

# LEADERlines

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LEADERSHIP MARTIN COUNTY ALUMNI



## BEHIND THE SHIELD WITH STUART POLICE DEPARTMENT

On January 15, LEADERship Alumni had the rare opportunity to step behind the shield with Chief Flamer Zenelovic for an exclusive inside look at the Stuart Police Department.

From the communications center to specialized units and operational spaces, Chief Zenelovic walked us through the heart of the department—sharing how his team protects, serves and leads the community every day.

His commitment to transparency, innovation, and community partnership was evident in the conversation.

We are grateful for the invite, the access, the insight, and the reminder that the work happening behind these walls is driven by purpose, professionalism, and heart.

We are proud to stand with those who stand for us!



# CLASS 35 REACHES NEW HEIGHTS

## COPES Day 2026



COPES Day 2026 was a raging success! Class 35 bonded on an all-new level as they navigated the challenges of the low and high rope courses. Beyond the physical feats, Tim Kinane delivered an incredible leadership segment focused on the power of gratitude, grounding the team's growth in a shared sense of appreciation.



The excitement continued over lunch, where the group held a lively discussion regarding their official class name. While the official choice is still being finalized, the energy suggests a rather interesting pick—stay tuned for the big reveal!

A huge thank you to Alec Connely and the hospitable Scout Camp crew for their expert instruction and accommodations. We also couldn't have done it without our incredible volunteers: Stacy Little, Skylar Gorman, Josh Russell, and Cindy Groover who continue to "show up and show out" for Class 35.



# A 'LIFT' FOR OUR YOUTH

## *Changing Lives Through Innovation*



LEADERSHIP Alumni received a special tour of Project LIFT's new facility in Hobe Sound from CEO Bob Zaccero.

Through determination, dedication, trial and error, commitment, and leadership, Bob and his team have transformed Project LIFT into a model of innovation and community impact.

Project LIFT is a powerhouse in the community, providing mental health services, vocational training, and life-changing mentorship for teens.



During the tour, we:

- Explored the new vocational training spaces
- Met program leaders and heard about expanded services
- Learned how Project LIFT is shaping the next generation of skilled, confident young adults
- Connected with fellow alumni who have a shared commitment to community leadership

This new facility expands that mission in bold and inspiring ways — and we were invited to see it firsthand.



<https://projectlift.org>

# COMMUNITY CORNER

## **Tykes & Teens**

by Anne Posey, LMHC, NCC, Class 33

According to a new CDC analysis, more than a third of high school students reported they experienced poor mental health during the pandemic and 44% reported feeling persistently sad or hopeless during 2021. ([Mental Health](#) | [DASH](#) | [CDC](#)).



Our youth are in crisis and ensuring they receive the services that need is vital. Reducing the stigma that surrounds seeking mental health care is necessary. Often there is a large gap of time (sometimes upward of 10 years) between onset of symptoms and seeking help for a mental health challenge. Imagine living with the pain of a broken arm for 10 years before seeking help...we would never endure that pain and would, in fact, be encouraged to see a professional. The pain those struggling with mental health challenges feel is often as serious as the broken bone, yet those suffering may be discouraged from seeking help. Our goal is to reduce this stigma so that our youth do not suffer needlessly. Often all it takes is a friend or family member to acknowledge that someone may be struggling, and a word of encouragement to seek help may be all it takes to connect someone with help. The more we can talk openly about our feelings with our loved ones, the more likely we are to get the help we need.

Tykes & Teens has been providing quality mental health services in Martin and the surrounding counties for 30 years. We provide a full range of mental health services for our youth from birth to graduation from high school. We provide evidence-based therapy, medication management, prevention services in our schools and communities, and consultation services in our early childhood learning centers. Intervening early in a child's life is key. We are especially proud to be the only provider offering infant mental health services, where we focus on families that have experienced trauma, abuse or neglect, and intervene early to ensure future success for their children. This year we provided our first summer camp for children struggling with mental health issues who were not successful in a regular camp experience.

A new program we offer is our **Walk-In Assessment Centers** in Martin and St. Lucie counties, started with Impact 100 grants (both Impact 100 Martin and Impact 100 St. Lucie). Children and their families can walk in Monday-Friday between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. and get an evaluation and linkage with services. Since the inception in August 2024, we have seen over 400 youth in this service. Immediate access is one of the most important things to the continuum of care.

An example of a successful intervention is a 12-year-old young man who had come to services due to family conflict and recent changes in the family system. When initially starting services, he was unwilling to engage or interact with the therapist, but throughout sessions became increasingly participative and found a safe place in his weekly counseling appointments to process difficult family dynamics. His mother unexpectedly passed while the client was in services, and the therapist was able to walk alongside him at his own pace of processing his recent loss. Eventually he was able to develop and implement healthy coping skills, self-care techniques, and develop self-compassion and was successfully discharged from services and developed a new support system.

Our reimbursement from Medicaid and our wonderful community grants does not cover the cost of providing these services, which threatens the existence of an agency like Tykes & Teens. Please feel free to reach out for more information on how you can help. Please contact Anne Posey, CEO, [aposey@tykesandteens.org](mailto:aposey@tykesandteens.org) or Linda Gallagher, Director of Philanthropy, [lindag@tykesandteens.org](mailto:lindag@tykesandteens.org).

FEBRUARY 2026

## Upcoming Events

*Stay  
tuned*

**OUR EVENTS TEAM IS WORKING ON  
MORE GREAT LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAMMING!**

Keep an eye on your inboxes and our Facebook page for details.

**CONNECT WITH US!**



Contact us at [info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com) to be added to our mailing list!

# Bulletin



Stephen Quintyne (Class 31) accepted the 2025 CIT **Community Partner of the Year Award** on behalf of Coral Shores Behavioral Health.



Come support Amber Ducote and LEADERship Martin County at the February Stuart/Martin Chamber Luncheon! Amber will be promoting the program and the upcoming application period.

## YOUR NEWS HERE

SHARE YOUR UPDATES WITH YOUR ALUMNI COMMUNITY!

[info@leadershipmcalumni.com](mailto:info@leadershipmcalumni.com)

## Stuart/Martin Chamber of Commerce

### FEBRUARY EVENTS

**Feb. 10** Business B4 Breakfast  
Ramey Floor & Home

**Feb. 11** Business at Lunch  
Monarch Country Club

**Feb. 18** Business After Hours  
The Pearl

**Feb. 24** Business B4 Breakfast  
Florida Coast Medical Center

### 2025-2026 LEADERSHIP ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President:** Kate Muscarella

**Vice President:** Christina Hunter

**Treasurer:** David Sarno

**Recording Secretary:** Jon Milton

**Corresponding Secretary:** Charlene Lyons

#### Directors

Lisa Conway, Joanna Greene,  
Patrick Nolan, Christen Spake, Sally Waite

#### Ex Officio

Chelsey Matheson,  
Immediate Past President  
Amber Ducote,  
LEADERship Program Director  
Chris Vaccaro, Class 34 Representative

## LEADERship Martin County Alumni

### Our Mission:

To inspire continuous professional and personal growth in the LEADERship Martin County community.

### Our Vision:

A strong LEADERship Alumni network that nurtures meaningful connections, opportunities and ideas that strengthen the Martin County community and future generations of leaders.