discouraged."

"When Adam came to Operation New Uniform, he was Active Duty and unsure about the value he could bring to the business community," said Justin Justice, Operation New Uniform's CEO. "Operation New Uniform instilled in him the ability to understand his worth, build his confidence and improved his skillset."

Since leaving the military, Singletary has earned his MBA and now works at System Services Enterprises, as an aircrew subject matter expert.

"It's not just about finding veterans a job, it's about trying to help find that career they want. It is something that I have grown to love, along with the people involved with it," Singletary said of the Operation New Uniform program.

CHARITY REGISTER

POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE OF JACKSONVILLE

3450 Monument Road, 32225 | (904) 854-6555 | jaxpal.com

Executive Director: Lt. Lakesha Burton

Mission & Vision: The Police Athletic League of Jacksonville works to enrich the lives of children by creating positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the youth of our community through educational, athletic and leadership programs.

PONTE VEDRA WOMAN'S CLUB

P.O. Box 957, Ponte Vedra Beach, 32004 | (904) 654-7281 | pontevedrawomansclub.com

President: Christine Haroldson

Mission & Vision: The club was established in 1970 by 15 women who wanted to work together for a charitable cause; over the decades the list of charities and scholarships has increased.

PRESBYTERIAN SOCIAL MINISTRIES

4115 Post Street, 32205 | (904) 338-0920 | presbyteriansocialministries.org

Founder/Executive Director: David Tuttle

Mission & Vision: Offers faith-based social service ministry for everyday problems, including programs that offer shelter, clothing and education to individuals and families in need.

PROJECT: COLD CASE

13245 Atlantic Boulevard, Ste. 4-352, 32225 | (904) 514-9847 | projectcoldcase.org

Executive Director: Ryan Backmann

Mission & Vision: Project Cold Case focuses on helping with unsolved criminal homicides.

QUIGLEY HOUSE

17 Old Orange Park Road, 32073 | (904) 284-0340 | quigleyhouse.org

CEO: Peggy Payne

Mission & Vision: The Quigley House works to provide advocacy and empowerment to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault while providing community education to heighten awareness.

RETHREADED

820 Barnett Street, 32209 | (904) 438-8109 | rethreaded.com

Founder & President: Kristin Keen

Mission & Vision: Rethreaded offers the oppressed a chance to grow into the fullness of who they are.

THE RITA FOUNDATION

(904) 363-1493 | the-rita-foundation.org

Volunteer Chairman: Charles R. Jantz

Mission & Vision: RITA (Research Is The Answer) Foundation is 100 percent volunteer-driven and donates 100 percent of all fundraising event net proceeds with the vision of seeing Jacksonville become the Southeast's center for cancer research and treatment.

RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS

300 Water Street, Ste. 200, 32202 | (904) 472-4270 | ritzchamberplayers.org

Executive and Artistic Director: Terrance Patterson

Mission & Vision: The Ritz Chamber Players foster the appreciation of chamber music through performances and educational outreach featuring preeminent African-American musicians and composers, with an emphasis on building audiences and arts inclusion that reflects our diverse society.

RIVER GARDEN HEBREW HOME

11401 Old St. Augustine Road, 32258 | (904) 260-1818 | rivergarden.org

CEO: Martin Goetz

Mission & Vision: River Garden Hebrew Home helps provide a wide range of quality, cost effective elder care services in residential, outpatient, and community-based settings.

RIVERSIDE TRADITION HOUSE

2911 Riverside Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1839

Manager: Leigh Johnson

Mission & Vision: Established in 1971 by Riverside Presbyterian Church to provide a safe, secure residence for adult men wishing to recover from the problems resulting from substance abuse.

RIVER REGION HUMAN SERVICES

2055 Reyko Road, Suite 101, 32207 | (904) 899-6300 | rrhs.org

CEO/Executive Director: Tiffany Galvin Green

Mission & Vision: The River Region Human Services works to provide integrated health services that change lives, rebuild families, and restore communities.

RIVERSIDE FINE ARTS

1100 Stockton Street, 32204 | (904) 389-6222 | riversidefinearts.org

Executive Director: Layne Thompson-Payne

Mission & Vision: The Riverside Fine Arts Association seeks to enrich the spirit and enhance the quality of life for the community through education and direct experience of artistic expression.

ROCSTART

P.O. Box 551589, 32207 | (904) 861-7075 | rocstartjax.org

Founder: Cynthia Platt

Mission & Vision: ROCSTART's mission is to raise awareness of oral cancer and provide support to patients throughout their treatment. Its vision is to improve the quality of life of oral cancer patients while adding value to the community in general.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF JACKSONVILLE

824 Children's Way, 32207 | (904) 8074663 | rmhcjacksonville.org

Executive Director: Diane Boyle

Mission & Vision: The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville supports the health and well-being of children by providing lodging and other services for critically ill, chronically ill and seriously injured children and their families.

ST. FRANCIS ANIMAL HOSPITAL

2727 Atlantic Blvd., 32207 | (904) 674-7223 | SaintFrancisAnimalHospital.org

Founder: Susan Shelton, DVM, DABVP

Mission & Vision: St. Francis Animal Hospital's mission is to make healthcare accessible to all owned pets.

ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER

2800 University Boulevard North, 32211 | (904) 256-7591 | stjohnsriverkeeper.org

Executive Director: Jimmy Orth

Mission & Vision: The St. Johns Riverkeeper works on behalf of the community for clean and healthy waters in the St. Johns River, its tributaries and its wetlands, through citizen-based advocacy.

ST. VINCENT'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

1 Shircliff Way, 32204 | (904) 308-7300 | jaxhealth.com

President & System Chief Development Officer: Jane R. Lanier

Mission & Vision: St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation is dedicated to spiritually-centered holistic care, which sustains and improves the health of individuals and communities.

SALVATION ARMY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

328 N. Ocean Street, 32202 | (904) 301-4875 - salvationarmyflorida.org/jacksonville

Area Commander: Major Rob Vincent

Mission & Vision: The Salvation Army works to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination.

SANCTUARY ON 8TH STREET

120 E. 8th Street, 32206 | (904) 356-3588 | sanctuaryon8th.org

Executive Director: Rick Cartledge

Mission & Vision: The Sanctuary On 8th Street works to encourage and empower Jacksonville youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs.

SCHULTZ CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP

4019 Boulevard Center Drive, 32207 | (904) 348-5757 | schultzcenter.org

President/CEO: Deborah Gianoulis Heald

Mission & Vision: The Schultz Center is a resource and convener for innovative learning, leadership and professional development systems.

SEAMARK RANCH

3631 Seamark Ranch Road, Green Cove Springs, FL 32043

(904) 529-1951 | seamarkranch.com

Executive Director: Fred Meiners

Mission & Vision: Seamark Ranch is a nurturing Christian home and family system that gives children from families in crisis the tools they need for a brighter future.

SENIORS ON A MISSION

2050 Art Museum Drive, Suite 102, 32207 | (904) 551-4373 | seniorsonamission.org

Founder & Executive Director: Joanne Hickox

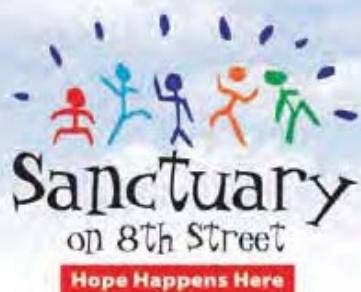
Mission & Vision: Seniors on a Mission exists to love and encourage independent-living senior citizens, enabling them to live longer, healthier, more grace and purpose-filled lives.

SHANNON MILLER FOUNDATION

4311 Salisbury Road, 32216 | shannonmiller.com

Founder: Shannon Miller

Mission & Vision: Through education and awareness of the health risks associated with childhood obesity, the Shannon Miller Foundation strives to make a positive impact on children's health.



Since 1992, the Sanctuary on 8th Street has encouraged and empowered Springfield's youth and families in need by ministering to their spiritual, physical, social, and intellectual needs. Our after school, summer camp and home school programs expand opportunities for children through education, social services, recreation and the arts.

120 East 8th Street ~ Jacksonville, FL 32206 ~ 904.356.3588
 Sanctuaryon8th.org ~ info@Sanctuaryon8th.org ~ facebook.com/sanctuaryon8thstreet



Success Stories



Rethreaded: Jamie Rosseland

Jamie Rosseland, a trafficking survivor, was determined not to let her past dictate her future or limit her potential. The support she received from Rethreaded not only aided her healing but also allowed her to build the confidence she needed to start a new chapter in her life.

Rosseland, who had learned about Rethreaded from another trafficking survivor, says because of the help she received from the nonprofit she was able to gain that confidence to make a fresh start.

"No one wanted to believe in me or tell me I was worth more," Rosseland said. "Rethreaded has gotten me to a place where I can reach my full potential and a second chance at life."

Before receiving guidance from Rethreaded, Rosseland was having a tough time trying to adjust and find job opportunities. Today, Rosseland has found success as Rethreaded's assistant marketing manager and oversees the organization's social media, newsletter and other projects. She also travels to help raise awareness for Rethreaded, their products and the impact the organization can have on women's lives.

"Rethreaded is empowering women through business," said Kristin Keen, Rethreaded founder and president.

"Once you give a woman employment opportunities, she learns what she is capable of and finds healing in that. We love seeing women thrive in a role they never thought they would be doing," said Keen.

"I was able to move forward and able to recreate my life," Rosseland said.

CHARITY REGISTER

THE SHOELACE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 551029, 32255 | (904) 479-5925 | theshoelacefoundation.org

Founder: Denard Robinson

Mission & Vision: The Shoelace Foundation works to empower underprivileged youth to become productive members of society.

SINGLE VISION, INC.

8185 Forest Hills Road, Melrose, 32666 | (904) 377-7993 | singlevisioninc.org

Founder: Carl Bovard

Mission & Vision: Single Vision's mission is worldwide conservation of endangered species and the preservation of land and habitat essential to earth's remaining wildlife.

THE SPINA BIFIDA ASSOCIATION OF JACKSONVILLE

807 Children's Way, 32207 | (904) 697-3686 | spinabifidajax.org

Program Manager: Jenna Price

Mission & Vision: The Spina Bifida Association provides support for families living with Spina Bifida.

SULZBACHER CENTER

611 E. Adams Street, 32202 | (904) 359-0457 | sulzbachercenter.org

President/CEO: Cindy Funkhouser

Mission & Vision: The Sulzbacher Center works to empower homeless and at-risk women, children and men through health, housing and income services thereby restoring hope and self-sufficiency.

SUSAN G. KOMEN NORTH FLORIDA

200 W. Forsyth Street, Ste. 1620, 32202 | (904) 448-7446 | kومنnorthflorida.org

Board President: Michelle Kargbo

Mission & Vision: To save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering people, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures.

TAG! THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF ST. AUGUSTINE

76 Dockside Drive, Suite 105, 32084 | (904) 647-1757 | tagmuseum.org

Executive Director: Kim MacEwan

Mission & Vision: To create transformative, play-based opportunities to discover, explore and innovate, which would result in a world where all people think for themselves, confidently ask questions, compassionately and collaboratively solve problems, and creatively craft a better world.

TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN

4527 Lenox Avenue, 32205 | (904) 384-1361 | takestockjax.org

Director: Leah Lynch

Mission & Vision: Take Stock In Children works to change the lives of deserving children by combining in-school support through a college support coach, the promise of a college or vocational school scholarship and most importantly the guidance of a caring mentor.

TEACH FOR AMERICA

214 N. Hogan Street, Suite 6010, 32202 | (904) 353-6517 | teachforamerica.org

Executive Director: Darryl Willie

Mission & Vision: Teach For America works to enlist, develop and mobilize as many as possible of our nation's most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence.

TESORI FAMILY FOUNDATION

101 Marketside Avenue, Ste. 404 #345, 32081 | (904) 479-8330 | tesorifamilyfoundation.org

Founders/Board Co-Chairs: Paul and Michelle Tesori

Mission & Vision: The foundation's mission is to achieve great things through God by lending a helping hand, providing hope, and healing hearts for children. Its vision is to make a positive change in the lives of children in the local community and those touched by the PGA TOUR.

TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

2220 County Road 210 W, Ste 108, PMB 317, 32259

(904) 380-8499 | timtebowfoundation.org

President/Executive Director: Erick Dellenback

Mission & Vision: The Foundation's mission is to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need.

TIMUCUAN TRAIL PARKS FOUNDATION

9953 Heckscher Drive, 32226 | (904) 707-3584 | timucuantrailparksfoundation.org

Executive Director: Mark Middlebrook

Mission & Vision: The Timucuan Trails Parks Foundation serves to protect, preserve and promote the Timucuan Trail Parks through advocacy, fundraising and marketing.

TOM COUGHLIN JAY FUND FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 50798, 32240 | (904) 543-2599 | tcjayfund.org

Executive Director: Keli Coughlin

Mission & Vision: The Tom Coughlin Jay Fund helps families tackle childhood cancer by providing comprehensive financial, emotional and practical support.

TREE HILL NATURE CENTER

7152 Lone Star Road, 32211 | (904) 724-4646 | treehill.org

Executive Director: Mark Mumma

Mission & Vision: Tree Hill Nature Center promotes environmental stewardship to the community through hands-on educational programs and low-cost access to natural areas.

UCOM URBANSERV, INC.

3349 St. Augustine Road, 32207 | (904) 396-2401 | ucomjax.org

Executive Director: Sara Mitchell

Mission & Vision: UCOM serves the community to ensure that no one faces hunger alone, providing emergency relief to those facing food insecurity, providing one hot meal a day to the homebound, and providing help to those willing to break their cycle of crisis.

UNF FOUNDATION

1 UNF Drive, 32224 | (904) 620-2151 | unf.edu/foundation/

Executive Director: Ann McCullen

Mission & Vision: The UNF Foundation provides financial support and counsel for the University of North Florida, including assisting the University in the building of the endowment and in financially supporting the long-term academic and other priorities of the University.

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA

1301 Riverplace Boulevard, Suite 400, 32207 | (904) 390-3200 | unitedwaynefl.org

President/CEO: Michelle Braun

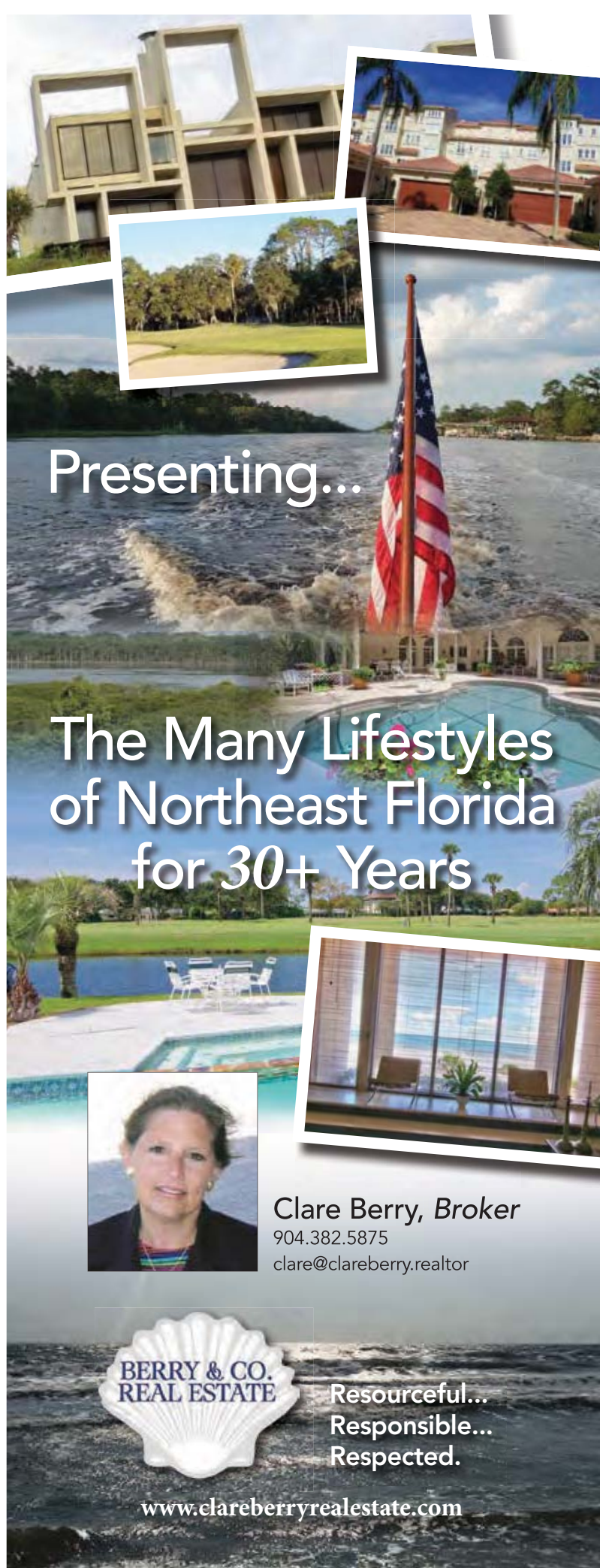
Mission & Vision: United Way provides leadership, resources and focus to change lives in our community by creating sustainable improvements in education, income and health.

VISION IS PRICELESS COUNCIL

3 Shircliff Way, Suite 546, 32204 | (904) 308-2020 | visionispriceless.org


Executive Director: Jami Bueker

Mission & Vision: The Vision Is Priceless Council works to serve as the premier community resource for improving the vision health of First Coast children and adults through screening, referral, and education.




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VOLUNTEERS IN MEDICINE JACKSONVILLE

41 E. Duval Street, 32202 | (904) 399-2766 | vim-jax.org

CEO: Mary Pat Corrigan

Mission & Vision: Volunteers in Medicine Jacksonville works to improve the health of the Greater Jacksonville community by providing free outpatient medical service to those who are employed but cannot afford health insurance or health care for themselves and their families.

WALK-OFF CHARITIES OF JAX

12620-3 Beach Blvd. Ste. 325, 32246 | (904) 955-1278 | walkoffcharitiesofjax.com

President: Frank Frangie

Mission & Vision: Walk-Off Charities of Jax was established to support youth baseball and the growth of the sport through various activities and programs, primarily focused on supporting the North Florida baseball community.

WE CARE JACKSONVILLE

4080 Woodcock Drive, Suite 130, 32207 | (904) 674-6450 | wecarejacksonville.org

Executive Director: Sue Nussbaum

Mission & Vision: We Care Jacksonville provides primary and specialty care to the uninsured, the homeless, and the medically underserved people of Jacksonville.

WHITE OAK CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

581705 White Oak Road, Yulee, FL 32097 | (904) 225-3200 | whiteoakwildlife.org

Mission & Vision: The White Oak Conservation Foundation is committed to protecting, promoting and preserving endangered species and habitats.

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF JACKSONVILLE

1596 Lancaster Terrace #5B, 32204 | (904) 737-4371 | facebook.com/Womansclubjax

President: Laura Crooks

Mission & Vision: The mission of The Woman's Club of Jacksonville is civic, literary, philanthropic, scientific and social in nature. The goal is to improve, benefit and advance women's causes as well as reach out into the community and give aid to worthy organizations.

WOMENADEJAX

(904) 463-2877 | womenadejax.org

Founder: Judy Hicks

Mission & Vision: WomenadeJax mentors children at Daniel Kids through career development, fun and community service.

THE WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

1325 San Marco Boulevard, Suite 802, 32207 | (904) 202-2866 | womensboardwch.com

President: Elizabeth Langley

Mission & Vision: The Women's Board of Wolfson Children's Hospital strives to further awareness in the community of the services and facilities of Wolfson Children's Hospital and to raise funds to ensure the finest available pediatric care.

WOMEN'S CENTER OF JACKSONVILLE

5644 Colcord, 32211 | (904) 722-3000 | womenscenterofjax.org

Executive Director: Teresa Miles

Mission & Vision: The Women's Center of Jacksonville improves the lives of women through advocacy, support and education.

WOMEN'S GIVING ALLIANCE

245 Riverside Ave., Suite 310, 32202 | (904) 356-4483 | www.jaxcf.org/wga

President: Ellen Wiss

Mission & Vision: The Women's Giving Alliance makes grants to nonprofit organizations to support critical community services for women and girls.

WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL OF JACKSONVILLE

100 Festival Park Avenue, 32202 | (904) 280-8162 | worldaffairscounciljax.org

Executive Director: Trina Medarev

Mission & Vision: The World Affairs Council of Jacksonville works to promote an understanding of the world and its people and to engage citizens of Northeast Florida in becoming better informed participants in the global community.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT

4899 Belfort Road, Suite 300, 32256 | (904) 296-7350 | woundedwarriorproject.org

CEO: Lt. General Mike Linnington

Mission & Vision: The Wounded Warrior Project works to honor and empower Wounded Warriors.

YESHÁ MINISTRIES

9378 Arlington Expressway, Ste. 325, 32225 | (904) 802-2774 | yeshaministries.com

Founder: Grandmaster Charles Coker

Mission & Vision: Yeshá's mission is to train and develop Disciples of Christ through sanctioned martial arts with a vision that its disciples would demonstrate Christian leadership principals to positively impact the lives of the individuals they touch.

YMCA OF FLORIDA'S FIRST COAST

12735 Gran Bay Parkway, Suite 201, 32258 | (904) 296-3220 | firstcoastymca.org

President & CEO: Eric K. Mann

Mission & Vision: The YMCA strives to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirit, mind and body for all.

YOGA 4 CHANGE

P.O. Box 330117, Atlantic Beach, 32233 | (904) 510-2004 | yoga-4-change.com

Founder/Executive Director: Kathryn Thomas

Mission & Vision: To heal and empower veterans, incarcerated individuals, venerable youth and those dealing with substance abuse through a purpose-driven yoga curriculum.

YOUNG LIFE JACKSONVILLE

PO Box 2173, 32203 | (904) 387-9633 | jacksonville.younglife.org

Area Director: Mike Shea

Mission & Vision: Young Life introduces adolescents to Jesus Christ and helps them grow in their faith.

YOUNG STROKE

PO Box 692, Conway, SC 29528 | (843) 655-2835 | youngstroke.org

Founder/Executive Director: Amy Edmunds

Mission & Vision: YoungStroke is the first and only American advocacy organization formed to specifically address the unmet needs of young adult stroke survivors and their caregivers.

YOUTH CRISIS CENTER

3015 Parental Home Road, 32216 | (904) 720-0002 | youthcrisiscenter.org

President/CEO: Kim Sirdevan

Mission & Vision: The Youth Crisis Center works to build a healthier community by empowering young people and families to rise above adversity, supporting their vision for a stronger community through stronger families.

Did we miss you? If your registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit didn't make the list, please let us know! Send details (charity name, address, phone, website, leader, and short mission and vision statement) to editor@residentnews.net. Deadline for the 2018-2019 issue is Sept. 1, 2018.



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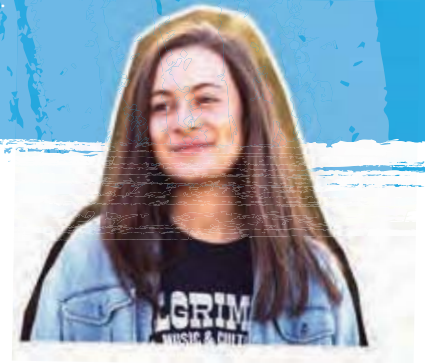
BY MARIAN JOHNS

Charity, it's often said, begins at home, an emphasis that puts the priority on family first. However, the original meaning of the nearly 400-year-old misused phrase is that [learning] charity begins in the home, where children learn by watching, listening and imitating.

