



Volunteering for the Holidays



Carol Houwaart-Diaz (28), CEO/President of United Way of Martin County “We have been the local coordinating organization for Toys for Tots for over 35 years. United Way has spread holiday cheer by providing toys and holiday meals to hundreds of families. This year, over 956 families were registered to receive assistance which represents a 25% increase over last year.

The United Way Project provides the magic for parents to create long-lasting memories for their families. But we can't do it alone. This huge undertaking is only possible by pooling the resources of hundreds of volunteers, community groups, agencies, families, businesses and faith-based and civic organizations.” LEADERship Martin County Alumni are one of the organizations who volunteer every year to support this event. Shown left to right are: **David Sarno** (21) **Cindy LaConte** (7) **Elisabeth Glynn** (26) **Amy Bottegal** (28) **Cheryl White** (23) **Jordon Pastorius** (31) **Jenny Fields** (30)

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Leaders Visit with City and County Officials

On December 1, the **LEADERship Government Day** Committee coordinated a great day encompassing county and city administration, constitutional officers, lunch with local officials and much more.

A special thanks to all the **Alumni Volunteers**: George Dzama (30), Tom Campenni (25), Elisabeth Glynn (26), Christina Hunter (32), Cindy Groover (30), Frank Fender (29), Jordon Pastorius (31), George Stokus (25), not pictured Joe Connelly (28).



Class 33 participated in a “Why” exercise facilitated by Tim Kinane (1) and assisted by our Alumni volunteers: Lisa Conway (32), Cindy Groover (30), Chris Gavilanez (32), Cheree Ramirez (27) Sarah Baker (29), Taryn Kryzda (13), Christina Hunter (32), Michelle Miller (31), Joanna Greene (32), Brian Carney (28), Kevin Kirwin (32), Elisabeth Glynn (26), Eric Kiehn (29) and Brian Powers (7).



Charlene Hoag Leadership Award

At the Business Development Board’s celebration of their Martin County Business Awards, they announced the winner of the Charlene Hoag Leadership Award. The Award is named for the late Charlene Hoag, a graduate of LEADERship Class 2, a former County Commissioner, board member of the Stuart/Martin County Chamber and County Taxpayer’s Association.

This year, Tom and Sue Whittington, of Class 14 and former LEADERship Alumni Board President, were the recipients of this award. They were recognized for their outstanding community service and commitment to Martin County. Tom and Sue own Manatee Pocket Yacht Sales and Sue is a Financial Advisor at Morgan Stanley. They have lived in Martin County since 1999.

Stuart Mayor Troy McDonald, their grandson Lexington, their granddaughter Farrah, Tom, Sue, daughter Jordan and son-in-law Ian.



Students Learn Lessons on Law and Fire Safety

Students met professionals from the 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Florida, including State Attorney **Tom Bakkedahl** (10), the Honorable Judge Jennifer Waters and Assistant Public Defender **Robert Bruton** (26) at the Martin County Courthouse. The three presented an overview of the court system in Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee Counties. Students were also given solid advice in making smart choices during their student years, and how to prepare for the many varied careers in the legal arena.

The students visited Martin County Fire and Rescue, touring the station and vehicles and learning about life as a firefighter and EMT. The class visited the Martin County Sheriff's Office and Correctional Facility. Students enjoyed a K-9 presentation from "Maverick" and his handler, Cpl. Ronald Manganiello, while learning how German Shepherds are trained to assist officers in tasks vital to law enforcement. Chief Deputy **John Budensiek** (30), spoke to the students encouraging them to never give up, never set goals too low, and build upon their successes one layer at a time.

They had a brief tour of the jail, led by a MCSO Deputy. The students learned how inmates are brought to and processed at the MCSO jail and saw firsthand about the complete lack of rights and privacy one should expect if in jail. They also viewed the pods of the newly renovated wing of the jail, and saw the small space in which up to 32 inmates live, sleep, eat, shower and cohabitate.

Many thanks go to program chair Robert Bruton, Assistant Public Defender and Trisha Green, Community Outreach Manager of MCSO, who organized the day.



LOOKING BACK - 10 YEARS AGO...



UPCOMING Stuart/Martin Chamber Events – 772-287-1088

Jan 9, Tues., 7:45am, **Business B4 Breakfast**, *Kane Center*, 900 SE Salerno Road, Stuart

Jan 10, Wed., 11:45am, **Business at Lunch**, *Martin Funeral Home & Crematory*, *Martin Downs Golf Club*, Palm City

Jan 17, Wed., 5:30-7:00pm, **Business After Hours**, *Circa 69 American Gastropub*, 3750 NE Indian River Drive, JB

Jan 23, Tues., 7:45am, **Business B4 Breakfast**, *SpeedPro*, 7763 SW Ellipse Way, Stuart

Jan 30, Tues., 7:45am, **Business B4 Breakfast**, *Mikey Mattress*, 3221 NW Federal Hwy., Jensen Beach



Bulletin Board

POST YOUR NOTES

**LEADERship Alumni Board
2023-2024**

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LEADERship Prog. Director
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LEADERlines Editor
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Stacy Ranieri (10) owner of Firefly Public Relations & Marketing was named Outstanding Small Business Philanthropist of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals Treasure Coast Chapter. Stacy, as Chief Illuminator of the Firefly Group, did an original painting as part of Helping People Succeed Art for Living Calendar which is on display at the Elliott Museum.



Lloyd Jones (9) is the founder of the nonprofit Martin County Black Heritage Initiatives and is advocating for the state marker for the first black one-room schoolhouse in Port Salerno. Jones wants to use the schoolhouse as the county's first Black History Museum with the help of Government, non-profits and County school district.

Save the Date: January 25th, at Fysh Bar & Grill 4290 SE Salerno Rd., Stuart, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm Cost \$25 per person. Guest Speaker: Rich Greer, Findaway Coaching. Topic: "The Power of Discipline: Discipline = Freedom". Lunch Sponsor: Southern Magnolia Investment Management

SAVE THE DATE - Feb. 16

2024 Golf Tournament

Martin Downs Golf Club - Palm City

STUART/MARTIN COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Contact Debbi for info: 287-1088, ext. 112

Alumni Purpose

The purpose of LEADERship Martin County Alumni is to support the LEADERship Martin County Program; to provide education and networking opportunities for our members; and to enhance community awareness of our members by providing opportunities to evaluate and act on issues affecting the community.

Note: Our monthly newsletter can now be viewed on our website www.LeadershipMCalumni.com

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