



December 2006

Helping Hand Snapshot

A one page update from
Community Based Care of Volusia & Flagler Counties

160 NORTH BEACH STREET DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA
(386) 238-4900 WWW.COMMUNITYBASEDCARE.ORG

Not-So-Secret Santas Step In To Save Christmas For Abused Children

As holiday shopping entered full swing, some very special, not-so-secret Santas braved the stores in an effort to save Christmas for local abused children.

It is difficult for anyone to spend the holidays away from family, but for a young child struggling with the issue of abuse, it can be especially distressing. "Gifts received by good Samaritans give so much more than the present itself," explained Ron Zychowski, CEO for Community Based Care. "The kind act of giving shows children they are important and lends toward restoring self esteem. These children won't lay their heads on their own pillows this Christmas Eve, and for many, these will be the only presents they receive."

Port Orange Rotary President Jennifer Ferguson endeavored on a mission to spread the word to her fellow Rotary members, friends, clients and community partners. The Rotary adopted 400 children this season and raised \$9,200 to grant Christmas wishes.

"Christmas time is a special time," Ferguson said. "It is a time that most of us spend with family and friends. I feel it is so important to keep this time of year special, especially for the children in our community who may not be with family this year. Our Rotary club has been adopting children for Christmas for quite a few years. It is a project that we all hold near and dear to our hearts. It is our way to wrap our arms around these children and let them know that we care."

Shawn Leahy, Financial Advisor with

Merrill Lynch, and colleague Dan Waller adopted 97 children this season. Leahy and Waller raised \$4,000 in gifts with donations from colleagues, friends, clients and 35 members of Gold's Gym in Port Orange.

"I was very happy to see the generosity of my clients, friends, and coworkers," said Leahy. "It just goes to show you how many truly great people we have in our local community. I believe most people are truly generous, but some just need a little help knowing where they can focus their efforts in helping people in need."

Clark Properties, Flagler County City Hall, and the Professional Development Center each donated space to serve as Santa's workshops and All Star Building Materials LTD, Allen Green and Rick Conway each donated time, talent and a truck to fill the role of Santa's sleigh.

Frances Koski of Community Based Care and her team of dedicated volunteers worked to find gifts for every child on Santa's list. Case Manager Jennifer Harris delivered toys to one relative family caring for a total of seven children. The relative parent was not aware she was receiving gifts for her children as the case came after the gift request closing date. Harris said, "The mother cried as she learned our community stepped in to help with Christmas. Without this program, there would not have been a Christmas for these children this year."



Tis The Season

Tis the season for giving and many have given to help children; CBC staff, Wal-Mart, the Department of Revenue/CSE, Santa Maria Del Mar Catholic Church, the Margarita Society, Deltacom, Pamala's Hair Salon, Dorothy Lusson, Pam Godawa, Jack and Nancy Long, Chris and Roger Pelletier, Jonie and George Russell, DJ and Steve Lebo, Heather and Jimmy DeRenzo, Liz Cocks-Daytona 500 Club, Volusia County Solid Waste, Colony of Red Hats, Colony in the Woods, Daytona YPG, Port Orange's Fire Dept, Finance Department, YMCA, and Palmer Chiropractic College. Donation sites at Bay Street Seafood, My Cousin Vinny's, Halifax Lanes, Jack and Lu's Subs and Grill, Jaden Steahouse Express, Jessup's and Olive Garden.

Saturday Night's All Right!

December 9 was certainly a Saturday night to remember. Gary Yeomans Ford decked the halls for 70 foster care children at the dealership's annual Christmas Party. On the other side of town, 100 foster children dressed to the nines and enjoyed a theatrical performance of The Nutcracker thanks to Kim Norman at Academy of Dance Art and the DeLand Rotary Club.

Saturday, December 16, Jennifer Desmond will lead a team to Disney World with 40 foster children for a Christmas celebration Disney style!