When kindness and generosity occur consistently within the confines of the family, the result is very often a desire to take what they've learned out of the home and into the

community. From the lemonade stand raising funds for disaster relief to volunteering on a mission trip, children create their own charitable acts of kindness.

Here we meet some of those young people who are making a difference. Sometimes that means just being there for someone, lending a hand, or giving a little encouragement to those who are in need.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE CHILDHOOD

Even at a young age, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Stokes felt a need to help others. It is a belief she has carried on throughout her high school years and it will no doubt be a part of her upcoming college years at Appalachian State University.

"I have tagged along and been a part of serving for as long as I can remember," said Stokes. "In kindergarten, I would go to the dental clinic at the City Rescue Mission with my mom every week."

While a student at Riverside Presbyterian Day School, Stokes served in the school's Leads Program, a yearlong program focused on serving others and where she is now a mentor for other students.

As a student at Episcopal School, Stokes spent many summers serving with Young Life which including going on mission trips. She now volunteers at Feeding Northeast Florida and at Hope's Closet thrift store, where she sorts donated food and clothing. In addition, Stokes serves at The Natural Life Music and Arts Festival and at The Bridge where she helps with the community garden event.

"As my faith has grown, so has my love for people," said Stokes. "I love Jacksonville and the uniqueness of each neighborhood. What better way to engage with my community than serving organizations that love others as well."

"Kindness is something we are all capable of," she said.



Mattie Sacks
peers over a pile
of chocolate chip
cookies and
thank-you notes.

LOVE OF BAKING LEADS TO DIAPERS FOR HURRICANE VICTIMS

On any given weekend, you can find nine-year-old Mattie Sacks baking up a batch of delicious chocolate chip cookies. This summer when Sacks had seen some photos of Texas residents who were suffering after Hurricane Harvey hit their state, she decided to use her favorite pastime of baking to help others.

Sacks, a third grader at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, had seen photos of hurricane evacuees, many of whom had babies, and decided to raise funds for the Texas Diaper Bank for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

Having one-year-old twin siblings, Sacks knew that diapers would be a major necessity for these families so she began baking cookies to raise money. She baked nearly 300 cookies and was able to raise \$737 for the Texas Diaper Bank. Her dentist, Dr. Jila Mahajan at Kid's First Dentistry in Ortega, matched Sack's donation. Sack's mother, Megan, estimates that the donation would provide roughly 9,648 diapers for families in need.

"Seeing people not have what they need and then me giving them what they need, makes me happy and it also helps them," Sacks said.

"Mattie likes to make up recipes but she especially loves to make chocolate chip cookies on the weekends, so that was a natural way for her to raise money," said Megan. "I think this has taught her how easy it is to use her passions to help others and that people can be so kind and loving during a crisis."

GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS FOR CANCER PATIENTS



Lilybeth Posick and
Valentina Bouras

When Lilybeth Posick decided to donate some locks of her hair to help children who have suffered from hair loss due to cancer and rare illnesses, she was really following a family tradition.

Posick, along with Valentina Bouras, her best friend and classmate at the Bolles Lower School Ponte Vedra, donated their locks to the national nonprofit, Children With Hair Loss, during Cancer Awareness Month.

"Donating my hair is a way for me to show to others that even though I may not know them personally, they are not alone in the fight," said Bouras. "I believe everyone deserves that feeling."

Posick is actually the third of the Posick women to donate her tresses as her mother, Stacey, and sisters, Sophie Grace and Meghanne, also donated their lovely strands to CWHL.

"It is important because some people don't have things that you have, like a house or hair, so you need to help them," said Lilybeth.

Her older sister, Meghanne, agreed. "It's important to give because I will still have hair, but when I give mine, it helps someone else be happy," said Meghanne. "Eight inches isn't much to me, but it means a lot to someone else."



Natasha Harrison, Lauran Conran, Margarita Orozco, Jaionni McGowan and Mackenzie Guiry

ISSUE BASED THEATRE CONNECTS WITH STRUGGLING PEERS

To help peers who may be struggling, local students are using their love of theatre and their own experiences to create a show about issues facing young people today, which they perform at schools throughout the Duval County Public School District.

"We take our show on tour into the community to showcase what we have created with hopes of touching someone and making them understand that they are not alone in this world," said Jaionni McGowan, a 16-year-old student in the program. "Even if we only manage to make one person out of a crowd feel like there is hope, it's all worth it."

Members of Douglas Anderson School of The Arts' Issue Based Theatre class, the five teens

said if they reach just one peer with their messages, then they accomplished their goal.

"It's very easy to become cynical about mundane life especially in high school, but when you go and tour your show and you talk to these kids one on one, it reminds you how important it is to help your community," said Mackenzie Guiry, who is also part of the theatre class.

"I want the children that see our shows to have an awareness of these issues and seek help if it applies to them directly," said Margarita Orozco, an Issue Based Theatre student.

"I never thought theatre could be used to help people through rough times or to heal them emotionally," said student Lauren Conran, who is also a National Honor Society member.

Natasha Harrison said she was touched by a student who came up to talk to her after one of the shows. "The fact that this would give this girl the courage to seek help, showed that what we are doing is making an impact," said Harrison. "We have the power to change someone's life."

AN ANGEL IN THE OUTFIELD

Many teenagers love to be involved with sports, but Layne Rivera decided to turn her interest in athletics into a way to help children.

Rivera volunteers her time to work with kids through the Angels In the Outfield - Miracle League, where she helps disabled kids experience playing baseball. From cheering them on as they run the bases to encouraging them at the batter's box, Rivera loves every minute of her volunteer time.

"When I help others in the community, I feel good about myself and also a sense of accomplishment," said Rivera. "I love to help kids and volunteering and working with the kids, just makes me feel good inside."



Layne Rivera

Rivera, an avid runner, also volunteers at the Bolles Summer Camp each year and works with kids ages five through 12 teaching them about team work and the importance of staying active through sports.

A GRATEFUL RECIPIENT BECOMES A GREATER GIVER

At age 13, Taylor Richardson's list of accomplishments would seem quite astonishing for such a young person. However, it is not only Richardson's drive to succeed which makes her stand out, but also her willingness to make a difference.

Richardson turned her focus toward helping children through Junior Achievement's "Journey Into Womanhood" program and initiated the "Don't Be A Bully, Be A Buddy" campaign. She is also an advocate for literacy and has collected nearly 4,000 books for children in Jacksonville with her "Astronaut Starbright" and "Taylor's Take Flight With A Book" collection drives.

Earlier in 2017, Richardson, who has attended four NASA Space Center programs to study aerospace and attended Space Camp, raised \$17,000 for movie passes so young girls could see the film "Hidden Figures."

"I am motivated to help and serve because so many people have helped me and my mom along the way," said Richardson. "Everything

"Everything that has happened in my life has not only been due to hard work but also the kindness of others investing in me. So, I just think people should be kind and help each other any way they can."

that has happened in my life has not only been due to hard work but also the kindness of others investing in me. So, I just think people should be kind and help each other any way they can."

Last year, Richardson was nominated for CNN Heroes, was named GoFundMe's Hero of the Month and received the Champion of Service Award from Florida Governor Rick Scott.

"The best motivation for me is just being able to donate my time to make someone else's day a little better without expecting a single thing in return. That's all I ever wanted to do, just make a positive difference in somebody's life," Richardson said.



Taylor Richardson with Florida Governor Rick Scott

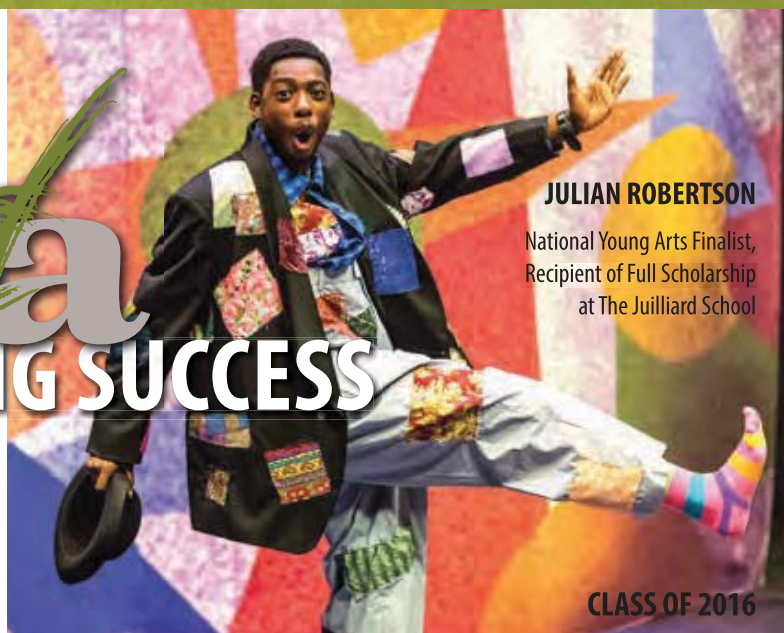
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Jazz Artist with three solo albums, 2-time Grammy Award winner, recently joined the Faculty at The Juilliard School in the Jazz Studies Program



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PAINTING A PHILANTHROPIC PICTURE

Many of the pieces of artwork created by National Art Honor Society students at Atlantic Coast High School are far more than just classroom projects. The young artists are using their talents to help several local nonprofits with each stroke of their paintbrush.

The students, grades 9 through 12, create animal sculptures made with ceramics, papier-mâché and mosaics on fiberglass, which are auctioned to raise funds for organizations such as the Jacksonville Humane Society and First Coast No More Homeless Pets. They have also designed cards for residents at St. Catherine Labouré Manor and Five Star Veterans Center, as well as made ornaments for K9s For Warriors holiday celebration.

"I enjoy working with various service projects, knowing that through art we are being active in the community and helping others," said Victoria Ross, a sophomore at Atlantic Coast High.

For the past two years, the students have hand painted angels for Angels For Allison, said Kelly Delaney, with the school's fine arts department. After a fellow student passed away, and Angels For Allison helped the student's family with funeral expenses, the project had special meaning for the group.

"Students enjoy helping others and giving back to their community through their artwork and creativity," said Delaney. "These service projects give them an opportunity to make a difference."



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PROGRAM TEACHES STUDENTS TO ENRICH THE LIVES OF OTHERS

By volunteering at a local memory care unit, bringing awareness to domestic violence and working with a cheer team for children with disabilities, five Jacksonville area high school students recognized as Bank of America's 2017 Student Leaders demonstrate the definition of young philanthropists.

The group of exceptional young people, which includes Billy Luper, Katherine Carlo, Destiny Brundage, Harrison Snowden and Lyric Washington, was recognized by Bank of America as part of the company's Student Leadership Program. The students were paired with Communities In Schools and the United Way of St. Johns County for internships to do what these young people do best – help others.

"I am fortunate to have grown up with an abundance of available resources and opportunities and it can be easy to forget that not everyone is so lucky," said Harrison Snowden, one of the Student Leaders participants and senior at Ponte Vedra High School. Snowden serves at the memory care unit at Arbor Terrace and founded "Teens Take a Stand" benefit concert, which raised \$10,000 in its first year for domestic violence shelters.

Katherine Carlo, a senior at Nease High School, spent her summer volunteering with the Sparklers Club, a cheer team for children with disabilities.

"What inspires me to give back to my community are my passions for improving the lives of others and the value I place on including all members of the community," Carlo said.

"Knowing that my giving back will affect somebody in some way and hopefully put a smile on their face," said Billy Luper, a senior at Lee High School, about what inspires him to give back.

Destiny Brundage, a St. Johns Technical High School student who was also part of the Student Leaders program, is inspired by her favorite quote "Every mountain tip is within reach if you just keep climbing."

"I have been at the bottom of the mountain and know if you keep climbing, trying and never give up, then you'll make it to wherever your headed in life," said Brundage. "That's why I volunteer in my community because I want to help people climb their mountains and make it to the top."



Bank of America 2017 Student Leaders attending a summit in Washington D.C.

PINT-SIZE PHILANTHROPIST A KINDNESS SUPERHERO

Kingsley Killis may be just seven years old, however the determined 2nd grader has managed to raise thousands of dollars for charitable causes and organizations such as K9s For Warriors, Wolfson Children's Hospital and for hurricane recovery efforts.

Killis, a student at Atlantic Beach Elementary, jumped right into action after Hurricane Irma struck much of the Caribbean and Florida, and managed to raise over \$1,500 through a lemonade stand she hosted.

As if helping to aid hurricane victims was not enough, Killis also spent her summer helping to raise over \$600 for Wolfson Children's Hospital through a Facebook fundraiser. She

has also helped to raise hundreds of dollars for one of her favorite charities, K9s For Warriors.

"I love to help people and that motivates me to do more and I love to see what a difference I can make in people's lives," said Killis.

Killis was recently named the American Civility Association's Kindness Super Hero for all her fundraising efforts and for her dedication to helping others.

"I think she's learned that small gestures can really make a big impact," said Kingsley's mother, Megan. "Her spirit of giving and acts of kindness inspire others to make a difference. I am really proud of her motivation to help others."



Kingsley Killis



Emily Citrano

ON A MISSION TO SPREAD JOY

For many, a trip to the Bahamas is a relaxing vacation, but for Emily Citrano, it was a chance to make a difference in the lives of other young people, some who are living in poverty and who have little hope.

Citrano was part of the San Jose Catholic School's Praying Pelicans Missions, an involvement which she said left a dramatic impact on her life.

"After going on the mission trip, I felt very humbled," said Citrano. "The children I worked with had close to nothing, yet they never stopped smiling."

"When I helped those kids in the Bahamas, I felt pure love and a sense of joy that you can't get anywhere else. It is a feeling that is completely indescribable and it motivates me to become more Christ-like in my actions," she said.

The thanks that Citrano receives from her volunteer work comes in the form of words of love.

"A little girl told me that she loved me and that she would tell Jesus 'thank you for us' and those words really had a huge impact on me. I will cherish those words for a long time," Citrano said.

TEEN TAKES ON BUREAUCRACY FOR SAFETY

Taking on the bureaucracy of two different municipalities in Neptune and Jacksonville Beach to help ensure the safety of students at Fletcher High School did not faze 17-year-old Emily Matthews.

Walker, a senior at Fletcher and a Girl Scout Ambassador, began her work on road projects during her junior year. When she and her fellow band members faced crossing a busy road without a crosswalk, Walker knew something needed to be done. She led the initiative to work with the two cities where the road bordered and was able to get a crosswalk installed.

"It was important for me to work on these projects to bring a greater sense of safety and reassurance to my community," said Walker, who explained that having to work with both cities was a challenge.

"But once they came on board, I finally felt like I had achieved something, that I was heard, and that the students at Fletcher and everyone who comes to our campus will see our improved safety standards," Walker said. "I hope that other schools and other areas of our community will want to increase their pedestrian and traffic safety as well."



Emily Matthews

"Emily is one of the most enthusiastic students I've ever taught. I give her a project and she tackles it with a hundred percent energy," said Joy Chalker, one of Emily's teachers. "She is not only willing to enthusiastically do her own work, but also willing to help anyone complete their work. She is a wonderfully gifted student."

Walker plans on using her great ambition and drive for her future studies in aerospace engineering and applied mathematics.

STRESS RELIEF COMES IN THE FORM OF SMILES

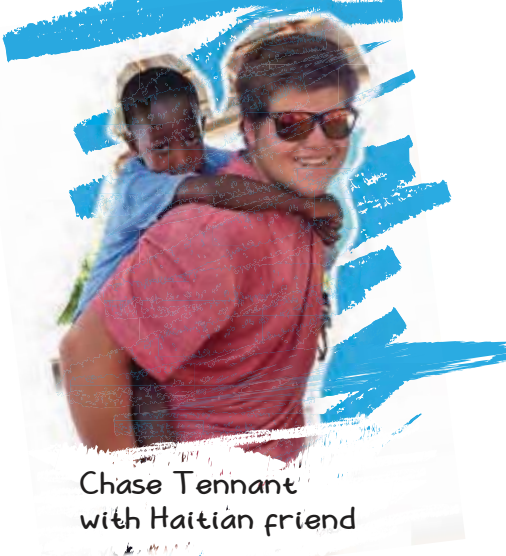
The senior year of high school can be a stressful time for any teenager and while Chase Tennant was in his last year at The Episcopal School of Jacksonville (Class of 2017), his stress relief came in the form of helping others.

"It feels good to be kind to people," said Tennant, whose community involvement ranges from being a leader for YoungLife to working with the school's Dominican Republic Club and Haiti Mission Clubs. He also raises funds for Angels For Allison and North Florida School of Special Education.

"It's hard to be unhappy or stressing out about things when you are helping someone. I love working with kids because there is nothing better than when one of them gives me a huge smile," said Tennant.

Tennant's first mission trip was in 2014 when he accompanied his older brother to Haiti. It was that trip that left quite a lasting impression on the younger Tennant.

"My world traveler eyes glimpsed a country with little resources or wealth and a people with



Chase Tennant
with Haitian friend

hearts that were richer than anything I had ever experienced," he said.

When he returned home, Tennant set out with a goal of starting a local mission club

and after a lot of hard work and determination, Tennant fulfilled that goal. In June 2016, the Haiti Mission Club had its inaugural mission trip, one which no doubt also left some lasting impressions on the young people involved.

FULL COURT PRESS PAYS OFF FOR YOUNG EAGLE SCOUT

When Ponte Vedra High School student Daniel Lichlyter, 17, chose to help restore the basketball courts at the Children's Home Society (CHS), he quickly began to realize his efforts were about much more than just resurfacing an old court.

Lichlyter, who volunteered to refurbish the CHS courts as part of his Eagle Scout project, immediately saw the impact his efforts, and those of his fellow Boy Scouts, have on local kids.

"After six months of working towards a single goal, finishing the basketball court and then getting to see kids who have so very little to be happy about, enjoying something that I was able to give them, just blew me away," Lichlyter said.

Lichlyter says the project was truly a group effort thanks to his fellow Scouts and local companies such as ACRYTECH and Court Surfaces, who donated equipment, materials and guided the volunteers throughout the project.

"The resurfacing of our basketball court will bring joy to hundreds of children for years to come," CHS executive director Kymberly Cook said.

"It was without a doubt the best feeling I have ever had," said Lichlyter. "This project was time well spent for me, let alone for all the people who will enjoy the court for years to come."



Daniel Lichlyter

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PROVIDING MORE HOPE FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT NEED A HAND

Helping out at Ronald McDonald House Charities Jacksonville, volunteering to renovate a Boys & Girls Club in New Jersey, or serving on a mission trip in Freeport, Bahamas, Hope Hershey flashes her contagious smile at those she meets and helps.

The 17-year-old Duval Charter School senior and member of Lakewood United Methodist Church has been involved in volunteer projects throughout the country and abroad doing what she loves: meeting people and helping others.

"To me, the best part about volunteering is being around other people, seeing that the people I am surrounded by in these organizations have less in their life, but they smile a lot more," Hershey said.

At Ronald McDonald House, Hershey served as a "House Warmer," where she cleaned, organized and, during the summer interacted with the children during "Activities with Hope," where they played with chalk or blew soap bubbles.

"I mainly stay in the kitchen, making sure everything is in order and clean for those with weak immune systems," said Hershey. "I helped organize ornaments and the holiday supply closet."

As part of the United Church Outreach Ministry (UCOM) and her church's youth group, Hershey, who has plans to become a teacher,



has prepared lunches for underprivileged children, worked at city rescue missions and homeless shelters throughout the country, cleaned up parks in various cities and helped with the renovation of the Camden, New Jersey's Boys & Girls Club.

"I love feeling like I am making a difference in at least one person's life," said Hershey, who has undoubtedly already made a difference in many lives.

EXPERIENCE WITH DISABLED SIBLING FUELS LIFE OF SERVICE IN BIG BROTHER

Collin Johnson and his little brother Devon have a very special bond and it is that bond that helped Collin realize his purpose in helping kids with disabilities.

Johnson volunteers his time at TOPSoccer and Field of Dreams Baseball, two groups which help kids with disabilities to be involved with sports. Devon, who has Down Syndrome, was the inspiration for Collin to get involved since his brother loves to play soccer and baseball.

"I truly love my little brother and can't imagine my life without Devon," said Johnson. "He has shown me how to be thankful for the gifts I have because he is always thankful when I am there to help him learn to use his gifts."

Johnson works with many children and young adults with different types of disabilities to help them learn how to play soccer and baseball.

"I feel very happy and thankful," Johnson explained about his work with TOPSoccer and



San Jose Catholic students Collin Johnson and Matteo Turra with their buddies, Jonathan and John at Field of Dreams Baseball

Field of Dreams Baseball. "For me it's like getting a massage. I feel relieved and the stress in me just seems to fade away when I am working with them. I see that these kids with disabilities need help physically, mentally and spiritually, just like I do sometimes."



SWIMMING LAPS TO STROKE OUT CANCER

Each stroke that 15-year-old Michael Bucher takes as a member of the Providence High School varsity swim team has a very special meaning. Although this young athlete battles with his own health issue and has parents who are fighting cancer, he still manages to make helping others a priority in his life.

In 2016, the high school sophomore who has lived with asthma since he was a young child started a charity called Stroke Out Cancer. When Bucher originally founded the charity he wanted to honor his father who is battling cancer, but now also honors his mother, who has since been diagnosed with cancer.

Through his charity, Bucher raises money for each stroke while swimming and then donates the funds to three charities who help children with cancer and asthma – The Child Cancer Fund, Wolfson Children's Hospital and the Jay Fund.

"It is very humbling and extremely gratifying to know that I am actually doing something that will have a profound impact on someone else's life," Bucher said. "Although it is difficult handling school, swimming and running a charity, it is definitely worthwhile to know that my work is making someone else happier and able to deal with their illness more easily."

Bucher's father is rightly proud of him. "For Michael to decide to start a charity and raise money and give his time to help kids with cancer while he must also deal with the fact his two parents are battling cancer, is nothing short of amazing," said Bucher's father, Joe.

"When I am swimming my laps, I just remember that even if I didn't start this charity, I would be swimming anyway," Bucher said. "It is so amazing to think that I am now swimming for a purpose. Each lap is no longer part of a tiring or difficult practice. It is now another lap that will help a kid in the community in need," he said.

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Unconditional Love

HARNESSING THE HEALING POWER OF OUR THERAPEUTIC ANIMAL PARTNERS

BY MAGGIE FITZROY

Volunteering with your animal “is the most rewarding volunteer work,” said Kristi Leonard, president of Therapy Animal Coalition (TAC). “Everybody loves their pet. And you are taking this animal that you love and sharing that love with people who need it.”

Therapy animals are different from service animals and comfort animals, stressed Leonard. Service animals, such as seeing eye dogs for the blind, and comfort animals, such as those for people with emotional needs, serve only one person, their owner, she said.

Therapy animals are volunteers “that serve everybody.” They are there to be petted, to offer a wet nose, to do some entertaining tricks. And even to snuggle someone who could really use a snuggle.

After serving as lead volunteer in the Mayo Clinic’s Caring Canines program, Leonard and a group of other like-minded individuals launched TAC in 2016. TAC helps people who want to volunteer with their pets, assists facilities and organizations that want to start therapy animal programs, and provides education and training opportunities for registered therapy animal teams.

The demand for such teams is currently far greater than the supply. Scientific studies prove that interaction with animals can reduce blood pressure, lower anxiety and stress levels, and help people feel good.

Most therapy animals are dogs, although other pets can be considered if they have the ability to pass the certification exam. In these pages you’ll meet Sooshi, the first and only therapy cat in Jacksonville, and Gypsy, a therapy mini-horse.

Leonard still volunteers on a regular basis at Mayo Clinic, and often, after finishing a shift, she said she walks away feeling like she was the one who was blessed.

“It’s an honor,” she said, “to be on the other end of the leash.”



What to do, where to go to be a therapy animal volunteer

Organizations affiliated with the Therapy Animal Coalition include facilities and organizations that have pet therapy programs; organizations that certify pets to be therapy animals, and organizations that offer dog training.

THERAPY PET OPPORTUNITIES

- Baptist Medical Center Beaches
- Baptist Medical Center Jacksonville
- Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital
- Clay Humane Society
- Community Hospice & Palliative Care
- Courthouse K9s
- HOPE Animal Assisted Crisis Response
- Mayo Clinic
- Nemours Children's Specialty Care
- READING Paws
- Wolfson Children's Hospital

THERAPY PET CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS

- Alliance of Therapy Dogs
- Pet Partners Jax

THERAPY PET DOG TRAINING

- Jacksonville Humane Society
- K9 Obedience Club of Jacksonville, Inc.
- Zoomiez Dog Training



SOOSHI, HELPFUL HEALING IS A FELINE FIRST

After volunteering solo at Community Hospice and Palliative Care of Northeast Florida for three years, Lorri Reynolds decided she wanted to start volunteering with a pet.

At first she considered getting a de-scented skunk, because she had one as a teenager, and thought, she said, "that it would be the greatest pet therapy animal ever."

But skunks are considered wild animals, which meant she would not be able to get one certified.

Adopting a dog was always an option. But a lot of dogs were already serving as therapy animals.

So she decided to get a cat. "Because cats are underrated as comfort animals," she said. And in December 2015, she went on a quest to find a suitable kitten.

At a pet expo in Jacksonville, she found one, and named her Sooshi. Feral, she was six weeks old and weighed only 1.9 pounds. "Her foster mother started to tear up when I told her I wanted her to be a pet therapy animal," Reynolds says. "She said, 'This is your special cat.'"

Sooshi, now two years old and 11 pounds, proved to have the right temperament needed to stroll about on a leash, enjoy being around a lot of people in unfamiliar settings, and being petted by strangers.

After training, Reynolds and Sooshi became the first therapy cat team to be registered by Pet Partners Jax. And to date they are still the only one.

They not only visit Community Hospice, they also go to nursing homes. Sooshi's favorite place is Brookdale Southside Assisted Living. When they enter the lobby, people are fascinated, Reynolds said. "People love to see a cat on a leash. She is laid back and very loving. She thinks every place is her place, whether it's a lap or a chair or a TV or a computer."

Not every dog has the temperament required of a therapy animal. But cats that do are exceptionally rare. Sooshi had to pass a test that required her to ignore 21 things that would normally frighten a cat, including sudden loud noises.

At home, Sooshi has her own multilayered cat condo, and "is living large," Reynolds said.

To keep her socialized, Reynolds often brings her to work. Reynolds

is a broker for Watson Realty Corporation and Sooshi takes the busy comings and goings of the office in stride. She also goes to stores with Reynolds on a leash.

"The leash is an adventure to her, because she is an indoor cat," Reynolds said. "When she sees it, she thinks 'This is going to be fun.'"

"Cats are loving, and when she purrs, people think 'she likes me,'" Reynolds said. "It's like instant gratification."

Since people tend to be more allergic to cats than dogs, Sooshi cannot volunteer in hospitals. But Reynolds is considering signing her up to be a reading cat volunteer in schools and libraries as well. "I'll get her some little glasses," Reynolds says. "She doesn't usually wear eyewear, but I think she would do that."



Lorri Reynolds and her cat Sooshi at the Watson Realty Corp. office, where Reynolds is the broker

JASPER THE LEARNING LABRADOR

Jasper, a six-year-old Chocolate Lab, loves to have children read books to him.

He is a patient, enthusiastic listener, which motivates the children to learn to read better, so they can tell him a good story.

A lot of them will pick out a book for him, "and ask me if Jasper has read it yet," said his owner, Linda Tipton. "I tell them he can't read, but he loves to listen to you read."

Jasper and Tipton are volunteers with the Jacksonville chapter of the national Reading Education Assistance Dogs (R.E.A.D.) program. Every Tuesday they go to New Berlin Elementary in Jacksonville and once a month they visit an area library.

At New Berlin, third-grade students who need extra help with reading take turns reading to Jasper in a private classroom. There, they can relax and read to him in a

setting where no one might judge them, laugh at their mistakes, or criticize them.

According to R.E.A.D., much of learning to read is about overcoming fears. Dogs are less intimidating than peers and allow children to proceed at their own pace. Registered R.E.A.D. teams give children supervised reading practice, since the owner is also a trained facilitator. The children build their reading vocabulary, increase their understanding of the material, and gain fluency.

"Third grade is an important year for reading. And teachers select kids who really need it," said Tipton, who began volunteering 13 years ago with her first dog, a Golden Retriever named Maggie.

She adopted Jasper as a rescue puppy when he was eight weeks old. He went through training to learn basic good behavior, earning



Jasper serves as a pillow as well as a sounding board for a third-grade student reading to his sister and Jasper's owner, Linda Tipton.

a Canine Good Citizen certificate. Then he got certified by the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

To train him specifically to be a reading dog, Tipton began at home. She spread a blanket on the floor and taught him how to be still and listen patiently.

Their monthly library sessions last for about an hour, and their weekly school sessions for 90 minutes to two hours.

"He loves it," Tipton said. "He loves the children and the school loves

him." When they walk into the building to check in, he puts his paws up on the reception desk to be enthusiastically greeted by staff. Then they go on up to their classroom.

After three months, children who read to Jasper get a passing certificate. "It makes them feel special," Tipton says. One little boy so enjoyed reading to Jasper as a third grader that he still visits him at the library years later. He brings his little sister, who likes to read to Jasper, too.

BLESSED WITH DEACON, THERAPY HAS NEVER BEEN MORE REWARDING

Lori Coleman started doing therapy animal work before most people ever heard of it. It was part of her job at the Clay Humane Society 22 years ago, when she was hired, and at that time she didn't even own a dog.

She traveled to nursing homes overseeing animal/owner teams. After a year, she finally got her own therapy dog, a black lab, then after it passed away at age 13, she got two more Labradors before finally adopting Deacon, an Australian Shepherd, her current therapy dog.

"He was exactly what I didn't know I needed," Coleman said with a smile. "A dog that fit right into my household and a good therapy dog. He loves children and meeting people. It's his job."

Coleman was apprehensive at first about getting a herding dog, one that loved to herd cats,

and at the age of one year, had already been through five homes. She kept him on a leash during his every waking moment to curb the herding behavior and after a month succeeded.

Deacon goes with Coleman to her job every day at Clay Humane, where she is a financial administrator, and accompanies her to nursing homes. He especially loves visiting a woman at Signature Healthcare who has lived there for 20 years.

"His little tail starts wagging and he sidles up to her side," Coleman said. "He does tricks for her. My goal is to get her to laugh."

Deacon and Coleman also visit schools, and Coleman often gives up her lunch hour to serve as a volunteer tester and evaluator for Alliance of Therapy Dogs. She is also on the board of directors of Therapy Animal Coalition, serving as vice president.

In the last 10 years the pet therapy field has become more and more popular, she said. "We are blessed in this area to have so many opportunities for pet therapy."



Lori Coleman and her dog Deacon at the Clay Humane Society, where Coleman works



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Jennifer Pfeiffer and her mini horse Gypsy at the Jesse Ball Dupont Center in Jacksonville at a recent Therapy Animal Coalition party.



NO HORSING AROUND FOR GYPSY, TAKES WORK IN SMALLER STRIDES

Jennifer Pfeiffer loves volunteering with her mini horse, Gypsy.

After years of experience doing therapy animal work with her Great Dane, Summit, Pfeiffer thought, why not try it with a horse? She became involved in pet therapy while working as a pediatric emergency room nurse in Delaware, and in graduate school conducted research in animal-assisted activities.

Pfeiffer and Gypsy were the first mini horse/owner therapy animal team certified by Pet Partners Jax and in the summer of this year Gypsy became the first therapy mini horse to be approved to volunteer at Nemours Children's

Specialty Care in Jacksonville, where Pfeiffer is a nurse manager.

Gypsy comes to Nemours twice a month, where children visit her in the lobby. Pfeiffer gets up at 4:30 in the morning to get her ready on those days. She bathes Gypsy, and then her husband drives Gypsy in her trailer from their home in St. Augustine to downtown Jacksonville so the horse can be there during Pfeiffer's lunch hour.

"It is a whole big process, a lot of prep work, but I love it," Pfeiffer said. "It's a lot of dedication and a lot of time."

It also took a lot of training to get Gypsy certified. Pfeiffer knew she

needed an animal with a calm temperament, and bought her from a breeder when she was five months old. For 18 months, she took her to nursing homes and schools with Summit, where she got her used to being in an environment with steps, elevators, "and a lot of things horses would be scared of." Since Gypsy was not yet certified, Pfeiffer purchased her own insurance policy.

Summit passed away at age 10 in 2015, and then Pfeiffer and Gypsy were on their own. While not a professional horse trainer, Pfeiffer has owned horses all her life and said she has a passion for training them. "You have to train a horse like a horse," she said, even one being groomed for pet therapy. And horses are far more difficult to train than dogs, "they scare and spook a lot more."

Even so, Gypsy is "potty-trained" to the point where she can be inside a building for up to 45 minutes without an accident. She signals she needs to go with her tail and Pfeiffer takes her outside.

Kids at Nemours love her, Pfeiffer said. "They are completely blown away. A lot of children never get a chance to see a horse. For some, it's the first time, and for some parents too."

They are surprised to see Gypsy, and smile and say thank you, she said. "You can just see with their faces how they connect."

Pfeiffer is grateful for the support and leadership of the Nemours staff for permitting her to bring Gypsy there as a therapy animal.

"It's a lot of work," she said. "But I love it."



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CLEO GOES TO COURT

Cleo, a three-year-old Yellow Lab, visits the Duval County Courthouse with her owner, Mark Umphress, on a regular basis. So she knows the drill when it comes to going through security. She goes over to the wall and puts her paws up so Umphress can pat her down.

"Cleo likes to walk around the courthouse to meet and greet people – bailiffs, people waiting to go into court, including families with kids. And cops," Umphress said. "I think the cops get just as much out of her visit as anyone."

Cleo and Umphress are Courthouse K9 volunteers, serving the Fourth Judicial Circuit. As a pet therapy team, they visit the grand courthouse in downtown Jacksonville once a month to provide emotional support to people there. They go to offer support to victims, witnesses and parties involved in many different types of court cases who may be

required to wait for extended periods of time before they can testify or give a deposition.

"The courthouse can be a stressful place," Umphress said. "With a lot of people, you can see they are upset. They pet Cleo and then relax."

Both waiting and testifying can produce high levels of anxiety for some people, especially children and others involved in emotional cases, according to the courthouse program guidelines. When deemed appropriate, Cleo and other therapy dogs are permitted to go with a person while they are testifying, to comfort them. All handlers and dogs are required to be certified with either Pet Partners Jax or the Alliance of Therapy Dogs.

Umphress' wife, Denise, also volunteers at the courthouse with the family's other Yellow Lab, Buddha.

Umphress takes time off from his job as a manager with Flotech to volunteer.

Mark Umphress and his dog Cleo at the Duval County Courthouse in Jacksonville



"Cleo has always been sensitive to people in need," even as a puppy, he said. When she was a nine months old, she went up to a woman in a wheelchair and put her head in the woman's lap. The woman was greatly touched.

Another time, Cleo jumped into the lap of a young man in a wheelchair who was a double amputee. Umphress at first was alarmed. But the man started laughing.

"Cleo never licks anybody but me," he said. "But she was licking him."

She also knows a lot of tricks, which entertains bored and/or distressed people. She can jump on command, shake with either paw, sit pretty on her hind legs, and turn right, then turn left on command.

"I enjoy watching people relax and smile. They get a kick out of it," Umphress said. "She's a good dog."

A SNUGLER AND A PERFORMER, LIBBY DELIVERS A LITTLE MORE LOVE

Kathy Burns' Yorkshire terrier, Libby, is six pounds of love. She loves everybody, but especially children. Which is why, Burns said, she is so well suited to be a therapy dog at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

At that facility, dogs that weigh less than 24 pounds are permitted to get into bed with the patients. Libby is happy to snuggle up with them and to entertain them with tricks. An American Club "Trick Performer," she can on command sit, stay, give high-fives, spin, bow and jump.

On a recent visit, one little boy was so mesmerized by Libby's tricks that his mother thanked Burns profusely. "For those 10 minutes, she said her son was not thinking about how much pain he was in," Burns said. Doing pet therapy "is immensely rewarding. It's the best volunteer job ever."

Burns is chairperson of Wolfson's pet therapy program, which currently has eleven teams and is recruiting more. Daily during the week, one team is scheduled to be there in the morning and one in the afternoon. Dogs must be at least

two years old, and in addition to being certified by Pet Partners Jax or Alliance of Therapy Dogs, are screened by volunteer veterinarians. The teams stay for one to two hours and the dogs must be bathed within 24 hours before visiting.

Teams make the rounds of patient rooms under the guidance of the nursing staff. If a child is missing their pet, they can specifically request a visit from a therapy dog.

Wednesday is Libby's day to volunteer. She and Burns visit Wolfson twice a month, and then on alternate Wednesdays volunteer with the Mayo Clinic Caring Canines program.

Libby likes to do tricks at Mayo, too. Recently when they encountered a line of people checking in for a procedure, she entertained them to take their minds' off their wait, earning applause.

Pet therapy "is about making patients, families, visitors and staff happy," Burns said. "It can be a stressful job, and staff get comfort and joy too. The energy in the room changes as soon as you walk in."

One day at Wolfson Burns and Libby went to the room of a little boy who wasn't feeling



Kathy Burns and her Yorkie, Libby, visit a patient at Wolfson Children's Hospital.

well enough to be interested in the dog's tricks. But when his friend, who was visiting, started doing high-fives with Libby, he suddenly perked up. "His dad said that was the first time his son smiled in two days," said Burns. "These wonderful creatures make a profound difference in people's lives."



In the lobby of the Canaday building at Mayo Clinic, Joan Streightiff and Lindy meet and greet Gabriella Taylor and Taylor's daughter Arya, age 2.

LINDY LISTENS, KNOWS WHEN SHE'S NEEDED

One day when Joan Streightiff was visiting the Mayo Clinic radiology waiting room with her Golden Retriever, Lindy, a man began screaming at the staff. He was upset about his wife – he thought her procedure was taking too long.

Lindy went over to him, and he immediately calmed down.

"She seemed to sense that he needed her," Streightiff said. "Good therapy dogs do."

Streightiff and nine-year-old Lindy volunteer at Mayo as part of the Caring Canines program. They have been offering comfort to people in waiting rooms there for five years, and Streightiff currently serves as the program's service chair. They visit twice a week, and to date Lindy has logged more than 500 hours of service.

"When I retired I was looking for something low key," Streightiff said. Something that involved giving back to the community. "Since Lindy has a very nice way with people, I thought that would be a good way."

The Caring Canines animal assisted activities program currently has 24 dog/owner teams and is looking for more. Registered teams meet and greet patients, families and visitors in the surgical, radiology, and cardiology and pulmonary waiting areas to help decrease anxiety and fear and help promote relaxation and comfort. The

program's stated goal is "to soften the impact of being a patient in a medical center by providing an opportunity to receive warmth and unconditional love."

Dogs of all sizes and breeds serve in the program. Lindy is well suited for the work because she is very calm, Streightiff said. "If she walks by a dog that is barking, she just walks past it, as if she's thinking, 'What is your problem?'"

Lindy seems to have a strong sense about people's needs, even beyond the signals she and Streightiff have been trained to look for.

One time they passed by a woman who had her head in a book. Streightiff figured she did not want to be interrupted, but Lindy kept pulling on the leash to go back to her. Streightiff apologized, saying she didn't know why her dog was acting that way. "I know why," the woman said. "I just had to put my Golden Retriever down last week." Then she sat down on the floor next to Lindy and cried. It was a healing moment.

Streightiff said it is obvious that Lindy loves going to Mayo because when they pull into the parking lot, she gets very excited.

"I would encourage people who want to try pet therapy to look for a place that meets their needs and their dog's needs," she said. "Mayo's waiting areas are relaxed and friendly, and you know within minutes that you've helped someone."

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2017 December



Betsy Lovett, Howard Price, Melanie Turner, Ward Lariscy

07

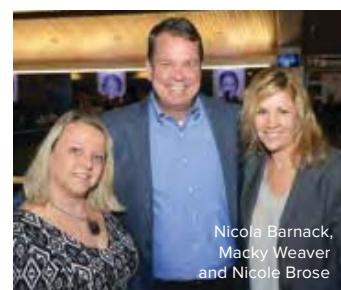
25TH ANNUAL CHARITY FUN SHOOT

December 7, Time TBD. Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Clay Target Sports, 12125 New Berlin Road

The event benefits St. Vincent's Foundation's Good Samaritan Fund, which provides medication, transportation and other medical services to those whose financial resources has been exhausted.

jaxhealth.com/foundation/



Nicola Barnack, Macky Weaver and Nicole Brose

01

REINDEER RUN – ST. AUGUSTINE

December 1, Time & Location TBD. Visit website for details.

Get in the holiday spirit in this fun running event to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida in their mission to help young people realize their potential and become productive citizens.

bgcnf.org

41ST ART & ANTIQUES SHOW

December 1-3, Friday 11-3, Saturday 11-5, Sunday Noon - 5 Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

Jacksonville's anticipated social event of the year features three days of dealers, lectures, celebrities, culminating with patient fashion show. 2017 Theme: "London Calling"

womensboardwolfsonchildrens.hospital.com



Kelley Kunz, Frances Hutto, Jan Kirby

02

RACE FOR PRESENTS

Dec. 2, 8 a.m.

Visit website for details.

9A Baymeadows Regional Park, 8000 Baymeadows Rd E

Sponsored by EnJoy Fitness, the event supports the Tom Coughlin Jay Fund with a present drive, so help a child in need by bringing an unwrapped toy (ages 8-12)

enjoyfitnessjax.com/

race-for-presents-2017/

CHILDREN'S WAY 5K & FAMILY FUN DAY

December 2, 3 p.m.

Ronald McDonald House, 824 Children's Way

Run, walk and play to help support the Ronald McDonald House Jacksonville at this family event.

Activities will also include a Christmas Village and tours of the Ronald McDonald House.

rmhcjacksonville.org

5TH ANNUAL DINNER UNDER THE STARS

December 2, 6 p.m.

The Museum & Gardens, 4160 Boulevard Center Drive

This annual event which supports the Jacksonville School for Autism, is a delightful evening of live music, wine and dinner.

jsakids.org

TREE OF LIFE & CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

December 7, 5:15 to 7 p.m. Visit website for details.

Earl B. Hadlow Center for Caring, Community Hospice & Palliative Care 4266 Sunbeam Road

This annual holiday-themed program honors the memory of our lost loved ones in a beautiful, inspiring program of music, verse and reflection.

treeoflife.communityhospice.com

ZOOLIGHTS ILLUMINATION

December 7, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway

Enjoy an evening at the Jacksonville Zoo as they officially light thousands of LED lights and turn the Zoo and Gardens into a beautiful winter spectacular complete with moving sculptures, lighted animal silhouettes and trees as well as holiday music.

jaxzoo.org

08

ZOOLIGHTS AT JACKSONVILLE ZOO

December 8-10,

December 16-January 6.

Visit website for times/details.

Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway

The holidays are the perfect time to tour the Jacksonville Zoo as it is transformed into a winter wonderland with thousands of holiday lights.

jaxzoo.org

COMMUNITY NUTCRACKER

December 8-9, Time TBD. Visit website for details.

Florida Theatre, 128 E Forsyth Street

Enjoy this delightful Nutcracker performance which is a First Coast holiday tradition. During the community service night performances, proceeds go to various nonprofit organizations. One of this year's benefactors is Dreams Come True.

jaxnutcracker.org



Anna Neal, Dearing Thoburn, Heather Moseley

09

RETHREADED'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Rethreaded Warehouse,
820 Barnett Street

Join Rethreaded for their annual Christmas party filled with fun ornament making, a hot chocolate bar and food trucks. Enjoy Christmas carols from local bands.
rethreaded.com

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS 5K & FAMILY FUN RUN

December 9, 5:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

San Marco Square

Luminaries light the way for runners and walkers throughout beautiful San Marco for this holiday fundraiser to support the Children's Miracle Network. Holiday festivities include horse drawn sleigh rides and of course, a visit from Santa.

cmnjax.com/events

24TH ANNUAL ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORIC INNS BED & BREAKFAST TOUR

December 9-13, Time & Locations TBD. Visit website for details.

A holiday tradition in the Oldest City of St. Augustine as guests tour the St. Augustine Historic Inns with their elegant holiday décor. A portion of the tour's proceeds benefit a St. Augustine area charity.

staugustinebandbtour.com

16

THE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY OF JACKSONVILLE

December 16, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Prime Osborn, 1000 Water Street

This Jacksonville area holiday tradition has brightened the holiday season for children in Jacksonville who might not receive toys for Christmas. Kids ages 12 and under are treated to a fun holiday celebration.

ccpoj.org



Richard and Cindy Hamilton



Mary Virginia Terry
with Grace Sarber
and Ellen Cavert

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS COOLSIDE OF YULETIDE HOLIDAY CONCERT

December 16, 2 p.m. & 5 p.m.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist,
4001 Hendricks Avenue

This Jacksonville Children's Chorus annual holiday concert will feature Christmas, Hanukkah, sacred and secular songs with performances by the JCC choirs and a cappella guest artist "ChoRuss" from St. Petersburg, Russia.

jaxchildrenschorus.org

35TH ANNUAL AMERIS BANK JACKSONVILLE MARATHON

December 16, 7 a.m.

The Bolles School,
7400 San Jose Boulevard

This Marathon is the oldest in Jacksonville with a percentage of proceeds from the marathon donated to Duval County Public Schools' high school track and cross country teams.

amerisbank.com/jacksonville-marathon/

17

RIVERSIDE AVONDALE LUMINARIA

December 17, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Riverside/Avondale

This decades old holiday tradition in the Riverside/Avondale neighborhoods transforms the area into a winter wonderland. The event includes block parties, light parades and church festivities. Support the Riverside Avondale Preservation by purchasing a luminaria kit.

riversideavondale.org



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2018 January

06

DELICIOUS DESTINATIONS

January 6, 7 p.m.
Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,
200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.
Chefs from some of the nation's
premier resorts showcase their
culinary talents. The event also
includes live and silent auctions, as
well as drawing of unique items
including spa and restaurant gift
certificates, catered dinners and
weekend getaways.
deliciousdestinationsjax.com

16

FLORIDA FORUM – THEO EPSTEIN

January 16, 7 p.m. Ticketed Event.
Times-Union Center,
300 Water Street
Featured speaker for this night is
Theo Epstein, who lead the Chicago
Cubs to their first world series in
over 100 years and is co-founder of a
foundation which has raised millions
for disadvantaged youth in Boston
and Chicago.
[womensboardwolfsonchildrens
hospital.com](http://womensboardwolfsonchildrens
hospital.com)



Senator Bill
Nelson with
Woman's Board
Founder Ellen
Cavert

20

BARK FOR LIFE

January 20, Noon.
Visit website for details.
Dogwood Park, 7407 Salisbury Road
The American Cancer Society Bark
For Life™ is a noncompetitive walk
event for dogs and their owners to
raise funds and awareness for the
American Cancer Society's fight
against cancer.
cancer.org

JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY GALA

January 20, 8 p.m.
Times-Union Center for Performing
Arts, Robert E. Jacoby Symphony
Hall, 100 Water Street
This elegant Jacksonville event
features a cocktail reception, dinner
and performance. This year's featured
artist is Grammy award winning and
National Medal of Arts recipient
Soprano Renee Fleming.
jaxsymphony.org

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION TYPEONE NATION SUMMIT

January 20, Time TBD.
Visit website for details.
UNF, 1 UNF Drive
This one-day, free educational
summit is an opportunity for those
affected with diabetes to network
and gain support as they hear from
doctors, researchers and can view
exhibits.
jdrf.org/northflorida

ANNUAL COLOR ME FED RACE AGAINST HUNGER 5K RUN/WALK

January 20, Time TBD.
Visit website for details.
Burrito Gallery, 90 Riverside Avenue
Join Hunger Fight in their goal to
end hunger in our community by
walking or running in this family
friendly event which includes an
after party.
hungerfight.org



Thomas Mnich, Daniel
Broderick, Celsa Fereiro,
Lena Rouleau



Dave and Hayley Abney with Gracie Register, Kate Buschini and Sarah Skinner

21

44TH ANNUAL WINTER BEACH RUN

January 21, 2 p.m.
Visit website for details.
Sea Walk Pavilion, 1st Street North,
Jacksonville Beach
The winter beach run will help fund
high school cross country and track
teams and also benefits the
Jacksonville Track Club. Following
the run, awards will be handed out to
the top runners in each of the
distance levels, as well as by age
group. Runners are also invited to
stay for the after-race party.
jtcrunning.com

27

FIRST COAST HONORS CHOIR FESTIVAL

January 27, 5 p.m.
Mandarin Presbyterian Church,
2501 Loretto Road
Each year, the JCC sponsors a
day-long program to honor up to 200
local 4th – 7th grade children who
have been recognized by their music
educators. The children spend the
day rehearsing with nationally-rec-
ognized clinicians and conductors.
The event culminates in a concert
performance featuring the Honors
Choir and guest JCC choirs.
jaxchildrenschorus.org

TBD

3RD ANNUAL BOW TIE BASH

January 27, 7-11 p.m.

Intuition Ale Works,
929 East Bay Street

Put on your best bow tie and handle bar mustache for this gala to benefit Youth Ultimate in Jacksonville and Jacksonville Ultimate League High School League to support their youth events.

jaxul.ultimatecentral.com or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jax-gala-2018-bow-tie-bash-tickets-31611675372>

WOLFSON CHILDREN'S CHALLENGE

January 27, 7 a.m.

Visit website for details.

The Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville The Wolfson Children's Challenge is an ultra-marathon event celebrating kids who receive care at Wolfson Children's Hospital. You can be a part of the event by organizing a relay team, signing up as a sponsor or by participating in the other runs. wolfsonchildrenschallenge.com

28

DINNER ON THE FARM

January 28, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Berry Good Farms,
223 Mill Creek Road

North Florida School for Special Education celebrates their horticulture division and their students. Enjoy cocktails, dinner, live music and an art auction to benefit Berry Good Farms.

northfloridaschool.org

ANNUAL OUTSTANDING YOUNG PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Jacksonville Jaycees as they recognize the great, young leaders of Jacksonville and who will also be nominated to the JCI Florida's Outstanding Young Floridians and the U.S. Junior Chamber International's Ten Outstanding Young American Awards. jacksonvillejaycees.org

ANOTHER SIDE REVEALED: ART WITH A HEART EXHIBIT

January – February, Dates & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Florida State College North Campus,
4501 Capper Road

Support Art with a Heart in Healthcare and enjoy a display of amazing artwork by patients and Art with A Heart volunteers.

artwithaheart.info/

BEAM BEACH BALL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Grab your fanciest flip flops and enjoy an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, live entertainment and raffles to support Beaches Emergency Assistance Ministry (BEAM) raise funds to help families in need.

jaxbeam.org

CHOPS FOR CHARITY

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

An event for all cooks and crafters as they join in this backyard BBQ competition to raise funds for Ben's Place, a nonprofit agency for adults and teens with developmental/acquired disabilities.

bensplacecof.org

FIRST COAST WOMEN'S SERVICES
DOWNTOWN ECUMENICAL SERVICES COUNCIL
COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION
SULZBACHER CENTER
WOMEN'S BOARD OF WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

ANGELS FOR
ALLISON

CUMMER MUSEUM OF ART AND GARDENS
COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL

daniel FOUNDATION
ORTEGA RIVER RUN
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

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WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

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Mollie and W.E. "Billy" Sumner III, M.D., Amy and Steven Wacaster, Sala and Ash Pradhan, M.D.

2018 February

01

NORTH FLORIDA LAND TRUST LEGACY AT WHITE OAK

February 1, 3:30 p.m.

White Oak Conservation,
581705 White Oak Road

Show your support for the North Florida Land Trust which focuses on preserving North Florida's natural areas, historic resources and working lands.

northfloridalandtrust.org

02

JACKSONVILLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FUND EDDY AWARDS

February 2, 6 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
225 Coastline Drive

This annual event helps to celebrate Duval County teachers who inspire students and work to improve our schools.

jaxpef.org

03

A NIGHT FOR HEROES

February 3, 6 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
225 East Coastline Drive

An annual gala to benefit UF Health's TraumaOne and to honor the medical professionals and first responders who care for trauma victims. Gala includes dinner, dancing and an auction.

anightforheroes.com



Orla Duffy,
Jane Lanier and
Rayhana Goll



John and Betty Otterson
with Dr. James Schumacher

FIGHT FOR AIR CLIMB

February 3, 8 a.m.

Bank of America Tower,
50 North Laura Street

Join in this unique fundraiser for the American Lung Association that takes place in skyscrapers and stadiums across the country. Walk, run or race up 42 flights of stairs to raise funds for education, research and advocacy to promote lung health and prevent lung disease.

climbjax.org

05

ANGELWOOD SPORTING CLAY SHOOT

February 5, 8 a.m.

Jacksonville Clay Target Sports,
12125 New Berlin Road

Try this fun and exciting sport to benefit Angelwood which helps children and adults with developmental disabilities. Ammo and a BBQ lunch will be provided.

angelwoodjax.org

09

TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION NIGHT TO SHINE

February 9, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This event brings a special prom night experience to young people with special needs. Hundreds of churches from all over the world join with the Tim Tebow Foundation to host the special night for their honored guests.

timtebowfoundation.org

11TH ANNUAL DONNA MARATHON WEEKEND

February 9-11

• DONNA Expo

February 9-10, Friday Noon – 7 p.m.

Saturday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Prime Osborn Convention
Center, 1000 Water St.

• DONNA 10K

February 10, 8 a.m., Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Prime Osborn Convention
Center, 1000 Water St.

• DONNA 5K & Family Fun Run

presented by the Jaguars

Foundation, February 10, 10 a.m.,
Prime Osborn Convention Center,
1000 Water St.

• DONNA Ultra Marathon

February 10-11, 7:30 a.m.

Players Championship
parking lot off ATP Tour Blvd.

• DONNA Marathon,

Half Marathon & Relay

February 11, 7:30 a.m.

Players Championship
parking lot off ATP Tour Blvd.

The DONNA Marathon Weekend fills the City of Jacksonville and its Beaches in Northeast Florida with over 10,000 runners from all 50 states and 20 countries. Participants enjoy a flat, fast Boston-Qualifying marathon course that takes them through four beautiful beach communities with scenic views and an outpouring of crowd support.

There's a reason the event has been recognized by CNN Travel as of the "Seven Marathons Worth the Trip" and "Favorite Charity Race" from the readers of Women's Running Magazine. The event is the national marathon to finish breast cancer. Proceeds help The DONNA Foundation to provide financial assistance and support to families living with breast cancer as well as support for groundbreaking breast cancer research.

breastcancermarathon.com

11

CUMMER BEACHES ANNUAL CELEBRATE! GALA

February 11, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way
Enjoy a fascinating evening at a special gala to benefit The Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

cummuseum.org

16

37TH ANNUAL RED ROSE BALL

February 16, 7 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Marriott,
4670 Salisbury Road

This popular ball is an elegant night of cocktails, dinner and entertainment to help raise funds for the St. Vincent's HealthCare Foundation which provides healthcare to those in need.

jaxhealth.com/foundation/

17

MT. ACOSTA CLASSIC

February 17, 3 p.m.

Visit website for details.

The Haskell Building,
111 Riverside Avenue

This running and cycling event is designed for pure athletes and helps raise funds for the Jared Bynum Scholarship Foundation.

1stplacesports.com

VINTAGE USO STARS & STRIPES DINNER & DANCE

February 17, 6 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Friday Musicale, 645 Oak Street

Come dressed in your Forties best for the 3rd annual fundraiser for Friday Musicale. A portion of the proceeds will go to the USO. Enjoy music from Fascinating Rhythm Orchestra, featuring Harry & Sally. Purchase tickets online.

fridaymusicale.com



Richard Sisisky with Elli Zimmerman, David Stein and Charles Zimmerman

17

CHARITY CHILI COOKOFF

February 17, 3 p.m., Location TBD.

The Jacksonville Bar Association hosts this annual chili cookoff event with proceeds being donating to various local charities each year. Come out and enjoy some of the best chili ever along with live music, drinks and fun for the whole family. jaxbar.org

18

CUPID'S UNDIE RUN

February 18, Noon – 4 p.m.

Fionn MacCool's, 2 Independent Drive
It's okay to step out of the house in your briefs for this fun event which helps raise funds for the Children's Tumor Foundation. Whether you Join a team or run solo, your bound to have a blast while supporting a good cause. ctf.org

20

33RD ANNUAL WOMEN FOR CHRIST LUNCHEON

February 20, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Prime Osborn, 1000 Water Street
This annual luncheon hosted by Women For Christ provides the community with an opportunity to hear Christian speakers. Scheduled speaker for the 2018 luncheon is writer, national speaker and Proverbs 31 Ministry Team member Whitney Capps. jaxwomenforchrist.org

22

THE HEAL VALLEY OF DREAMS GALA

February 22, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.
TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way
This gala kicks off a two-day event to support the HEAL Foundation projects across the First Coast. healautismnow.org

CHILDREN'S CHAMPION AWARDS GALA

February 22, 6-9 p.m.

Omni Jacksonville Hotel
Join Episcopal Children's Services for this wonderful gala as they honor community members, organizations and business who support early childhood education in Jacksonville. ecs4kids.org

23

HEAL: BOBBY WEED'S GOLF GIG

February 23, Time TBD.

Visit website for details
TPC Sawgrass Dye's Valley Course, 110 Championship Way
On day two of HEAL's annual major fundraiser, participants enjoy a day of golf at the magnificent TPC course to help support the HEAL Foundation. healautismnow.org

Episcopal Children's Services

Congratulations to our

2018 Children's Champions!

John A. Delaney
President, University of North Florida

Dr. Richard G. Skinner, Jr.
Retired Pediatrician

Dr. Nathaniel Glover
President, Edward Waters College

Florida Blue
Corporate Honoree

Make plans to join us for the Children's Champion Awards Gala

February 22, 2018, 6 to 9 p.m. | Omni Jacksonville Hotel

Host Committee:
Kristi Valaer Aiello, Peggy and J.F. Bryan IV, Karla Ebio, Debbie Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Russell B. Newton, Jr., Kerry Shewchuk, Heather Surface, and Connie Stophel

For more than 50 years, Episcopal Children's Services has been providing early childhood education programs, using research and best practices to ensure children enter school ready to learn.

Visit ECS4Kids.org or call 904-726-1500 for more information.

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Hank Griffis
with Leslie and
Bobby Weed

23

GARDEN CLUB TRASH & TREASURES FLEA MARKET

February 23, Friday 10-3 and Saturday 8-2

Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue

One of the biggest sales around, where you can find hidden treasures and great bargains from household items and furniture to decorations and jewelry.

gardenclubofjacksonville.org

24

40TH ANNUAL ST. VINCENT'S ORTEGA RIVER RUN

February 24, 8 a.m.

Start/finish at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School, 4114 Oxford Avenue

An event that has become a long-standing tradition in Jacksonville that includes a 1-mile fun run and 5-mile run/walk with prizes and fun all along the route. Proceeds benefit the financial aid and scholarship program at St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.

stmarksdayschool.org

JEWISH COMMUNITY ALLIANCE GALA

February 24, Time TBD.

Visit website for details. Jewish Community Alliance, 8505 San Jose Boulevard

Join the Jewish Community Alliance for their annual gala with a special 30th anniversary celebration for this year's event.

jcjax.org

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS MARTIN LUTHERN KING JR. CONCERT

February 24, 2 p.m.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist, 4001 Hendricks Avenue

All Jacksonville Children's Chorus choirs will perform songs celebrating the life and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr. with special guest choir, Spelman College Glee Club.

jaxchildrenschorus.org

GRAND ANCHOR GALA: PORT OF CALL - NEW ORLEANS

Feb. 24, 6-10 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, 200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Dine and dance to the Chris Thomas Band at the Mardi Gras-themed gala to help raise funds for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida's Project SOS, a teen empowerment organization. Black Tie optional.

bgcnf.org/events/sosgala

RIVERSIDE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL

February 24, 4-7 p.m.

Riverside Arts Market, under the Fuller-Warren Bridge

The Rotary Club of Riverside presents this charity event to raise funds for charitable causes through the Riverside Rotary Foundation.

riversidecraftbeerfestival.com

25

BRASS WINES FOR MUSIC

February 25, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Sponsored by Beaches Residents Actively Supporting the Symphony (BRASS), the evening offers a taste premiere wines and an intimate chamber concert and bid on fine wine and wine dinners at some of the area's top restaurants.

brassonline.org



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Lamb's Yacht Center in the Ortega River Run

TBD

5TH ANNUAL STRIKE OUT HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE BOWLING CHALLENGE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Beach Bowl, 818 Beach Boulevard

Grab your bowling ball and help raise funds for the Huntington's Disease Society of America which helps those with HD, a genetic brain nerve cell disorder.

hdsa.org/nofl

8TH ANNUAL Y-BASH

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the First Coast YMCA as they celebrate the success of the past year and the impact on our community thanks to all of their supporters.

firstcoastymca.org

AMELIA ISLAND CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

February – April,

Visit website for details.

Nassau County Courthouse, 416 Centre Street

Enjoy this year's music festival presented by Amelia Island Chamber Music featuring "The Year of The Piano" with thrilling performances from a wide range of internationally recognized artists.

aicmf.com

CHARIOTS OF FUR BEACH RUN & FESTIVAL

Date, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Seawalk Pavilion, 1st Street North

There is nothing better than a morning run on the beach, especially with your four-legged friend while you help to support St. Francis Animal Hospital. After the run, enjoy a festival with food trucks, music and vendors.

chariotsoffur5k.org

DOWNTOWN JAX GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Cocktails, dining, dancing, silent auction presented by Downtown Vision Inc. to raise funds for the riverfront activation program.

downtownjacksonville.org

FEEDING NORTHEAST FLORIDA CITRUS DRIVE

Date, Time & Locations TBD.

Visit website for details.

Feeding Northeast Florida and Society of St. Andrew volunteers harvest fruit donated by local residents throughout the Jacksonville area. The event helps to save over 40,000 pounds of fresh citrus that would otherwise be lost and distribute it to local food pantries, soup kitchens and senior centers. Volunteers are needed to help harvest fruit. See website for details.

feedingnefl.org

SAN JOSE ROTARY ANNUAL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the San Jose Rotary Club for a day of golf during this annual tournament which helps to raise funds for local charities.

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/2155/>

THROUGH OUR EYES EXHIBIT

The Ritz Theatre and Museum, 829 N. Davis Street. Visit website for details

This year's theme is "Journey to South Africa: A Cultural Exchange", a collaboration with Jacksonville African American artists and artists from Sister City Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, addressing the subject of Struggle and Resistance.

ritzjacksonville.com

Friday MUSICALE

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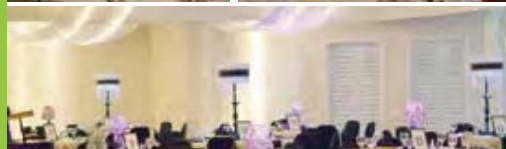
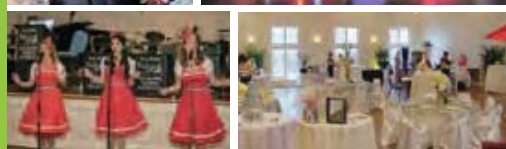
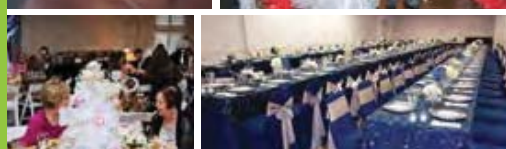
Birthdays

Fundraisers

Quinceanera

Two Unique
Venues

FridayMusicale.com



2018 March

02

WHALE OF A SALE

March 2, 6:30-10 p.m., March 3, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Visit website for details. Greater Agricultural Fairgrounds and Expo Center
One of the Junior League of Jacksonville's most popular fundraisers where participants can find awesome bargains on gently used merchandise. Shoppers can also enjoy great food, drinks and desserts. jacksonville.org

TIM TEBOW CELEBRITY GALA & GOLF CLASSIC

March 2-3, 9 a.m. Gates open to spectators, 10 a.m. Shotgun start. Visit website for details. TPC Sawgrass, 1120 Championship Way
Tim Tebow hosts this special weekend of celebrities to raise funds for the Tim Tebow Foundation's W15H program, Timmy's Playrooms, Tebow CURE Hospital, Orphan Care, Adoption Aid, Night To Shine and Team Tebow. timtebowfoundation.org

03

RETHREADED ANNUAL MUKTI BALL

March 3, 6 p.m. Glass Factory, 601 North Myrtle Street
Join Rethreaded as they celebrate Mukti or "freedom" at this annual gala. The evening includes dinner, shopping, music and poetry readings. rethreaded.com

CUMMER SPRING OPENING DAY & PLANT SALE

March 3, 10 a.m. Visit website for details. Cummer Museum, 829 Riverside Avenue
Kick off a tribute to the gardens with a free family day and plant sale. Celebrate the coming of spring by purchasing new plants from local vendors on the front lawn of the museum. Enjoy "plein air" painting, live music, a family art activity and garden tours throughout the day. cummuseum.org

FIRST COAST HEART & STROKE BALL

March 3, 6:30 p.m. Visit website for details. Marriott Sawgrass, 1000 PGA Tour Boulevard
Join the American Heart Association for an unforgettable evening of hope and entertainment. Each year, community members, medical professionals and corporate leaders come together to celebrate the lifesaving work of the American Heart Association. firstcoastheartball.ahaevents.org

UNF DANCE MARATHON

March 3, 10 a.m.-10:15 p.m. UNF Fieldhouse, 1 UNF Drive
Put on your boogie shoes for a citywide dance marathon with games, food and entertainment, all to support the Children's Miracle Network local pediatric programs. cmnjax.com or <https://events.dancemarathon.com>

26TH ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES BLACK & WHITE GALA

March 3, 6-10 p.m. EverBank Field, U.S. Assure Club East, 1 EverBank Field Drive
All proceeds from this elegant Gala go to benefit local families in crisis through Catholic Charities. Black tie optional. ccbjax.org

05

FLORIDA FORUM – CAROLYN KENNEDY

March 5, 7 p.m. Ticketed Event. Times-Union Center, 300 Water Street
Bringing renowned speakers from around the world, this Wolfson Children's Hospital Women's Board fundraiser has enriched the intellectual and cultural life of Jacksonville for over 25 years. Guest speaker for this night is Carolyn Kennedy, daughter of John F. Kennedy and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan. thefloridaforum.com

07

UPSTREAM PITCH PARTY

March 7, Time & Location TBD. Visit website for details.
After months of research and planning, finalists submit their proposals to a panel of business and community leaders at the United Way's Upstream Pitch Party. The top four ideas chosen are brought to life with a \$10,000 agency-managed grant. Winners work with the agencies to implement their idea. unitedwaynefl.org

08

2ND ANNUAL GIRLS INC. CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

March 8, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. WJCT Studios, 100 Festival Park Avenue
This event raises awareness about global, national and local girl's issues and challenges as well as celebrates achievements of girls and women honorees each year. girlsincjax.org

10TH ANNUAL KELSI YOUNG GIFT OF CARE LUNCHEON

March 8, 6:30 p.m. Visit website for details. Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Blvd.
The Kelsi Leah Young Respite Care Fund provides the gift of respite care to parents or guardians of children in Community PedsCare, the pediatric care program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care. In recognition of the event's 10th anniversary, this milestone celebration will honor the individuals and organizations that have done so much to provide families with access to this invaluable care. kelsi.communityhospice.com



Leslie Pierpont,
William and
Barbara Harrell

15

SHOOT FOR A CURE

March 15, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jax Clay Target Sports,
12125 New Berlin Road

This annual event to raise funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation includes a round of sporting clays, lunch and festivities. Fund raised will help the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation support those with the disease so they can live full and productive lives while also funding research.

cff.org/northfl/

16

TOM COUGHLIN WINE TASTING GALA

March 16, 6:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Wells Fargo Center,
corner of Bay & Laura Streets

Join Tom Coughlin for this special event and sample cuisine from top restaurants and fine wines as you bid on auction items to help raise funds for the Jay Fund.

tcjayfund.org

17

GREENSCAPE ANNUAL ROOTBALL

March 17, 6:30 p.m. Ticketed event.

Jacksonville Zoo, 370 Zoo Parkway

This event is always a fun-filled evening to help support Greenscape. Enjoy cocktails, dinner and dancing at this highly anticipated annual event.

greenscapeofjacksonville.com

ST JOHNS RIVER CLEANUP DAY & CELEBRATION

March 17, Time & Locations TBD. Visit website for details.

50 sites throughout Jacksonville Join in this annual event to help keep our St. Johns River beautiful as volunteers at over 50 sites throughout Jacksonville take part in this cleanup effort which is part of the Florida Great American Cleanup.

stjohnsriverkeeper.org



Stevie Schoof,
Natalie Schoof

19

10TH ANNUAL SHOOT FOR THE STARS GOLF TOURNAMENT

March 19, 10 a.m.

Visit website for details.

San Jose Country Club,
7529 San Jose Boulevard

What a great way to support a special needs school while spending time with friends. Join Morning Star School for a fun day of golf to benefit the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

morningstar-jax.org/golf-tournament/

24

GREENSCAPE TREE FESTIVAL

March 24, 10 a.m.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Fairgrounds

In honor of Arbor Day, Greenscape of Jacksonville will be giving away thousands of trees on a first come first serve basis during this family event. The event will include children's activities, a petting zoo, educational talks and food trucks.

greenscapeofjacksonville.com

2ND ANNUAL WALK TO END HUNGER

March 24, 9 a.m.

Visit website for details.

Burrito Gallery, Brooklyn/Riverside

Get a team together or participate as an individual to help Hunger Fight end hunger on the First Coast.

hungerfight.org

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www.ccbjax.org

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
BLACK & WHITE BALL
MARCH 3, 2018
Us Assure Club West - Everbank Field

Festival of Wine
November 2, 2018

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Putting Compassion Into Action

28

EQUAL PAY DAY LUNCH & LEARN

March 28, Noon -1 p.m.
Garden Club, 1005 Riverside Avenue
Wear your best red outfit and join the American Association of University Women in Jacksonville, Florida in its fight for fair pay. Improving women's salaries through education, legislation and activation.
jaxflaauw.wordpress.com

29

32ND ANNUAL CELEBRITY CHEFS TASTING AND SILENT AUCTION

March 29, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street
This annual spring event is a major fundraiser for the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary. Guests are treated to local celebrities serving up their favorite recipes at several dining stations, a silent auction and a free cookbook of the featured recipes.
salvationarmynefl.org

TBD

ANNUAL SHERIFF'S ROUND-UP BALL

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.
Kick up your heels at this western themed event with great food, gaming tables, dancing and silent auctions, all to benefit the Police Athlete League of Jacksonville.
jaxpal.com

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB JAGUARS NFL FLAG FOOTBALL

March - May, Dates & Times TBD.
Visit website for details.
Mandarin, Beaches, Arlington and Brentwood areas
In partnership with the Jaguars, girls and boys of all levels ages 5-16 are welcome to join in the NFL Flag Football League as you pass, catch and run your way into fun to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.
bgcnf.org



Christy Allen and Grace Sarber


24

WALK THE TALK FOR EPILEPSY

March 24, Time TBD.
Visit website for details.
Metropolitan Park, 1410 Gator Bowl Boulevard
This signature event helps raise funds for the Epilepsy Foundation who helps those facing the challenges of living with epilepsy.
efof.org



Dan and Rosemary Jackson with Gil and Jane Pomar



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**THANKFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
WORKING HARD IS HARD WORK!**

A major new arts education program has been created in North Florida. **The First Coast Youth Orchestras** has been founded under the auspices of First Coast Community Music School as a large ensemble program catering to young musicians from north Florida ... ages 7 through 21.



FCYO
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904-515-5092 | WWW.FIRSTCOASTYO.COM



Dianne Lott, Cathy Damro,
Rita Joost, Rosemarie Thigpen

CATHOLIC CHARITIES CAMP I AM SPECIAL FASHION SHOW

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

St. Matthew's Catholic Church,
1773 Blanding Boulevard

Check out the latest fashions at this spectacular fashion show and help support Catholic Charities' Camp I am Special.

dosacamps.com (904) 230-7447

DANIEL MEMORIAL GOLF & TENNIS CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join in a day of golf or tennis to support the work of Daniel Memorial as they improve the lives of children and families in our community.

danielkids.org

GARDEN CLUB DESIGNER OF DISTINCTION

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details

Garden Club, 1005 Riverside Ave.

This luncheon and lecture to support the Garden Club of Jacksonville features a different design expert/speaker each year.

gardenclubofjacksonville.org

HANK HAYNES MEMORIAL DINNER

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join in the Hank Haynes Memorial Dinner Par-Tee with the Great Grand Champions. An elegant evening with the some of the founding members of the PGA TOUR.

danielkids.org

HAVEN HOSPICE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Fleming Island Golf Club,
2260 Town Center Blvd.

Get ready to tee off for this spectacular golfing event at the beautiful Fleming Island Golf Club to support Haven Hospice.

havenhospice.org

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT HALL OF FAME

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

UNF, 1 UNF Drive

Junior Achievement's annual Hall of Fame event recognizes individuals, companies, and elite supporters who have substantially contributed to Junior Achievement's success and the young people reached locally since 1963.

jajax.com

MUTT MARCH

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This pet walk and festival brings together thousands of animal lovers and their pets to raise funds for the Jacksonville Humane Society. Participants can check out the pet-friendly vendors, see pets available for adoption and a silent auction.

jaxhumane.org

WISH MADNESS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details

Make-A-Wish fundraiser targeted for craft beer loving sports enthusiasts, with discerning palates, ages 25 and up, who enjoy the thrill of college basketball at its finest. The evening will feature live and silent auctions, as well as gourmet cuisine from the area's finest restaurants and local craft breweries while guests watch basketball games on big screens.

cnfl.wish.org

WOMEN UNITED

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The United Way's Women United's signature event. Meet a group of respected women leaders who will share their personal accomplishments, professional achievements and philanthropic philosophies.

unitedwaynefl.org

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01

CITI GOLF TOURNAMENT

April 1, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

San Jose CC, 7929 San Jose Blvd.

Enjoy a day of golf at the beautiful San Jose Country Club to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida in their mission to help young people realize their potential and become productive citizens.

bgcnf.org

06

CUMMER AMELIA SPRING GARDEN WALK

April 6-7, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Omni Amelia Island Plantation, 39 Beach Lagoon Road

Welcome spring with a peek at selected Amelia Island Plantation private gardens and a tour at the Omni Resort's hydroponic greenhouse and bee hives. Proceeds benefit the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

cummERMuseum.org



Jim, Emma and Susan Towler

SUBARU BASCA GOLF CLASSIC

April 6, 12:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Eagle Harbor Golf Course, 2217 Eagle Harbor Pkwy.

Premier annual fundraiser for Building Abilities of Special Children & Adults (BASCA) to fund items for BASCA programs and services. Sponsored by Subaru of Jacksonville, which will have a Hole-in-One contest for a brand new Subaru.

bascainc.org

07

COUNTRY FAIR JAMBOREE & WALK A COUNTRY MILE

April 7, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Complete with a country store and saloon, this fun-filled event will help to support the North Florida School For Special Education. Live country bands, BBQ, pony rides and a fish fry will also be part of the event.

northfloridaschool.org



Kasey Repass and Leslie Burkhalter with Brooks Biagini

23RD ANNUAL EXZOOBERATION

April 7, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway

Annual evening fundraiser to benefit the zoo and gardens, raising funds for the care and feeding of the animals and plants, educational programs and conservation projects.

jacksonvillezoo.org

JDRF ONE WALK: WALK TO CURE DIABETES

April 7, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Metropolitan Park, 4110 Gator Bowl Boulevard

Lace up your walking shoes and gather a team for this fun walk while you help the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation fund life-changing research.

jdrf.org/northflorida

JACKSONVILLE WALK TO DEFEAT ALS

April 7, 8:30 a.m. check-in

Seven Bridges Grille & Brewery, 9735 Gate Pkwy N

More than just a 2-mile trek, the Walk to Defeat ALS® is an opportunity to bring hope to people living with ALS, to raise money for a cure, and to come together for something you care about.

web.alsa.org

BLOOMS GALORE & MORE PLANT SALE

April 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Garden Club of Jacksonville, 1005 Riverside Avenue

This anticipated, annual event is a tremendous sale of plants, garden items and art. Proceeds benefit the Garden Club of Jacksonville.

gardenclubofjacksonville.org

MOSH MINI MAKER FAIRE

April 7, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

MOSH, 1025 Museum Circle

The Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth will feature makers exhibiting their work in STEM fields such as robotics, engineering, electronics and other disciplines like carpentry, metalworking, wearables & textiles. Makers will have hands-on exhibits, host demonstrations, and lead workshops.

themosh.org



Bill Courtney with Muffet Corse and Owene Courtney



Jody
and Janne
Brandenburg

11

CUMMER MUSEUM GARDEN CONSERVANCY DAY

April 11, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Cummer Museum,
829 Riverside Avenue

Join the museum as part of the Open Days Program for a tour of the Cummer Gardens and self-guided tour of a number of private gardens representing designs at all levels of intricacy. Knowledgeable volunteers will be on hand in each garden to answer your questions.

cummermuseum.org

12

ONEJAX 2018 HUMANITARIAN AWARDS

April 12, 5:30 p.m.

Prime Osborn Convention Center,
1000 Water Street

Help celebrate the people making a difference in the community who will be honored by OneJax at this special dinner.

onejax.org (904) 620-1JAX

28TH ANNUAL GIRL SCOUTS WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

April 12, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Marriott,
4670 Salisbury Road

Support the Girl Scouts Gateway Council as it recognizes role models for young girls by honoring women from the Northeast Florida community for their professional accomplishments.

girlscouts-gateway.org

13

PARTY OF THE DECADES 2018

April 13, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

A Junior League of Jacksonville fundraiser to benefit their many charitable projects.

jljacksonville.org

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

April 13, 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Courthouse Atrium, 214 N. Hogan Street

An exciting night of special highlights, live and silent auctions, food and live music all to benefit volunteer recruitment and training for the Guardian ad Litem Program.

galfirstcoast.org

GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE GALA

April 13, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse,
110 Championship Way

Enjoy a special themed evening with music, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and live and silent auctions to benefit Gabriel House.

gabrielhouseofcare.org

14

RELAY FOR LIFE – NORTH ST. JOHNS

April 14, Noon-10 p.m.

Bartram Trail High School,
7399 Longleaf Pine Parkway

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/bartramfl



Missie Sarra LePrell,
Kathy Hartley and
Darlene Hinson

Our mission with the 'Feed the Backpacks' initiative is to provide our nutritious meals over the weekends for food insecure and hungry children in our school districts. Join us in our efforts to address an issue impacting 60,000+ elementary students across the First Coast.

Donate today to Hunger Fight:
hungerfight.org/get-involved/feed-the-backpacks-initiative

TOGETHER, WE WILL CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT TYPE 1 DIABETES (T1D)

IMPROVING LIVES. CURING TYPE 1 DIABETES.

northflorida.jdrf.org

Join us in turning
type one into
type none

JDRF North Florida
9700 Philips Highway, Suite 106
Jacksonville, FL 32256
(904) 739-2101

14

**DAILY'S FIT-4 LIFE
KIDS DUATHLON**

April 14, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Riverside Presbyterian Day School,
830 Oak Street

This event hosted by Riverside Presbyterian Day School, helps to teach children about living healthy and active lifestyles and features a run, bike, run duathlon for children ages five to 15.

rpds.com**BETTY GRIFFIN HOUSE
RUN FOR PEACE 5K**

April 14, 6:30 a.m.

St. Augustine Beach Pier Pavilion,
350 A1A Beach Blvd.

Event to benefit Betty Griffin House, in its 26th year providing free services to victims of domestic and sexual abuse. All proceeds are used to help end domestic and sexual violence. Visit website to register.

bettygriffinhouse.org**RELAY FOR LIFE
— SOUTHEAST JACKSONVILLE**

April 14, 2-10 p.m.

Adventure Landing,
1944 Beach Boulevard

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/southeastjaxfl

Acosta Sales & Marketing

**AVONDALE PRESERVATION
SPRING TOUR OF HOMES**April 14-15, Saturday 10-5,
Sunday 12-5

This annual spring event includes touring some of the most beautiful and historic homes in the Riverside/Avondale Historic District. The tour helps raise funds for the Riverside Avondale Preservation.

riversideavondale.org

15

TAKE STEPS WALK

April 15, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

There's nothing better than a walk along the beach on a spring morning as you help raise funds for the Crohns & Colitis Foundation. Jacksonville Seawalk Pavilion, 1st Street North

cctakesteps.org/jacksonville**UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST
FLORIDA NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER WEEK**

April 15 – 21, Time & Locations TBD.

Visit website for details.

The United Way of Northeast Florida hosts this weeklong event which provides various volunteer opportunities.

unitedwaynefl.orgRuss Taylor,
Anna Dooley,
Julian Newland
and Pam Taylor

16

ANGELWOOD GOLF CLASSICApril 16, Jacksonville Golf & Country
Club. Visit website for details.

One of the best annual golf tournaments around in support of Angelwood's Programs for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Lunch, prizes and awards.

angelwoodjax.org

17

**CELEBRATION 2018
LEADERSHIP JAX**

April 17, 6 p.m.

Jessie Ball duPont Center,
40 East Adams Street

Join Leadership Jacksonville at their annual Celebration as they honor Susan Greene and Janet Owens as outstanding community leaders and recognize Bill Brinton with The Frederick H. Schultzs Lifetime Achievement Award. Proceeds support Leadership Jacksonville's youth programs.

leadershipjax.org

18

MDA 2018 MUSCLE WALK

April 18, 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

The Jacksonville Landing,
2 Independent Drive

This is more than a walk. MDA Muscle Walk is a life-changing experience that unites families, friends, neighbors and local businesses to forge powerful connections, celebrate the strength of MDA families and transform hope into answers.

mda.org

19

4TH ANNUAL MARY AWARDS

April 19, 6:30 p.m.

Visit website for details.

San Jose Country Club,
7529 San Jose Blvd.

The Mary Awards honor the courage and willingness of young women (seniors in high school) who are serving God through their faith community and serving their neighbor.

[Jaxhealth.com/foundation/
the-mary-awards/](http://Jaxhealth.com/foundation/the-mary-awards/)

20

CORKS & FORKS

April 20, 6:30pm

Visit website for details.

Hilltop Restaurant, 2030 Wells Road

Enjoy a delightful evening at this anticipated annual fundraiser with elegant wines and culinary delights created by the area's best chefs.

Proceeds benefit St. Vincent's Medical Center Clay County.

jaxhealth.com/foundation

STAGGERWING & RADICAL REUNION

April 20-22, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Craig Airport, 855-1 St. Johns Bluff Rd N.

This event, which originally began as a fly-in for Beechcraft Staggerwing owners, is for everyone interested in round-engine aircraft. The event will help support Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida.

bgcnf.org or radicalreunion.com

21

KATIE RIDE FOR LIFE

April 21, Time & Start Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This outstanding cycling event is a nine-island coastal ride through beautiful Amelia Island which helps to support the Katie Caples Foundation's organ donor education program. The event features various course lengths, an off-the-road course and a family fun ride walk/run and a "virtual ride."

katiecaples.org

SHOWCASE OF THE PERFORMING ARTS

April 21, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

University of North Florida, Lazzara Performance Hall, 1 UNF Drive

Enjoy an evening of wonderful performances in theatre, ballet, step, jazz and more by Cathedral Arts Project students.

capkids.org

11TH ANNUAL GIRLS INC.

DADDY/DAUGHTER DANCE

April 21, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Water Street

Dads and daughters are sure to have a special time together at this fundraiser for Girls Inc. of Jacksonville sponsored by The Jacksonville Jaguars. The dance will feature a fun photo booth and a candy station.

girlsincjax.org

ST. MARK'S FESTIVE EVENING & AUCTION

April 21, 6 p.m.

St. Mark's 4114 Oxford Avenue

Enjoy an evening of fun, fine dining and an auction with hundreds of items to benefit St. Mark's Episcopal Day School.

stmarksdayschool.org

MCGALA

April 21, 6 p.m.

Sawgrass Marriott,

1000 PGA Tour Boulevard

This annual gala brings guests together for a night of dinner, an incredible silent auction and plenty of dancing - all to support the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

rmhcjacksonville.org

WALK MS JACKSONVILLE

April 21, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details

This annual fundraising event brings the community together for a day of fun outdoors to help those living with MS and work toward ending MS. Friends & families of those living with or affected by MS, caring individuals and corporate teams walk 5K or fully accessible 1-Mile routes.

walkms.org



Missie Sarra LePrell

AS A LOCAL BARTRAM/BOLLES GRADUATE, MISSIE WAS TAUGHT EARLY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING AND SHE HAS CHanneled THIS LIFE LESSON WITH HER JUNIOR LEAGUE OF JACKSONVILLE ACTIVITIES AS WELL AS OTHER VOLUNTEER CAPACITIES OVER THE YEARS. HER REAL ESTATE OFFICE IS DESIGNATED A MIRACLE OFFICE BY THE CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS FOR ITS OUTSTANDING AND ONGOING FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

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21

**RELAY FOR LIFE
- ST. AUGUSTINE**

April 21, Noon-10 p.m.

St. Augustine High School,
3205 Varella Avenue

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/staugustinefl**35TH VISION IS PRICELESS
BBQ & WESTERN**

April 21, 5-9 p.m.

Jacksonville Fairgrounds,
510 Fairground Place

Don't miss this countrified event that includes home cooked BBQ, silent and live auctions plus, live entertainment - all to benefit Vision Is Priceless.

visionispriceless.org

23

**JACKSONVILLE SCHOOL FOR
AUTISM CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

April 23, 9 a.m.

Deerwood Country Club,
10239 Golf Club Drive

Have a great day of golf and lunch at the beautiful Deerwood Country Club to support the Jacksonville School for Autism.

jsakids.orgMichael Price and
Mark Lodinger

24

**RIVER GARDEN
AUXILIARY SPECIAL
EVENT & FASHION SHOW**

April 24, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual luncheon and special event helps to support the River Garden Foundation in their work to subsidize the immediate needs of the people who call River Garden their home.

rivergarden.org

25

**22ND ANNUAL RIVER
GARDEN GOLF CLASSIC**

April 25, 10 a.m.

Visit website for details.

Deerwood Country Club,
10239 Golf Club Drive

The Annual River Garden Golf Classic raises funds to benefit The Albert Z. Fleet Geriatric Training Center at River Garden. The Training Center provides continuing education, training and professional advancement for staff.

rivergarden.org

26

**25TH ANNUAL EXCHANGE
CLUB FAMILY CENTER ABUSE
PREVENTION CONFERENCE**

April 26, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

UNF Herbert University Center,
12000 Alumni Drive

"Overcoming Challenges Facing Families" themes this year's CAP Luncheon & Conference, with keynote speaker Kyle Pruett, author of Partnership Parenting, and conference speaker Maia Szalavitz, award-winning neuroscience author of The Unbroken Brain. Proceeds support the Exchange Club Family Center.

exchangeclubfamilycenter.com**20TH ANNUAL GUNS & HOSES
CHARITY BOXING TOURNAMENT**

April 26, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Veterans Memorial Arena,
300 A. Philip Randolph Boulevard

This rumble in the River City sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Foundation, brings together police and firefighters for a men's and women's amateur charity boxing tournament as they compete for the coveted championship.

gunsnhosesjax.comFarley and Tina Grainger with
Paul Grainger and Allison Ortega

27

**14TH ANNUAL SPRING
FOR THE ARTS**

April 27, 6:30 p.m.

The River Club, 1 Independent Drive

This annual event is one of the Cathedral Arts Project's major fundraisers and features auction items, food and wonderful performances by CAPkids. Call (904) 281-5599 for information.

capkids.org

28

RELAY FOR LIFE - RIVERSIDE

April 28, Location & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

www.relayforlife.org/riversidefl**JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S
CHORUS WOMEN
IN SONG CONCERT**

April 28, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist,
4001 Hendricks Avenue

All Jacksonville Children's Chorus choirs perform during this special concert which includes a special guest artist.

jaxchildrenschorus.org**8TH ANNUAL STRIDES
FOR PRIDE 5K**

April 28, 8 a.m.

Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

This annual run/walk sponsored by the Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN) helps to show support for LGBTQ young people in our community. Join the event as an individual or put together a team for the event.

jasmyyn.org

29

**HEAL AUTISM WALK
AT THE ZOO**

April 29, 7:30 a.m.

Jacksonville Zoo, 370 Zoo Parkway

Join thousands of participants as they walk around the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens to help the Heal Foundation assist individuals in Northeast Florida who are living with Autism.

healautismnow.org**BRASS ANNUAL
DINNER AND CONCERT**

April 29, 6 p.m.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,
200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

The Beaches Residents Actively Supporting The Symphony (BRASS) annual Dinner and Concert is the most anticipated event of the season. Cocktails, dinner and a Jacksonville Symphony concert with a live auction featuring one-of-a-kind items including conducting the symphony at next year's dinner and in-home concerts by members of the Jacksonville Symphony.

brassonline.org

TBD

14TH ANNUAL TEAM HOPE WALK

Time, Date & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual walk helps the Huntington's Disease Society of America support those faced with Huntington's Disease, a genetic disorder that affects nerve cells in the brain.

hdsa.org/nofl

15TH ANNUAL NEFAR CHARITABLE BASS TOURNAMENT

Date & Time TBD.

Palatka City Dock

The charity bass fishing tournament benefits Haven Hospice with 100 percent of all sponsorships, donations and tournament proceeds going to the organization. The funds raised help Haven Hospice to provide assistance for families in Northeast Florida communities.

nefarcharitablefoundation.org



Dewitt Gibbs, Judge Gary Flower, Ed Witt, Jr., Glenn Brown, Fred Johnston, Ronnie Roberts and Ladd Roberts

19TH ANNUAL BUILDERS CLASSIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Atlantic Beach Country Club,
1600 Selva Marina Drive

The tournament supports Beaches Habitat for Humanity, to continue to build affordable housing at the beaches.

www.beacheshabitat.org

ACE FOR KIDS GOLF CLASSIC

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

St. Johns Golf & Country Club,
205 St. Johns Golf Drive

Enjoy a day of golf at the beautiful St. Johns Golf & Country Club by joining this scramble format tournament to benefit The Children's Miracle Network. The event includes dinner and awards ceremony.

aceforekidsgolfclassic.com

AN EVENING OF TASTE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual fund raising event benefiting the Children's Home Society, is a true culinary delight with an exclusive selection of food, fine wines and elegant music.

chsfl.org/buckner

WE CHOOSE
*comfort.
love.
giving.*

**WHEN FACING ADVANCED ILLNESS,
COMMUNITY HOSPICE & PALLIATIVE CARE
IS HERE TO HELP.**

Thanks to generous donations and support from our community, we've been able to provide compassionate care and knowledgeable guidance to more than 200,000 patients since 1979.

Community
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SAVE THE DATE

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2018

Duval County Courthouse
5:30pm - 9:30pm

- Tasty Bites
- Bubbly Beverages
- Auction Bidding
- Behind the Scenes Tours
- The Chris Thomas Band

Benefiting GAL's recruitment and training of courtroom advocates for abused, neglected and abandoned children with an Emerald City worthy event!

GAL
Guardian ad Litem Foundation
of Florida's First Coast, Inc.
VOICES FOR CHILDREN

FOR TICKETS & MORE INFO: GALfirstcoast.org

TBD

ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION AT MOCA

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Museum of Contemporary Art
Jacksonville, 333 N. Laura Street

Enjoy this catered reception and purchase unique art by Mainspring Academy students to show support of the school which helps students with special needs.

mainspringacademy.org**ATLANTIC CIRCLE: COCKTAILS & CONVERSATIONS**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The United Way of Northeast Florida's Atlantic Circle holds this signature event each year giving young professionals the opportunity to connect with community leaders during roundtable discussions.

unitedwaynefl.org**BOB SNODGRASS MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual tournament helps to support Greyhounds As Pets in their mission to find homes for hundreds of Greyhounds each year.

greyhoundpetsjax.org**BOWL FOR KIDS SAKE**

Date, Time and Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Bowl America Mandarin,
10333 San Jose Boulevard

Gather your friends, family and coworkers for some fun at this bowling fundraiser to help Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northeast Florida and help change kid's lives.

bbbsnefl.org**CORNHOLE FOR A CAUSE**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Spend a fun and relaxing day at beach for this Jacksonville Area Legal Aid's fundraiser and gather a team for the Cornhole Tournament. Proceeds help Jacksonville Legal Aid to provide legal assistance to low income and special needs groups.

jaxlegalaid.org**CUMMER BALL**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens,
829 Riverside Avenue

This black tie event is the Cummer Museum's premier fundraiser. Guests enjoy an evening of the finest art collections, dinner and live music at one of Jacksonville's great cultural treasures.

cummuseum.org**DANIEL BACKYARD BBQ CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Get ready to eat some of the best BBQ around as amateur and professional teams compete in this recipe contest to raise funds for Daniel Memorial. The event not only includes awesome BBQ but live entertainment and games.

danielkids.org**DINING OUT FOR LIFE IN JACKSONVILLE**

Date, Time & Locations TBD.

Visit website for details.

Dine out at participating restaurants and a portion of their proceeds for the night will go to the Northeast Florida Aids Network.

nfanjax.orgDiane Boyle,
Carol Harrison,
Gina Fishman and
Shannon Connell**JOSEPH A. STRASSER BUTTERFLY FESTIVAL**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Tree Hill Nature Center,
7152 Lone Star Road

This wonderful nature festival includes butterfly release, vendors and more to benefit Tree Hill Nature Center.

treehill.org**REVERSE RAFFLE TO BENEFIT KIDS FIRST FLORIDA**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy an evening of dinner, dancing and a reverse raffle grand prize to support families served by Clay Behavioral Health and Kids First Florida.

ccbhc.org**RITZ CHAMBER PLAYERS ANNUAL HAT LUNCHEON**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This elegant luncheon features delicious food and the world-class Ritz Chamber Players. Proceeds help to support the Ritz Chamber Music Society as they bring appreciation of chamber music to the community through performances and educational outreach.

ritzchamberplayers.org**WALK FOR WISHES**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This two-mile, easy-going walk is not only relaxing but will help support the Make A Wish Foundation of Central and Northern Florida.

cnfl.wish.org**MDA MUSCLE WALK**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Help raise funds and awareness for the MDA at this fun, family walk which supports those with muscle-debilitating diseases.

mdamusclewalk.org**MYSTERY TRIP SUITCASE PARTY**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Malone's Air Charter,
855-121 St. Johns Bluff Road

This unique fundraiser for the Independent Living Resource Center is a mystery fun-filled evening with a chance to win a surprise dinner destination by airplane, boat or limo.

theilrc.org**RELAY FOR LIFE - CLAY COUNTY**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

www.relayforlife.org/claycountyflVanessa Holland with Tiffany Massey,
Kasey Wagner, and Molly and Lenny CurryKay and
Michael
Fellows

KOREAN BEEF SHORTRIBS

with bulgogi marinade

**Napa Cabbage
Kimchi** made
in-house at Black Sheep

Grits from Logan
Turnpike, Blairsville, GA

Benne Seeds
from Anson Mills,
Columbia, SC

Eggs from Black Hog
Farm, East Palatka, FL



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05

6TH ANNUAL DERBY RUN

May 5, 4-8 p.m.

Tringali Barn, 7310 U.S. 1 South, St. Augustine

The spirit of the South's swankiest affair visits St. Augustine for the 6th Annual Derby Run, a festive party and live screening of the Run for the Roses that benefits Community Hospice & Palliative Care support in St. Augustine and St. Johns County.

derbyrun.communityhospice.com

7TH ANNUAL MORNING STAR SCHOOL GALA & AUCTION

May 5, 6 pm. Visit website for details.

Haskell, 111 Riverside Avenue

Join Morning Star for a "Cinco de Mayo" themed evening of fine dining, cocktails and dancing while bidding on hundreds of silent auction items to benefit Morning Star School, the only special education school in the Diocese of St. Augustine.

morningstar-jax.org/gala-auction/

BEST BUDDIES FRIENDSHIP WALK

May 5, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Seawalk Pavilion, Jacksonville Beach

Take a stroll near the beach to help support Best Buddies raise awareness and funds to support individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

bestbuddiesflorida.org

RUN FOR THE ROSES DERBY DAY SOIREE

May 5, Time TBD.

Visit website for details

Deerwood Country Club,

10239 Golf Club Drive

A night of fun featuring "derby day" events with dinner, drinks – especially mint juleps. Proceeds help support Pine Castle programs.

pinecastle.org



David and Debra Marle

JOCKEYS & JULEPS

May 5, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Junior League of Jacksonville, 2165 Park St.

This fun event offers participants a chance to enjoy a fun Derby Day party to benefit the Junior League of Jacksonville.

jljacksonville.org

MARCH FOR BABIES

– FIRST COAST

May 5, 8 a.m.

Jacksonville University,

2800 University Boulevard North

This family event which helps raise funds for the March of Dimes, includes food and activities for kids.

Join a team or form your own.

Doggies are also welcome along the route.

marchofdimes.org/florida

THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K

May 5, 8 a.m.

Back nine of TPC Sawgrass,

110 Championship Way

Help the Donna Foundation in its support for breast cancer patients by participating in this great 5K event.

breastcancermarathon.com

RELAY FOR LIFE

– SAN MARCO/SAN JOSE

May 5, 3-9 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Bolles School, 7400 San Jose Blvd.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/sanmarcosanjoefl

9TH ANNUAL RIVERHOPS

May 5, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual gourmet dinner benefits the North Florida School of Special Education. Guests will enjoy live music, cocktails, gourmet food and a silent auction all at a beautiful riverfront location.

northfloridaschool.org

06

7TH ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE JEWISH FOOD FESTIVAL

May 6, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Congregation Ahavath Chesed, 8727 San Jose Boulevard

This annual event is the largest fundraiser for Congregation Ahavath Chesed Temple and features over 20 different restaurants and caterers providing authentic Jewish food such as brisket sliders, matzah ball soup, latkas, kugel bagels, lox and more.

thetemplejacksonville.org

08

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP

May 8-13, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

It's one of the most talked about events on the First Coast where you can be a part of sports history. Held at the beautiful TPC in Sawgrass, several fundraisers throughout the tournament benefit local charities.

pgatour.com



Kathleen and Anne Pajdic with Helen Nicholson

10

UNITED WAY VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

May 10, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This event recognizes all of United Way's volunteers for their time and dedication to Northeast Florida.

unitedwaynefl.org

VISUAL ARTS SHOWCASE

May 10, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville University Alexander Brest Gallery, 2800 University Blvd.

Showcasing student work is a mainstay of CAP programs, serving as a reward for students' hard work and reinforcing self-confidence.

Come enjoy CAP's young artists as they proudly share their work which spans a variety of artistic media.

capkids.org/showcase/

JOURNEY 2 KINDNESS SUITCASE PARTY & AWARDS

May 10, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

San Jose Country Club, 7529 San Jose Boulevard

Join the American Civility Association as they honor their Kindness Hero of The Year and help to eliminate bullying and violence in our local schools. The event features a silent auction, music, fun and chance to win a special getaway.

americancivility.org

17

29TH WOLFSON CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL BASS TOURNAMENT

May 17-19, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.

Palatka City Docks, South 3rd Street

Enjoy some of the best Bass fishing around at this second largest tournament in the U.S. Funds raised support Wolfson Children's Hospital.

foundation.baptistjax.com

18

GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON

May 18, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join in the American Heart Association's Go Red For Women national initiative at this local event and help fight heart disease.

firstcoastgored.heart.org

20

JAY FUND ANNUAL CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

May 20-21, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

This annual golf classic brings out a line-up of both national and local sports celebrities to support the Jay Fund. The tournament includes dinner at the elegant TPC Sawgrass clubhouse with a live and silent auction.

tcjayfund.org



Bert Livingston with
Melanie Jensen and
Georgia Winegeart



Volunteering at THE PLAYERS is a way to be part of an event that gives millions of dollars back to the community.
New volunteer registration begins January 2, 2018.

For more information, visit
THEPLAYERSvolunteers.com.



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13

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NORTH FLORIDA GOLF CLASSIC

May 23, shotgun start 8:30 a.m.

THE PLAYERS Championship,
100 PGA TOUR Boulevard

The JA of North Florida Golf Classic is a high-end tournament to support Junior Achievement of North Florida, which provides students with programs in financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce preparation. Treat yourself, key staff, and your clients to the TPC Course and reserve a foursome for the tournament.

jajax.com



Deborah McKinney
and Lauren Clark

15

ANOTHER SIDE REVEALED: ART WITH A HEART EXHIBIT

May 25, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.
Jacksonville Main Library,
303 N Laura Street

Support Art with a Heart in Healthcare and enjoy an amazing display of artwork by patients and Art with A Heart volunteers.

artwithaheart.info/

TBD

17TH ANNUAL SAM KOUVARIS DREAMS COME TRUE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

San Jose Country Club,
7529 San Jose Boulevard

Join Sam Kouvaris as he hosts the annual tournament to support programs and services of Dreams Come True.

dreamscometrue.org



Tom and Kathy VanOsdol, Artis Gilmore,
Michael Howland, Melissa and Jason Nelson

A NIGHT AT ROY'S

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Roy's Restaurant, 2400 3rd Street S.,
Jacksonville Beach

This annual, Hawaiian-themed luau will help support the Monique Burr Foundation. Enjoy Hawaiian inspired food prepared by Chef Roy Yamaguchi along with tropical cocktails, live music and a silent auction.

moniqueburrfoundation.org

ACHIEVERS FOR LIFE CELEBRATION

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

More than 900 students and their families enjoy carnival fun and a BBQ dinner at this United Way celebration. The Achievers For Life initiative provides family support, mentors and help for middle school students as well as enhances parent engagement in student's education.

unitedwaynefl.org

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TBD

**ANGELS FOR ALLISON
ANGELS ARTIST SERIES**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Local artists display their interpretations of angels in sculptures and paintings with artwork being auctioned to raise funds for the Foundation. Guests also enjoy food and drinks as they brose through the beautiful artwork.

angelsforallison.org

**ANNUAL HUG A
SURVIVOR FESTIVAL**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Ackerman Cancer Center,
10881 San Jose Boulevard

Hug a survivor is a celebration of all cancer survivors in the Jacksonville community. All proceeds will benefit the First Coast Cancer Foundation to help patients currently undergoing cancer treatment pay for treatment-related expenses.

hugasurvivor.com

**ANNUAL MIRACLE ON
ASHLEY STREET CELEBRITY
WAITERS & SERVERS**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Clara White Mission,
613 West Ashley Street

Nearly 100 local celebrities come together to wait on tables at this annual event with all proceeds going to the Clara White Mission's programs for the homeless.

clarawhitemission.org

**BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S
FASHION SHOW
& SILENT AUCTION**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

In the true spirit of the Audrey Hepburn classic, this fashion show event will help raise funds for the Foster Closet which supports Northeast and Central Florida's foster children.

fostercloset.org



Ann Holt, Sarah Holt, Keith Holt and Anna Gwin

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Florida Blue 
Foundation

TBD

CULTURAL COUNCIL ANNUAL ARTS AWARDS GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville at this wonderful arts celebration to honor artists and businesses who have helped enhance art and culture in the Jacksonville community.

culturalcouncil.org

FIESTA DE MAYO

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy an all you-can-eat taco bar, festive cocktails at this annual fundraiser to benefit Sulzbacher Beaches Clinic.

sulzbachercenter.org

FINFEST: ROLLING ON THE RIVER

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The annual themed event is filled with music, dancing and an auction. Proceeds benefit the Jacksonville Speech & Learning Center which provides therapy for all ages, children through adults, regardless of ability to pay.

shcjax.org

FREED TO RUN

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Support Jacksonville area litigator and Jacksonville Area Legal Aid pro bono attorney Michael Freed for this six-day marathon where he will run from the Tallahassee Supreme Court to the Duval County Courthouse. The event is designed to raise awareness and funds Jacksonville Legal Aid to bring legal services to the low income community.

jaxlegalaid.org



Carol Belcher,
Goldie Lansky,
and Harry Frisch

GREAT STRIDES 5K WALK

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Get a team of family, friends and co-workers to help raise funds to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. This family friendly event includes activities for children, food and entertainment.

cff.org/northfl/

MAINSRING ACADEMY ANNUAL GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

A fun-filled evening for parents, staff and the community to celebrate Mainspring Academy and raise funds for student scholarships and continuing education for teachers.

mainspringacademy.org

MEDICINE & MIRACLES

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Double Tree Jacksonville Riverfront, 1201 Riverplace Boulevard

Enjoy an evening with Jacksonville Jaguars coaches and players as they entertain and compete for tips as your waiters. Funds raised will support the pediatric programs at UF Health and Wolfson.

cmnjax.com

PAJCIC & PAJCIC YARD GOLF BENEFIT & HAPPY HOUR

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Help support Jacksonville Area Legal Aid by participating in this fun yard golf event which features plenty of entertainment for the whole family. Proceeds help Jacksonville Legal Aid to provide legal assistance to low income and special needs groups.

jaxlegalaid.org



Janice and Richard Brock
with Philip Boyce

RAYO DE MAYO

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

After all the Cinco de Mayo celebrations, there is still one more reason for a party while you help support Aquajax and their work to bring a world-class aquarium to the City of Jacksonville. Guest enjoy a night of food, drinks, raffles and silent auctions to benefit Aquajax.

aquajax.net

RELAY FOR LIFE – BAKER COUNTY

Date & Time. Visit website for details.

Memorial Park, 160 West Boulevard, Macclenny

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/bakerfl

RELAY FOR LIFE – METRO JACKSONVILLE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/metrojacksonvillefl

RISING STARS!

Date TBD, 6-9 p.m.

Visit website for details

The Florida Theatre, 128 E. Forsyth St. The 3rd Annual "Rising Stars!" event consists of a cocktail hour, silent auction and student talent show, with a local celebrity emcee and a student emcee, where 10 acts of students of all ages perform. The event helps continue dropout prevention programs in 37 Duval County Public Schools and helps over 7,500 at-risk students.

cisjax.org/rising-stars/



Katie Ann Sider
with Patty Heard

UNITED WAY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION

Date, Time & Location TBA.

Visit website for details.

The United Way of Northeast Florida hosts this fundraising campaign celebration and close for the community.

unitedwaynefl.org

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2018 June & July

08

AN EVENING IN WINE COUNTRY

June 8, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

UNF, 1 UNF Drive

Spend a wonderful evening of sampling fabulous wines as you help support Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeast Florida in their mission to help young people realize their potential and become productive citizens.

bgcnf.org

8TH ANNUAL SERVING UP A CURE TENNIS TOURNAMENT

June 8-10, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Deerwood Country Club,

10239 Golf Club Drive

Grab your racket and join in this weekend-long tournament to raise funds for Gabriel House of Care, an extended-stay hospitality house for cancer and organ transplant patients who are receiving medical care away from home.

servingupacure.com

15

2ND ANNUAL CHAMPIONS FOR HOPE CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

June 15-16 Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way
Join the Funk-Zitiello Foundation as they host this two-day event at the beautiful TPC Sawgrass. Proceeds from the tournament and welcome gala will benefit the J.T. Townsend Foundation and pancreatic research with the Mayo Clinic

championsforhopegolf.com

16

11TH ANNUAL CLAY ROBERTS MEMORIAL INSHORE SLAM AND JUNIOR ANGLER TOURNAMENT

June 16, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Beach Marine at 2315 Beach Boulevard
Proceeds benefit the Clay Roberts Memorial Scholarship awarded to a graduating senior. The tournament brings families and friends together on the water and promotes appreciation of our natural waterways. Enjoy a day of fishing, food and music.

fishwithclay.com or inriverocean.org

21

LIVE UNITED: DAY OF ACTION

June 21, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The United Way invites people and organizations around the world to LIVE UNITED and take action and help put their mission into action by volunteering to improve the building blocks for a good quality of life – education, financial stability and health.

unitedwaynefl.org

22

COMING OUT MONOLOGUES

June 22, 7 p.m.,

June 23, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

WJCT Studios, 100 Festival Park Avenue

The 7th annual storytelling project and fundraiser for JASMYN and PFLAG, nonprofit groups which advocate and provide support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth and adults.

jasmyyn.org

TBD

3RD ANNUAL CHIP AWAY HUNGER GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy contests, prizes and a day of golf to support Hunger Fight in feeding needy families in Northeast Florida.

hungerfight.org

13TH ANNUAL TASTE OF GOLF

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Pamper yourself with an evening of magnificent culinary creations and fine wines to benefit The First Tee of North Florida. Chefs from the area's finest golf and country clubs will be preparing a delicious feast to be enjoyed in a beautiful setting.

tasteofgolf.com

A NIGHT WITH THE STARS: CROONERS, CARS & COCKTAILS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

WJCT Studios, 100 Festival Park Avenue

A Fifties evening of fundraising will benefit ElderSource, a nonprofit serving more than 12,000 people in Northeast Florida.

myeldersource.org

LUNG FORCE TURQUOISE & WHITE AFFAIR

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy a night of cocktails, dinner, live music and auctions to benefit the American Lung Association.

lung.org

RELAY FOR LIFE – WESTSIDE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

www.relayforlife.org/westsidefl



Terry Roberts and a junior angler

JULY

TBD

ANNUAL JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT DAY OF THE GIRL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

It's a day all about girls as Junior Achievement hosts this event for girls and young women ages 11 – 18. The event will feature workshops on topics especially important to young ladies.

jajax.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING RESOURCE CENTER YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Independent Living Resource Center for a night of dinner, dancing and door prizes as they honoring their students, parents and teachers.

theilrc.org

MIRACLE TREAT DAY FOR CHILDREN'S MIRACLE NETWORK

Date, Time & Locations TBD.

Visit website for details.

Participating Dairy Queen Locations Cool off with a Blizzard in July at participating Jacksonville area Dairy Queens who will donate funds to the Children's Miracle Network for every Blizzard ice cream treat sold.

miracletreatday.com



Frank and Marisa Martire with Deane and Maryanne Martire

CLAYMAN PLASTIC SURGERY CARES



DR. LOREN CLAYMAN



Valentine's Day made special for Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida, thanks to Drs. Loren and Mark Clayman.



DR. MARK CLAYMAN



The Clayman Flounder Pounder team goes all out for Jacksonville School for Autism.



HARVARD EDUCATED,
BOARD CERTIFIED PLASTIC SURGEONS



Christmas comes early for children at local schools thanks to the practice.

Doctors who go beyond
the call of the Hippocratic Oath

A practice beyond medicine

A love for community

Passion reflected by service
and contributions for a
better tomorrow

Drs. Loren and Mark Clayman give generously
to victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Marie.



The Claymans sponsor Run Santa Run this year and
donated additionally to the Blood Clot Alliance.



Third Annual Bratini Cancer Fundraiser gained big
support from a Clayman performance and donation.



Cancer support provided by the Claymans running
with a team in the Keys 100 ultramarathon.



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and

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2018 August

23

BLUES BREWS & BBQ

August 23, Time TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

The best BBQ, craft beers and live entertainment in town all at Jacksonville's most beautiful and historic Theatre. Proceeds from the event will go to the Florida Theatre. Florida Theatre, 128 E Forsyth Street. floridatheatre.com

31

RELAY FOR LIFE – MANDARIN

Aug. 31, Noon-10 p.m.

Mandarin High School, 4831 Greenland Road

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many. relayforlife.org/mandarinfl



Brandon Waked and Vanessa Sanchez with Alicia and Robert Sprecher

TBD

5K BUBBLE RUN FOR LUPUS FOUNDATION

Date, Time & Location TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

A squeaky good clean way to support the Lupus Foundation is through this fun bubble run as they work to improve the lives of those affected by lupus.

lupus.org/florida

6TH ANNUAL SENIOR EXPO & HEALTH FAIR

Date & Time TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

Atlantic Ave Rec. Center, Fernandina
Seniors won't want to miss this annual health fair hosted by the Nassau County Council On Aging. The fair features over 50 exhibitors and free health screenings such as hearing tests, bone density, skin cancer and a chance to meet with reps from Social Security and other agencies.

nassaucountycoa.org



Linda Broll with Tracy Greene, Ginny Mecave, Kelley Mills and Peggy Schieszer

10TH ANNUAL CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

This annual fundraiser for the City Rescue Mission helps to raise funds for the Mission's work in serving the homeless and the needy in Jacksonville.

crmjax.org

ANGELWOOD FASHION SHOW

Date, Time & Location TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

Check out the latest fashions at the beautiful TPC to support Angelwood and their mission to help families caring for loved ones with special needs.

angelwoodjax.org

ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Date, Time & Location TBA.

Ticketed event.

[Visit website for details.](#)

A special evening to celebrate the Women's Center of Jacksonville with music, fabulous food, drinks along with silent and live auctions. Funds raised will help support the Women's Center of Jacksonville's programs to improve the lives of women in the community.

womenscenterofjax.org

CHAMPION GALA & GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

This two-day event is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the St. Johns County Council On Aging where guests enjoy a day of golf one day and a gala with delicious food, music and dancing the next day. Proceeds help the COA provide programs and services for seniors in St. Johns County.

coasjc.com

COWFORD BALL KICKOFF

Date, Time & Location TBD.

[Visit website for details.](#)

As a lead up to the American Cancer Society's Cowford Ball, this kickoff event will include chance drawings, food, live entertainment, games and the opportunity to learn about the mission of the ACS and the Cowford Ball fundraiser.

cowfordball.org



Lynn Sussman with Jerry Funk



Aaron and Debbie Bowman with
Lisé Everly and Gillian Ticehurst

EVENING OF PROMISE

[Date, Time & Location TBD.](#)

This signature fundraising event for Nemours Children's Specialty Care helps raise funds for NCSC to continue pediatric patient care. The evening features live music, great food and entertainment.

nemours.org/eveningofpromise

GIRLS DAY OUT: A DAY OF CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HEALTH

[Date, Time & Location TBD.](#)

[Visit website for details.](#)

Baptist Health presents this day devoted to women's health with health screenings, vendors, educational sessions with health experts and more.

foundation.baptistjax.com

LUNG FORCE RUN/WALK

[Date, Time & Location TBD.](#)

[Visit website for details.](#)

Join neighbors, family, friends and co-workers for this American Lung Association fundraising run and walk. Participants receive a Lung Force Action Passport to make the experience interactive and to visit different stations throughout the event and win prizes.

lungfla.org

MDA LOCKUP

[Date, Time & Locations TBD.](#)

[Visit website for details.](#)

"Doing Time" has never been so much fun. Share a cell in the MDA jail with prominent community leaders and raise money for MDA by calling friends and family to help make your bail. Muscular Dystrophy Association provides care and support, funds research for treatment and cures for those suffering from muscle diseases.

mda.org/lockup

RETHREADED 7TH ANNUAL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

[Date & Time TBD.](#)

[Visit website for details.](#)

Rethreaded Warehouse,
820 Barnett Street

This birthday celebration for Rethreaded is a fun community event with food, drinks, a live band and activities for kids.

rethreaded.com

RIVER RUCKUS: A FAMILY FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE THE ST. JOHNS

[Date & Time TBD.](#)

[Visit website for details.](#)

Riverside Arts Market,
715 Riverside Avenue






Come raise a ruckus for the St. Johns River at this family festival which celebrates our beautiful river. Boat rides and adventures of all types will be featured plus live entertainment, food and craft beer.

stjohnsriverkeeper.org

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September 2018

06

17TH ANNUAL DELICIOUS DESTINATIONS

September 6-8.

Visit website for details.

Ponte Vedra Inn & Club,
200 Ponte Vedra Blvd.

Chefs from some of the nation's premier resorts showcase their culinary talents. The event also includes live and silent auctions, as well as drawing of unique items including spa and restaurant gift certificates, catered dinners and weekend getaways.

deliciousdestinationsjax.com

7TH ANNUAL GABRIEL HOUSE OF CARE GOLF TOURNAMENT

September 17, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Deerwood Country Club,
10239 Golf Club Drive

Grab your golf clubs and head out for a day of golf to benefit Gabriel House. Participants will enjoy lunch on the Veranda, an awards dinner and prizes.

gabrielhouseofcare.org

11

FRIES WITH THAT WINE

September 21, 6 p.m. Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

If you think wine pairings are reserved for fancy food, think again. This Ronald McDonald House Charities Fundraiser offers a variety of wines matched with McDonald's menu favorites.

rmhcjax.org

SHINDIG FOR THE SANCTUARY

September 21, 6 – 9 p.m.

Garden Club of Jacksonville,
1005 Riverside Avenue

Enjoy a catered dinner and check out some beautiful handcrafted items on sale to raise funds for the Sanctuary on 8th Street.

sanctuaryon8th.org



Sabrie Edmonston
and Audrey C. Moran

8TH ANNUAL BRIDGING THE GAPS GALA FOR HART FELT

Date TBD, 6 p.m.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

Celebrate the life-changing work of Hart Felt Ministries for senior citizens in our community at Hart Felt Ministries' Annual Charity Gala. The event will feature dinner, music, an auction and entertainment. Hart Felt Ministries is dedicated to preserving independence for senior citizens by providing resources to keep seniors in their homes.

hartfelt.org

9TH ANNUAL CAF & CNL CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

More than \$300,000 has been raised over the past several years for The Challenged Athletes Foundation and Camp No Limits, as well several Northeast Florida nonprofits.

cafcnl.org

17

WOMEN WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE – ST. AUGUSTINE

September 6, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Girl Scouts of Gateway Council as they honor local women who exemplify Girl Scouts values of courage, confidence and character.

girlscouts-gateway.org



United Way of Northeast Florida's Atlantic Circle
young-professionals group 2017-2018 executive committee

22

AVONDALE 5K CLASSIC

September 22, 8 a.m./ 5K - 8:30 a.m.

Shoppes of Avondale

Take a run through the historic Avondale area and then enjoy a block party with free beer, live music and great prizes.

sanctuaryon8th.org

TBD

6TH ANNUAL CHOMP N' STOMP 5K/1 MILE RUN WALK & ROLL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Run, walk or roll in the family event to help fund programs and services for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Building Abilities of Special Children & Adults (BASCA).

bascainc.org



Ashley Helmick
with Sissy Horn

TBD

10TH ANNUAL OCEANWISE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve,
505 Guana River Road

Spend an evening taking in the sunset at the scenic Guana Tolomato Matanzas Reserve while enjoying dinner from local restaurants and live music. Hosted by the Friends of the GTM Reserve, proceeds help to support the mission of protecting and preserving the ocean and estuaries.

gtmnerr.org



Laura and
Michael
Magevney

20TH ANNUAL SISTERS OF THE SEA SURF CLASSIC

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Beach Pier on the South side, 503 First Street North

Grab your board and paddle out to help Sisters of The Sea raise funds for Bosom Buddies at the Women's Center of Jacksonville.

sistersofthesea.org

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Huge outdoor music and arts festival to benefit Angels For Allison. Enjoy local bands, a beer garden, unique crafts, artwork, vendors and games for all ages. Proceeds benefit financial needs of families suffering the loss of a child.

angelsforallison.org



Janet Reagor with Rick Cartledge
and Alonzo Jackson

ANNUAL JACKSONVILLE BABY BUGGY WALK & HEALTH FAIR

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This free family event includes a music jamboree, food and family activities. Taking place during National Infant Mortality Awareness Month, this event helps create awareness to reduce infant mortality rates in the U.S.

nefhealthystart.org

ANNUAL REGGIE HUNT MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy a day of to support Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Northeast Florida. The tournament includes lunch and dinner and plenty of great prizes.

bbbsnefl.org



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Chairman Emeritus

www.ewnash.com



TBD

ANNUAL TOAST TO THE ANIMALS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Everbank Field, 1 Everbank Field Drive

Join in this annual event which features special food and wine tasting to support the Jacksonville Humane Society.

jaxhumane.org

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA SPORTING CLAYS CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Malone's Air Charter,

855-121 St. Johns Bluff Road

Join in the region's largest benefit shoot as teams of shooters compete to help raise funds for the Boy Scouts.

sportingclaysclassic.org

BUTTERFLY GARDEN LUNCHEON: CELEBRATING THE WINGS OF CHANGE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Youth Crisis Center,

3015 Parental Home Road

Join the Youth Crisis Center as they host Butterfly Garden Luncheon to celebrate and gain support for their early intervention programs which help Jacksonville's youth.

youthcrisiscenter.org

DAILY'S THE TRADITION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual event, held at exclusive golf courses, will support the St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation's Mobile Outreach Ministry which travels to underserved neighborhoods to provide free medical care.

jaxhealth.com/foundation



George Scanlon,
Michelle Braun
and Pat Geraghty

HELP & HOPE WITH EVERY BITE

INTRODUCING SULZBACHER SWEETS BY SWEET PETE'S

The Sulzbacher Center has partnered with Sweet Pete's to create these delicious gifts. When you purchase any cube or gift set, a substantial portion of the proceeds will go directly to the homeless people we serve, helping them become independent and self-sufficient. So giving Sulzbacher Sweets by Sweet Pete's is like giving two gifts in one. **And that's what we call sweet.**

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Sulzbacher Center
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www.JSAKIDS.org | 904.732.4343

9000 Cypress Green Drive, Jacksonville FL, 32256

TBD

GREAT CHEFS OF AMEILA ISLAND

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Ritz-Carlton Amelia Island,
4750 Amelia Island Pkwy

Enjoy this tasty fundraiser to support Barnabas of Nassau County as teams of local chefs compete in a culinary match-up.

barnabasnassau.org

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID EQUAL JUSTICE AWARDS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Hyatt Regency Riverfront,
225 Coastline Drive

Join Jacksonville Area Legal Aid as they spend an evening honoring an individual who has worked to advance the work of Jacksonville Area Legal Aid through volunteer service.

jaxlegalaaid.org

MARGARITA J'VILLE

Date & Time TBD. Visit website for details. Ticketed Event

One Ocean Resort & Spa,
1 Ocean Boulevard, Atlantic Beach

Join Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida they bring the flare of Key West to Jacksonville with free flowing margaritas and signature drinks, boutique shopping, a live band, delicious island inspired cuisine and picturesque views of the ocean. There will also be live and silent auctions as well as raffles. All proceeds raised during Margarita J'Ville will be used to support the mission and youth programs of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida.

bbbsnefl.org

POKER FOR HUNTINGTON'S

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Best Bet Jax, 201 Monument Road

Grab your poker buddies and join in a night of poker and fun to raise funds for the Huntington's Disease Society of America which helps those with HD, a genetic brain nerve cell disorder.

hdsa.org/nofl

RUN WITH THE FLOCK 5K & MILE FUN RUN

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual run helps Flamingo Charities to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. All run finishers receive a race medal and pre-registrants are guaranteed a Run with The Flock event t-shirt.

flamingocharities.com



Desiree DeRenzo
and Nibbles

STRUT YOUR MUTT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Bring out your four-legged best friend to this dog-themed festival and dog walk/5K run which benefits Best Friends' local No More Homeless Pets Network partners.

support.bestfriends.org

THE HUMAN RACE

Date & Time, Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The Human Race is open to any community nonprofit, school, church or civic group to raise funds for their cause. Hands On Jacksonville helps match citizens with volunteer opportunities in their community.

handsonjacksonville.org

ZERO PROSTATE CANCER RUN

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The event sponsored by Zero - The End of Prostate Cancer, features a 5K run/walk, 1 mile walk, Kid's Superhero Dash for Dad and a virtual "Snooze Dudes" program. Proceeds from the event provide funding for research, education and free prostate cancer testing.

zero.convio.net

Hearing Help for Africa

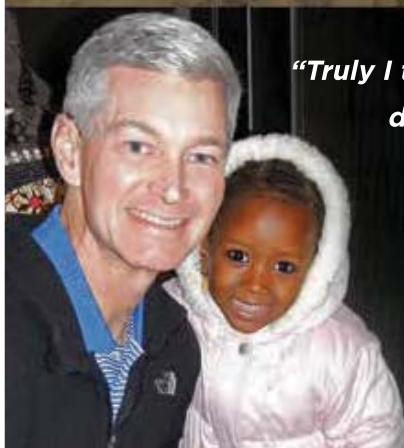
Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute Opens Up A World Of Sound



Since 2010, the Hearing Help for Africa nonprofit organization continues to serve profound hearing impaired children and adults in Jos, Nigeria. Founded by Jacksonville physician J. Douglas Green Jr., MD, his wife, Kelley, and their friend, Joel Anthis, MD, the foundation provides for the surgical implantation of cochlear implants to improve ear-related medical conditions as well as the expansion of medical education opportunities for African physicians.

Through the years, the Foundation has developed remote telemedicine connections between U.S. physicians and their counterparts to offer more specialized training, including consultation and televised medical education conferences. It also provides improved facilities and equipment, as evidenced by this year's opening of a Temporal Bone Lab at the ECWA Evangel Hospital to aid in the surgical implant process. Advanced technology allows for the implant to be programmed back in the U.S. at Dr. Green's Jacksonville Hearing & Balance Institute.

www.HearingHelpForAfrica.org



*"Truly I tell you, whatever you
did for one of the least
of these brothers and
sisters of mine,
you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40

October 2018

01

2ND ANNUAL CAP GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 1, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Deerwood Country Club,
10239 Golf Club Drive

An awards reception will follow the tournament, which raises funds for arts education in Duval County through Cathedral Arts Project.

capkids.org/golf/

10TH ANNUAL DAILY'S THE TRADITION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Oct. 1-2, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

THE PLAYERS Stadium Course
and Dye's Valley Course

This annual event, held at exclusive golf courses, will support the St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation's Mobile Outreach Ministry which travels to underserved neighborhoods to provide free medical care.

jaxhealth.com/foundation/the-tradition/

05

MDA TOAST TO LIFE GALA

October 5, 7 p.m.

Visit website for details.

Sawgrass Marriott Golf Resort & Spa

This annual gala brings guests together for an evening of dinner, live and silent auction, fun and dancing all to support the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Jacksonville. Elaine Ashourian and Randall Whitfield of Ash Properties, co-chairs.

mda.org

16

15TH ANNUAL BEACHES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BEACH BASH

October 16, Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Sawgrass Beach Club,
10034 Golf Club Drive

The evening will be an extravaganza of live music, delicious food from the area's best restaurants, and a complimentary open bar. All proceeds from the evening will be used to build hope and homes for families in need of safe, decent, affordable housing in the Jacksonville Beaches.

www.beacheshabitat.org



Susan and Keesy Goebertus

TBD

AGING TRUE ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This tournament helps Aging True to provide seniors with essential care and assistance so they can live independently. Aging True supports seniors in our community through health, nutritional and financial programs.

agingtrue.org

ALLEN ROBINSON'S 3RD ANNUAL CELEBRITY SURF & TURF

Date/Time TBD. Epping Forest
Yacht & Country Club.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Jaguar Allen Robinson hosts this fundraising event which includes world-class cuisine, silent and live auctions to benefit his Within Reach Foundation.

allenrobinson15.org

BAPTIST MD ANDERSON GOLF CLASSIC

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

TPC Sawgrass, 110 Championship Way

Join in this annual golf tournament to raise funds for all four Baptist hospitals and Wolfson Children's Hospital. Players receive complimentary meals and beverages, tee gifts and chances to win incredible prizes.

foundation.baptistjax.com

BARBARA ANN CAMPBELL MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Hubbard House's signature fundraiser is held in honor of those who have died due to domestic violence, and for survivors of domestic violence, during National Domestic Violence Awareness month. Proceeds support the life-saving programs and services Hubbard House provides to more than 5,000 women, children and men each year.

hubbardhouse.org

BARK FOR LIFE FERNANDINA BEACH – RELAY FOR LIFE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Bring your favorite pooch to this pet-friendly, community fundraiser which includes a walk, demonstrations and games to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

cancer.org

BARK FOR LIFE OF WEST JACKSONVILLE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Riverside Park, 753 Park Street

Bring your favorite pooch to this pet-friendly, community fundraiser which includes a walk, demonstrations and games to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

cancer.org



Bobbi Arnold,
Mary Virginia Terry,
Sandra Corbett



Barbara Gubbin
with Mark Merritt

TBD

**BIKE MS: PGA TOUR
CYCLE TO THE SHORE**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Routes start at TPC Sawgrass
or Marineland and finish in
Daytona Beach.

Cyclists ride along one of North
Florida's most scenic routes to help
raise funds for the National Multiple
Sclerosis Society's efforts to support
those living with MS while working
to end MS. Cyclists are provided
meals throughout the event weekend.

bikems.org

**CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN
PRO-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Net proceeds from the event will
help communities throughout the
state provide Monique Burr
Foundation for Children's Child
Safety Matters™, MBF's bullying and
child abuse prevention program,
provided at elementary schools at no
cost to the public schools.

malwashington.com.

**CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY
ANNUAL CARING CHEFS**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

The Avenues Mall,
10300 Southside Boulevard.

This fundraiser for the Children's
Home Society is one of the area's
biggest food and wine tasting event.
Guests sample cuisine from the
some of the best restaurants in
Northeast Florida.

chsfl.org/buckner



Clare and Vance Berry



Janie Kratzert with
Missy Vanover,
Tara Haley,
Kelley Bost and
Susan Knapp

**CIVIC ORCHESTRA
JACKSONVILLE AUTUMN
FUNDRIASER: AN
ORCHESTRATION OF
FOOD, WINE & MUSIC**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

An evening of food, music and a
selection of premium wines to
help support the Civic Orchestra
Jacksonville.

civicorchestrajax.org

CLUB BLU CORN HOLE

Date & Location TBD, 6 – 9 p.m.

Visit website for details.

This fun family-friendly Halloween
event includes a low-country
boil, giveaways and a raffle all to
benefit the Boys & Girls Club of
Northeast Florida.

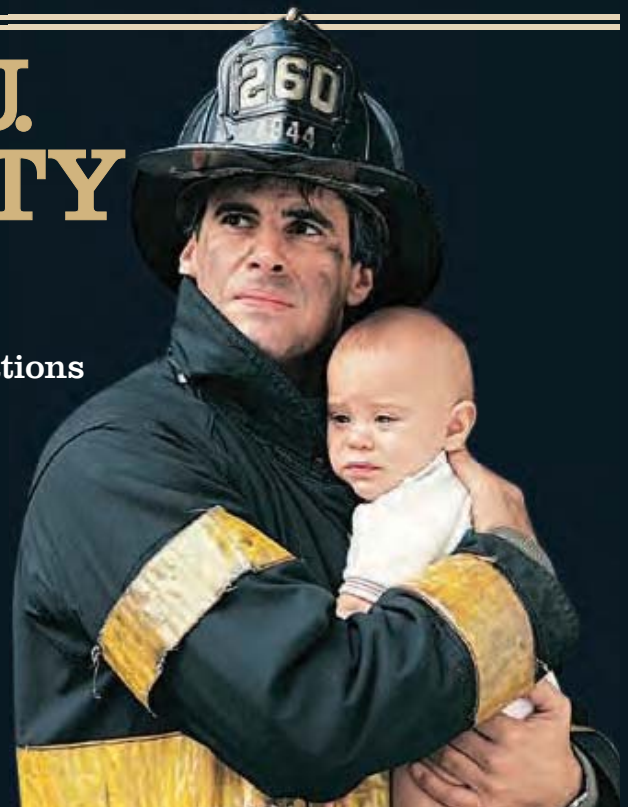
bgcnf.org

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- Support for Members of the Military
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To donate or request a grant, visit any
Firehouse Subs restaurant or visit us online



FirehouseSubsFoundation.org

Follow us: @SavingLives

TBD

COMPASSION BY THE SEA BENEFIT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Have an enjoyable evening with awesome food, beer, wine and live music to benefit Mission House's efforts to assist homeless men and women in the Beaches area.

missionhousejax.org

COUNCIL ON AGING OF NASSAU COUNTY ANNUAL GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy a night of dinner, dancing as well as live and silent auctions to benefit the Council On Aging of Nassau County and programs for seniors.

nassaucountycoa.org



Mary Cook with her mother, Jane Lanier

DANIEL KIDS FALL FEST & CHILI COOKOFF

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy a family day of fun as you sample some of the best chili in Florida and kids. The event includes live streaming football on the jumbotron, food trucks and a kids zone.

danielkids.org

DINNER FOR DUCKS UNLIMITED

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This banquet dinner is an evening full of fun and fellowship to benefit Ducks Unlimited, the leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation.

ducks.org/florida

DOGFEST WALK 'N ROLL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Grab your 4-legged friend and join in this community dog walk to support Canine Companions for Independence which enhances the lives of people with disabilities by providing assistance dogs and ongoing support. The event will include games for adults, children and dogs along with food shopping and music.

cci.org

DRIVERS OF CHANGE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This tournament helps to raise funds for YMCA Charter School's Tiger Academy and the Johnson YMCA Teen Program. Enjoy a day of golf at a beautiful course to support our local YMCA.

firstcoastymca.org



United Way of Northeast Florida's Women United 2017-2018 executive committee

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email: josephpoletto@atsonrealtycorp.com
web: josephpoletto.watsonrealtycorp.com



TBD

DRIVING FOR DREAMS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Autobahn Indoor Speedway,
6601 Executive Park Court N.

A car show, indoor racing and food trucks make up this fun event to support Dreams Come True.

dreamscometrue.org

FARE FOOD ALLERGIES HEROES WALK

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join in this walk to help recognized the determination of food allergy families and to raise funds for education, advocacy and research for food allergies.

fare.foodallergy.org



Allison and Steve Ziff with
Mark and Cheryl Lamping



Ally Meyns with Mindy Moriarty
and Dina DeMarco

FLAVOR OF JACKSONVILLE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Spend a special evening at this annual fundraising event for Gateway Community Services. Guests can experience a variety of dining from around Jacksonville all while enjoying live musical entertainment.

gatewaycommunity.com

FLOUNDER POUNDER FISHING TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join in a day on the water for some great fishing and great prizes in this fishing tournament to raise funds for the Jacksonville School of Autism.

flounderpounderjax.com



Ronald McDonald
House Charities
Jacksonville

YOU may never meet
our families, but they
THANK YOU
for their
"home-away-from-home"
in Jacksonville.

Without the generosity of our community and volunteers, our House would not be able to provide lodging, meals and transportation to over 1,100 families every year during their child's medical treatment.

rmhcjacksonville.org
904.807.4663
824 Children's Way
Jacksonville, Florida



Steve Bacalis with Biggs and Jerry Knauer

TBD

GALA EVENING IN HONOR OF JAX TRUE BLUE

October, Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Celebrate with True Blue Navy Families Benefactors in honor of Jax True Blue at this gala evening. Jax True Blue works to enhance the lives of Jacksonville Navy sailors and their families.

jaxtruebluenfb.org

HABIJAX WOMEN'S BUILD

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Habijax holds this women helping women event to help construct homes for female head-of-household families who are struggling so they can obtain homeownership and create stability for their families.

buildherjax.com

HALLOWEEN DOORS & MORE

Date & Time TBD.
Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall Halloween Doors & More is a festive land of fantasy and make-believe the whole family will love. From cherished cartoon characters to live entertainment acts, the event is a whimsical afternoon of fun with real-world benefit as the signature fundraiser for Community PedsCare, the pediatric program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care for children with life-threatening conditions.

hdm.communityhospice.com

HOMETOWN HUDDLE NFL-WIDE DAY OF SERVICE

Date, Time & Locations TBD.
Visit website for details.

United Way of Northeast Florida and the Jacksonville Jaguars Foundation partner to present an NFL-wide day of service designed to bring awareness and impact to the issue of youth health and fitness. Volunteers will help facilitate games, distribute meals and more.

unitedwaynefl.org

JACKSONVILLE AREA LEGAL AID JALAWEEN & MEET THE JUDGES

Date & Time TBD.
Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Legal Aid,
126 W Adams Street

This annual event provides a safe trick or treating opportunity for children from low income and at-risk Jacksonville city center areas. Judges from the 4th Judicial Circuit Court dress in costumes to hand out treats to kids.

jaxlegalaaid.org

JACKSONVILLE CHILDREN'S CHORUS FALL EARLY MUSIC CONCERT

Date & Time TBD.
Visit website for details.

Hendricks Avenue Baptist, 4001 Hendricks Avenue

Join the Jacksonville Children's Chorus as they kick off their new season with this special themed concert performance.

jaxchildrenschorus.org

JASMYN COMING OUT DAY BREAKFAST

Date, Time & Location TBD. Ticketed Event. Visit website for details.

This annual breakfast event helps benefit JASMYN (Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network) to support at risk LGBT youth.

jasmyrn.org, call (904) 389-3857.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT BOWL-A-THON

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Bowl America Mandarin,
10333 San Jose Boulevard

Bowl a few strikes to help raise funds for Junior Achievement's programs such as financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

jajax.com

LEXUS CHAMPIONS FOR CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

This popular, annual golfing event has helped to raise over a million dollars since its premiere and helps support the UF Health Breast Center.

ufhealthjax.org

MALIVAI WASHINGTON CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Join the MaliVai Washington Kid's Foundation at their annual gala to recognize their student athletes for great success.

malwashington.com

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER 5K

– CLAY COUNTY

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk unites communities to support each other. The event honors those touched by the disease and raise awareness and funds to create a world free from the pain and suffering of breast cancer.

makingstrideswalk.org/clayf

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER 5K – JACKSONVILLE

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk unites communities to support each other. The event honors those touched by the disease and raise awareness and funds to create a world free from the pain and suffering of breast cancer.

makingstrideswalk.org/jacksonvillefl

MDA FILL THE BOOT CAMPAIGN

Date, Time & Locations TBD.

Visit website for details.

This 60-year-plus tradition involves firefighters hitting the streets as they collect donations for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

mdausa.org

MDA TOAST TO LIFE GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Guest enjoy cocktails a seated dinner and live and silent auctions as they have an opportunity to mingle with MDA families and corporate sponsors in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

mdatoasttolifejax.org

MIRACLES GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Elegant evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, music and dancing raises funds to help the Junior Diabetes Research Foundation find a cure for diabetes and its complications through research.

jdrf.org/northflorida

MONSTER MASH DASH, 5K, 1-MILE FUN RUN & DIAPER DASH

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Fairgrounds Exhibition Hall Imaginations will run wild at this family of races—a 5K, One-Mile Fun Run and Diaper Dash—which supports the pediatric palliative and hospice care provided by Community PedsCare, a program of Community Hospice & Palliative Care.

mmd.communityhospice.com



Brendan and Erin Cumiskey with Raja and Laura Saoud, Sean and Emily Magee

TBD

NASSAU COUNTY COUNCIL ON AGING GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD. Ticketed Event. Visit website for details.

This annual gala is an elegant evening of dinner and live entertainment to benefit the Nassau County Council On Aging's programs for seniors.

nassaucountycoa.org

NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Main Library,
303 N. Laura Street

Come in your favorite literary character costume or cocktail attire to help raise funds for Learn to Read. The event will feature food, drinks, live entertainment and a silent auction.

learntoreadjax.org

PARROT HEAD ZERO WALK-RUN-CRAWL

Date & Time TBD.

Engine 15 Brewing Co. & MOJO Kitchen BBQ Pit Blues Bar

Dress in your most outrageous costume or crazy race outfit and run, walk or crawl a whole 200 foot course from Engine 15 to Mojo's Kitchen in Jacksonville Beach. Hosted by the A1A Parrot Heads and Parrot Heads in Natural Settings, the event raises funds for Dreams Come True.

dreamscometrue.org

PINK RIBBON GOLF CLASSIC TEE OFF COCKTAIL PARTY

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This elegant cocktail party is the kickoff event for the annual Pink Ribbon Golf Classic and features heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar and valet parking. The Golf Classic supports the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville and Baptist Beaches breast cancer centers

pinkribbonjax.org



Stephen and Olivia Frick

PINK RIBBON GOLF CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual golf tournament brings women golfers together to help support the Mayo Clinic Jacksonville and Baptist Beaches breast cancer centers as they provide care for breast cancer patients.

pinkribbonjax.org



Firefighters fill the boot

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5-Star Ratings in Every CMS and AHCA Category

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www.rivergarden.org |  River Garden Senior Services



Scott and Celeste Heller with Misti DiGiovanni and Hayden Heller

TBD

QUIGLEY HOUSE PURPLE RIBBON GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Tee up to help create awareness about Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Quigley House and enjoy a great day of golf.

quigleyhouse.org

RED SHIELD BALL

Date, Time, Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This dazzling, annual gala where guests enjoy dinner, live music and dancing along with silent auctions, will help support the Salvation Army's Red Shield Lodge where women and families shelter.

salvationarmynefl.org

RED, WHITE AND BLUSH

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy wines from around the world at this annual fundraiser for Quigley House, Clay County's Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Center.

Hors d'oeuvres, live & silent auctions, raffle and Nifty 50/50

quigleyhouse.org

RELAY FOR LIFE – FERNANDINA BEACH/YULEE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather a team for the largest nonprofit fundraiser in the world which celebrates cancer survivors and remembers those we've lost. This neighborhood driven event is a family-friendly, noncompetitive walk that raises funds to fight a disease that has taken too much from too many.

relayforlife.org/fernandinabeachfl

REMISSION ROCKS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

River City Brewing Company, 835 Museum Circle

Local doctors will trade their stethoscopes for a musical instrument as their bands rock-out to raise money for Bosom Buddies in support of breast cancer patients and survivors.

womenscenterofjax.org

RIDE & ROLL FOR A CURE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Amelia Island

Hop on your motorcycle for a beautiful ride, food music and a raffle, all to support diabetes research.

jdrf.org/northflorida

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE GOLF CLASSIC

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Here's your chance to play on a beautiful course followed by a fabulous reception and live auction to benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Jacksonville.

rmhcjacksonville.org

SAIRA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details

River House, 179 Marine Street

This annual food and wine festival supports the Boys & Girls Club of Northeast Florida and treats guests to a variety of food from local restaurants as well as hundreds of fine wines and spirits.

bgcnf.org



Kevin and Beth Rasch with their children Ian, Clara, Leo and Tessa

SEE THE GIRL AWARDS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Delores Barr Weaver Policy Center at this annual dinner and awards as they recognize those who champion the rights of girls and young women impacted by the justice system.

seethegirl.org

\$SMART WOMEN MAKE CHANGE!

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

\$smart Women Make Change! is Junior Achievement's signature event to benefit JA Girl\$, an initiative that has educated girls and young women in financial literacy, career readiness and entrepreneurship since 2006. The annual event brings together those in the community whose unwavering support impacts what JA Girl\$ and Junior Achievement are able to accomplish now and into the future.

jajax.com

SPIRIT OF THE ADA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The event celebrates the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act and is open to North Florida residents with a disability and their guests.

theilrc.org

SPOOKTACULAR

Dates & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway

Don't miss the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens Annual Spooktacular for all ages. Ten nights of thousands of pumpkins, candy, trick-or-treating, music, dancing, giant slides and bounce houses. Plan to some favorite characters, fairies, wizards, pirates, scarecrows and more. There will be three SCARE ZONES.

jacksonvillezoo.org



DINNER • DANCING • LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

A COCKTAIL EVENT

For more information about the Toast to Life Gala, please contact Christina Warmouth at (904) 296-7434 or Cwarmouth@mdausa.org

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 5, 2018 • 7 PM
SAWGRASS MARRIOTT GOLF RESORT & SPA
1000 PGA TOUR BLVD • POINT VEDRA BEACH, FL

CHAIRS: ELAINE ASHOURIAN AND RANDALL WHITFIELD

Since September of 2016, MDA has received FDA approval for four drugs to treat three different muscle diseases. In addition to the new drugs being made available, we were thrilled to welcome five new campers in 2017 for their first week ever at MDA Summer Camp. The MDA Toast to Life Gala is one way that we can continue to influence progress by funding critical scientific research, facilitating clinical trials and advocating for policies that continue to move MDA's mission forward. We invite you to be a part of future advancements and new beginnings.

TBD

ST. JOHNS CULTURAL CENTER PONTE VEDRA HAVANA NIGHTS

Date, Time & Location TBD. Visit website for details.

Join the St. Johns Cultural Center for their major fall fundraiser as you enjoy authentic Cuban food, cocktails and live entertainment.
ccpvb.org

SUPERHERO 5K & MILE FUN RUN

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Sport your favorite superhero costume or mask and run, walk or stroll to support kids of Mainspring Academy, a school for special needs children.
mainspringacademy.org

TASTE OF AMELIA ISLAND

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Omni Amelia Island,
39 Beach Lagoon Road.

Join Amelia's best chefs as they compete to raise funds for the Nassau County Volunteer Center. Guest enjoy complimentary wines, live chef demonstrations, raffles and live music.

volunteernassau.org

TEDxJACKSONVILLE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join TEDxJacksonville as they host an evening of diverse guest speakers and address various themes which affect our local community.

tedxjacksonville.com

THE OLDEST CITY RED TROUT CLASSIC

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Conch House, 57 Comares Avenue,
St. Augustine

Join in one of the most highly acclaimed fishing tournaments in Northeast Florida to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. The event kicks off with a captain's dinner and includes two days of competitive inshore fishing.

cff.org/northfl/

THE SEA & SWINE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Kick-off fall with a down home country event featuring pulled pork, hayrides, dancing, beer, wine and live music - all to benefit Micah's Place.

micahsplace.org



Bill McConnell with
Michael Aubin

TRANSFORMATIONS GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Well known as the "feel good event of the year," Transformations spotlights formerly homeless individuals and families who overcame homelessness to achieve self-sufficiency and housing of their own. Festivities include a hors d'oeuvres reception, tribute program, silent auction and dessert.

sulzbachercenter.org

TRUE BLUE GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Spend a spectacular day golfing in this special tournament that supports True Blue Navy Families Benefactors which helps local Navy sailors and their families.

jaxtruebluenfb.org

WINE DOWN FOR DOWN SYNDROME

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Enjoy a wine and appetizer tasting to support the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville help people with Down Syndrome achieve their full potential.

dsaj.org

WOMENADE DINNER: SUPPORTING KIDS AT DANIEL

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Come meet like-minded women who are working to enhance the lives of children at Daniel and enjoy a wonderful dinner as you learn how you can make a difference by mentoring and helping to raise funds.

danielkids.org

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Live it up with us!

At HarborChase of Mandarin, we are committed to creating dining experiences you will find extraordinary and irresistible. Our culinary team works hard to satisfy your cravings with a diverse chef-prepared menu featuring local cuisine and seasonal ingredients. Enjoy an intimate fine dining experience in one of our beautiful restaurants.

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- Enjoy happy hour at the Julington Bar and Bistro
- Dine with elegance in our reservation only Pomelo Restaurant
- Enjoy a low country boil and other events in the Loretto Courtyard
- Relax in The Grove Restaurant with many delicious choices

**Call to schedule a tour and reserve a
complimentary chef-prepared meal and
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www.HarborChaseMandarin.com

2018 November

10

HUNGER FIGHT THANKSGIVING COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOOD PACKING EVENT

Nov. 10-11, Times TBD. Teams purchase food packing tables at event. Visit website for details. Prime Osborn Convention Center, 1000 Waters Street

A great way to help those in the community right before the Thanksgiving holiday. This annual event, where teams package thousands of meals to distribute to local fund pantries, mission homes and backpack programs, supports Hunger Fight.

hungerfight.org

AMERICA RECYCLES DAY

Date & Times TBD.

Visit website for details.

Prime Osborn Convention Center Parking Lot

The City of Jacksonville's "Keep Jacksonville Beautiful" invites you to help beautify our city by recycling and volunteering for cleanup projects.

coj.net/departments/neighborhoods/clean-it-up,-green-it-up

ARBORETUM WINE & FOOD FEST IN THE WOODS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens, 1445 Millcoe Road

The annual ArborEATum Wine & Food Fest benefits the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens. The festival shows some of Jacksonville's best restaurants providing samples of their menu items. Enjoy appetizers, desserts, coffees, wine and craft beers, and live entertainment.

jacksonvillearboretum.org



Mark and Ellen Gould

BEACHES BOYS & GIRLS CLUB GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

All proceeds from this day of golf at the spectacular Atlantic Beach Country Club will benefit the Beaches Boys & Girls Club in their mission to help young people realize their potential and become productive citizens.

bgcnf.org

BEST BUDDIES CHAMPION OF THE YEAR GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD. Visit website for details.

Enjoy a Vegas inspired evening to benefit Best Buddies and their programs to help those with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

bestbuddies.org

BREW AT THE ZOO

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens, 370 Zoo Parkway.

Go wild to help support the Jacksonville Zoo with this casual, after-hours fundraiser. Enjoy samplings from over 50 area restaurants, 200+ beer tastings, wine tastings, cocktails, animal encounters and entertainment to benefit the Jacksonville Zoo & Gardens.

jacksonvillezoo.org

BUDDY WALK

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Gather your friends, coworkers and family members to form a team for this great fundraising work to support the Down Syndrome Association of Jacksonville.

dsaj.org

CHILI COOKOFF CAR & CRAFT SHOW

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Moosehaven, 1701 Park Avenue

Get ready for some tasty chili at this annual event which also features a car show and craft tents with proceeds helping Moosehaven's Moose Charities to support local nonprofits.

moosehaven.org

CLARA WHITE MISSION PEARLS & CUFFLINKS GALA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual gala fundraiser supports the efforts of the Clara White Mission to end hunger.

theclearwhitemission.org

COASTAL CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION BANQUET & AUCTION

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Join the Coastal Conservation Association of Florida's annual banquet and auction and support their mission to conserve and protect Florida's marine resources.

ccaflorida.org

COUPLES SCOTCH CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This casual, modified Scotch format tournament supports the St. Johns Cultural Center at Ponte Vedra with a reception following the tournament.

ccpyvb.org

TBD

ADAMEC HARLEY DAVIDSON RIDE FOR DREAMS

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Adamec Harley, 8909 Baymeadows Road

Hop on your Hog for this police escorted ride through Jacksonville to help raise funds for Dreams Come True. The event includes after-ride festivities such as lunch, live music and raffle.

ridefordreams.com



Marc and Anne Mayo with Lauren Weedon Hopkins, James Hopkins, Greg and Karen Montana

TBD

COWFORD BALL

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Strap on your cowboy boots and jeans for this western-theme event with food, live and silent auctions, midway games and dancing. This event is the largest fundraising event in Northeast Florida for the American Cancer Society, raising more than \$7.8 million since its inception in 1995.

cowfordball.org

DECK THE CHAIRS

November - Jan. 1, 2019
Jacksonville Beach Sea Walk Pavilion
In True Florida holiday style, local artists and business come together to decorate the iconic life guard chairs on Jacksonville Beach. This historic beaches tradition helps to support the Volunteer Life Saving Corps. of Jacksonville Beach.

deckthechairs.org

EMPTY BOWLS NASSAU

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Choose from over 1000 hand-craft ceramic bowls and enjoy a simple meal of soup and bread to support Barnabas's mission of providing services to families and individuals in crisis.

barnabasnassau.org

FARM DE TOUR

Date & Time TBD.
Visit website for details.

White Harvest Farms,
5232 Moncrief Road
Join the Clara White Mission at White Harvest Farms as they welcome the community for farm tours, a farmers market, cooking demonstrations and musical entertainment.

clarawhitemission.org

FESTIVAL D'VINE

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Enjoy a night of great food and a large variety of wines from local restaurants to help support Catholic Charities.

ccbjax.org

FIRST COAST HEART WALK

Date, Time & Location TBD.
Visit website for details.

Bring the whole family to join in this inspirational, fun walk that is the American Heart Association's major fundraising event. Funds raised help to fight this country's number one killer - heart disease.

heartwalk.org



Irene Lazzara and
Susan Smathers



Gatherings, galas and social affairs are memorable with us. Our collection of clubs offers elegant spaces and perfect settings for every occasion. Our attentive staff execute customized events and delicious menus.

Please call us at
904-273-7762 to arrange
your next event.



TBD

FIRST COAST KIDS CHALLENGE TRI SERIES – SOUTHSIDE

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Brooks Family YMCA,
10423 Centurion Parkway N.

This kids' triathlon series lets kids challenge themselves as they compete for prizes. Proceeds from the event help support the YMCA's swim programs, summer camps and after-school programs.

firstcoastymca.org

FIRST COAST WALK FOR CHILDREN WITH APRAXIA

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This family-friendly walk helps to support the Childhood Apraxia of Speech Association of North America (CASANA) while bringing awareness to children with apraxia who have difficulty with series of movements of the tongue, lips, jaw and palate that are necessary for intelligible speech.

casana.apraxia-kids.org

FIRST COAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA INAUGURAL CONCERT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The First Coast Youth Orchestra and Community Music School present this community concert which highlights the talented young artists in Jacksonville who benefit from their programs which provide quality music instruction regardless of background or experience.

firstcoastyo.com

GINGERBREAD HOUSE EXTRAVAGANZA

Dates & Times TBD. Visit website for details. Ticketed event.

Old St. Andrews Church,
317 A Philip Randolph Blvd.

Join in this special Jacksonville holiday tradition where gigantic, creative gingerbread houses are showcased. Guests also enjoy beautiful, themed Christmas trees and other holiday festivities throughout the event.

jaxhistory.org



Amy Bern and
Larry Thomas,
Ellen Glasser and
Guy Cuddihee

HEROES DINNER & SHOW

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Commemorate military veterans in a semi-formal celebration of dinner, dancing, entertainment and an auction. The event benefits Operation New Uniform.

operationnewuniform.org

JACKSONVILLE DANCING WITH THE STARS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Hosted by Jacksonville Children's Chorus and A Social Affair Dance Studio, this event will feature local celebrity dancers partnered with professional dancers who will compete for the coveted mirror ball trophy and the title of "Jacksonville's Favorite Dancer."

jaxdwts.com

The MCKENZIE NOELLE WILSON Foundation

HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE RECOGNIZE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Our mission is to help youth recognize their full potential by providing programs that encourage **caring** for others, **giving** to those in need, and **growing** in their own spirituality.

caregivegrow.org

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#)

@CareGiveGrow

81,660 LOCAL KIDS WILL GO TO BED HUNGRY TONIGHT.

FEED 150 OF THEM TODAY FOR ONLY \$25.



FEEDING
NORTHEAST FLORIDA

For more information
visit us at
www.feedingnefl.org

TBD

JUVENILE DIABETES RESEARCH FOUNDATION GOLF TOURNAMENT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Participants in this annual tournament enjoy a day of golf at beautiful Eagle Harbor to help raise funds for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

jdrf.org/northflorida



Melanie Lawson Minor and Tarik Minor

LEUKEMIA AND LYMPHOMA SOCIETY LIGHT THE NIGHT

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

A special night to bring light and hope as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society raises awareness of the need for research funding.

lightthenight.org

LUNG FORCE EXPO

Date & Time TBD. Visit website for program time details.

Jacksonville Marriott,
4670 Salisbury Road

Hear about the latest medical information on lung cancer, COPD and asthma from experts in the field as the American Lung Association offers education and support for caregivers, patients and families during this expo event.

lungfla.org

MCKENZIE'S RUN

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual walk/run and 1 mile fun run supports the McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation, which helps young people recognize their full potential through programs that encourage caring for others, giving to those in need and growing in their own spirituality.

mckenzie'srun.org

NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY LUNCHEON

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

The Association of Fundraising Professionals celebrates National Philanthropy Day with this luncheon which honoring donors, volunteers and professionals for their outstanding achievements in contributing to our community's quality of life.

afpffirstcoast.afpnet.org

OVER THE EDGE

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Thrill seekers will love this fun and exhilarating event where participants rappel down the side of a downtown Jacksonville building. The event helps to support Scouting in Florida.

overtheedge-nfc.org

PASSPORT TO RIVERSIDE & AVONDALE

Date, Time & participating shops

TBD. Visit website for details.

Purchase a ticket and hop on a shuttle to participating shops throughout Riverside and Avondale where you can pick up totes with goodies and treats while supporting DLC Nurse & Learn.

dlcnl.org

Providing essential and innovative services and care for individuals, families, and communities throughout Northeast Florida to prepare for and support graceful aging.



-  Nutrition
-  Affordable housing
-  In-home services including personal care and housekeeping
-  Mental Wellness
-  Caregiver Support Services
-  Care Coordination
-  ACHC accredited and Medicare certified Home Health Agency (License #29993139)

In a culture that views aging as a time of decline, Aging True Community Senior Services guides older individuals to help make their elder years an enriching and graceful culmination of life. We provide seniors with the care and assistance they need to live independently. Join us in celebrating and supporting the gift of aging. Aging gracefully and with dignity is what every person deserves.

A Non-Profit Organization Enabling Home-Based Senior Independence in Northeast Florida

904.807.1203 • info@AgingTrue.org • www.AgingTrue.org



TBD

**PETER BRAGAN BETTER
BASEBALL FOUNDATION GALA**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This business attire event benefits The Peter Bragan for Better Baseball Foundation, which grants scholarships to college baseball players.

peterbraganbbf.org

**PONTE VEDRA
YMCA TURKEY TROT**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Mickler's Landing, CR 203, Sawgrass

This annual Thanksgiving run in Ponte Vedra helps to raise funds for the YMCA's Safety Around Water Program. The event includes a 1-mile fun run, and turkey trot 5K.

firstcoastymca.org

**PURPLESTRIDE 5K RUN &
FAMILY-FRIENDLY WALK**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

UNF, 1 UNF Drive

Join in the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network's signature fundraising event with children's activities, music and refreshments taking place in communities all over the nation.

purplestride.org

RED TIE AFFAIR

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Put on your snazziest red tie and enjoy a great night of food and fun to support the ACE Program of Lutheran Social Services.

lssjax.org



Anna and Dr. Kevin Neal with Archua and Ron Patel, Erin and Shaun West, Anamika and Bryan Farford, Gina Galani, Pargo and Justin Terry, Catarina and Flavio Soares with Rachael and Chad Bunnell

**RED WHITE AND BLUES
WINE & FOOD TASTING**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Support the North Florida School of Special Education with this classic wine and food tasting event and view art work by students of the NFSSE.

www.northfloridaschool.org

**RETHREADED HOLIDAY
SHOP OPENING**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Rethreaded Warehouse,
820 Barnett Street

Get started on that holiday shopping list as you help support Rethreaded, an organization that works to help victims of sex trade by providing support dignity-giving work.

rethreaded.com

**RIVER GARDEN
FOUNDATION GALA**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Funds raised from this elegant Gala contribute a significant portion of River Garden Foundation's fundraising efforts which helps to subsidize the immediate needs of the people who call River Garden their home.

rivergarden.org

RIVERSIDE WINEFEST

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Park & King Streets Near
Riverside Liquors

Enjoy one of the largest wine festival in the historic districts during this charity fall festival which benefits Riverside Avondale Preservation and includes live entertainment, food vendors and WineFest wine glass.

riversidewinefest.com

**SALT MARSH
BREWGRASS FESTIVAL**

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Big Talbot Island

Benefit concert for North Florida Land Trust features live music, local beers, wine and food truck, games for kids, a guided 1.5-mile hike, and a guided kayak paddle for an additional fee.

northfloridalandtrust.org

**SALUTE TO VETERANS 5K,
1 MILE FUN RUN, PATRIOTIC
PAWS PARADE**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This event is part of Jacksonville's Week of Valor and benefits the USS Adams Museum and K9s For Warriors. Participants can sing their favorite service songs and enjoy post-race food and souvenirs.

1stplacesports.com/races/salute/

**SEIZURE SMART TALK
5K RUN/WALK**

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This fun family event will benefit the Epilepsy Foundation which helps those facing this neurological condition which causes seizures.

efof.org

SHOOTING FOR WISHES

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

Jacksonville Clay Target Sports,
12125 New Berlin Road

This sporting clay tournament will include lunch, raffles and an auction, all to support Make A Wish of Central and Northern Florida so they can grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions.

cnfl.wish.org

SIGNATURE CHEFS

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This annual event featuring the area's finest chefs supports the March of Dimes in their mission to improve the health of babies.

marchofdimes.org/florida

**ST. JOHNS CULTURAL
CENTER PONTE VEDRA
BEACH HOLIDAY SHOPPES**

Date & Times TBD.

Visit website for details.

Ponte Vedra Concert Hall,
1050 A1A North

Nearly two dozen vendors will feature one of a kind gifts at this annual event which supports the St. Johns Cultural Center Ponte Vedra Beach. After shopping, enjoy a variety of food from various food trucks that will be onsite.

ccpvb.org



Dr. Larry Wilf, Randy Godwin,
Debi and Jeffery Parker

TBD

ST. JOHNS RIVERKEEPER OYSTER ROAST

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This popular, annual event is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the St. Johns Riverkeeper featuring delicious oysters and seafood, live music and a silent auction.

stjohnsriverkeeper.org

STEP OUT: WALK TO STOP DIABETES

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This one-day signature fundraising walk will benefit the American Diabetes Association. Walkers can enjoy food, fun and festivities.

diabetes.org

STRIDES FOR SIGHT AWARENESS WALK

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

This is a family friendly walk with a kid-friendly DJ and entertainment. The event helps to bring awareness about vision health.

visionispriceless.org

TASTE OF THE BEACH

Date & Time TBD.

Visit website for details.

St. Augustine Beach Pier Pavilion,

350 A1A Beach Boulevard

Enjoy live music and sample food from over a dozen St. Augustine beach area restaurants as they compete for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes for appetizer, entree and dessert. Proceeds go to the Betty Griffin House.

bettygriffinhouse.org

UNIQUE BOUTIQUE

Dates & Times TBD.

Visit website for details.

Junior League's River House, 2165

Park Street

This three-day shopping event hosted by the Junior Service League, features a preview night, luncheon and a cocktail event. Merchants will feature clothing, handbags, art and more.

jljacksonville.org

WALK TO DEFEAT ALS – ANCIENT CITY

Date, Time & Location TBD.

Visit website for details.

Gather some team mates and take a two mile walk in this great Oldest City event to bring hope to those living with ALS.

walktodefeatalz.org



Lou and Jan Walsh with
George and Margie Morales



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