

October 2010

LEADER READER

A Message from our President:



Ed Halleran '03
President

Dear Friends:

Several years ago a friend gave me a card that I liked so much, I framed it. It still sits on my desk today. The cover of this card has a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson that says:

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail".

I love that quote. I think it speaks to what leadership is all about. Emerson's quote reminds me a lot of this year's Leadership Pinellas class. That is what they do.

The 1st stop to this class' 1st program day was to the RCS Food Bank. Knowing that, the class decided to hold their own food drive. I couldn't believe my eyes when I arrived at the bus in the morning. The compartments under the bus were packed with food. When we arrived at the RCS Food Bank, they brought out carts to bring all the food in and weigh it.

RCS Food Bank received 1,083lbs of food and \$540 from our generous Leadership Pinellas Class of 2011. That total is the equivalent of providing 1,234 nutritious meals to the hungry in Pinellas!

I was so proud of this class for taking it upon themselves to do a great thing for a very worthy organization. We have an outstanding group of leaders here. Stay tuned for more great things to come from this class.

Special thanks to **Duggan Cooley '07, Mike DiBrizzi '10, Brenda Green '07, Kim Praitano '10, Karen Skiratko '07, and Tirrah Switzer '08** for an outstanding job in putting together this year's Human Services Day.

This month we also held our 2nd alumni social in a suite at Brighthouse Network Field. Thanks again to our Alumni Development Chair, **Brian St. Arnold '05** for putting together an awesome event. The experience of using a suite at the ballpark is a great venue for us. If you weren't able to join us, mark your calendars and come out and join us on Wednesday, October 13th @ 5:00 when we will do it again. There is NO COST to attend. So come on out and enjoy some drinks and light snacks, mingle with fellow Leadership Alumni and meet the outstanding members of our new Leadership Pinellas class. Hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Ed Halleran
President



P. O. Box 5986
 Clearwater, FL 33758-5986
 (727) 585-8889

PREPARING LEADERS FOR TOMORROW

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 Executive Director: Judy Mullican

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Help Fill The "Members On The Move" Space. Please Send Any News On Our Membership

Please submit information on "Members on the Move" to judy@leadershippinellas.com by October 27, 2010 to be included in the next Issue of the Leader Reader. Photos are welcome. Include a .jpg or .pdf file of your photo for inclusion

Volunteer Organization Spotlight Of The Month

We would like to make this a monthly feature of our *Leader Reader* as space permits. So, if you have a suggestion for a future issue, please submit it to Judy Mullican, Executive Director, judy@leadershippinellas.com or mail it to Leadership Pinellas, P. O. Box 5986, Clearwater, FL 33758-5986. Deadline for the next issue is October 27, 2010.

A Special Thank You

A very special thank you to **Duggan Cooley '07 (CHAIR), Karen Skiratko '07, Co-Chair, Brenda Green '07, Kim Praitano '10, Mike Dibrizzi '10, and Tirrah Switzer '08** for all their hard work and efforts in making this year's Human Services Day a great success, and a special thank you to Religious Community Services for sponsoring the breakfast; Homeless Emergency Project, Inc., for sponsoring the lunch and Skiratko Carpenter Wealth Management Group for sponsoring the snacks for Human Services Day.

Please keep checking the events on our Website: www.leadershippinellas.com
 For any updated info on our planned events.

PROGRAM DAY SCHEDULE

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aug 20-21, 2010 | Retreat |
| September 08, 2010 | Human Services |
| October 13, 2010 | Education * |
| November 10, 2010 | Business & Technology |
| December 08, 2010 | Government & Media |
| January 12, 2011 | Health * |
| February 09, 2011 | Arts & Culture * |
| March 20-22, 2011 | Tallahassee |
| April 13, 2011 | Environment & Infrastructure * |
| May 11, 2011 | Criminal Justice * |
| May 14, 2011 pm | Graduation/Annual Meeting |

*NOTE DATE CHANGE



Human Services Day, September 8, 2010

Submitted by **Tina Tenret '11**

“That’s never happened before,” Leadership Pinellas President **Ed Halleran '03** marveled as he watched the Class of 2011 load *1,083 pounds of food* – enough to feed 100 families for three days – onto the bus for Human Services Day. Never before has a Leadership Pinellas class donated to the RCS Food Bank *before* visiting it – much less 13 boxes, 26 cases, 82 bags and 1 moving carton of canned goods, plus \$540 in cash donations!

Our initial retreat was barely over when the Class of 2011 arranged a social hour for those going through “withdrawal” from not seeing each other for a week. We volleyed Facebook posts and emails, then laid down the gauntlet: just how much could we collect for the food bank on our first program day?

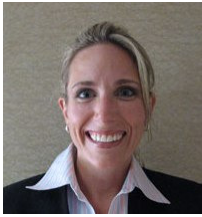
But we were quickly eclipsed by the heroes who shared their stories on Human Services Day. 17-year-old Rosie, kicked out of school in eighth grade, caused so many problems her mother threatened to send her back to Cuba. At the PACE Center for at-risk girls in Pinellas County, Rosie learned to express her feelings without cursing and fighting. Even when her mother lost her job, Rosie supported the household working two jobs until 4 a.m., then headed to school. Rosie cried (along with several members of the Class of 2011) when she said: “If it wasn’t for PACE, I’d be in Cuba in gangs.”

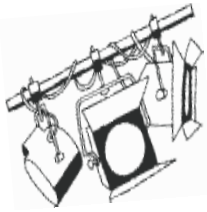
Her classmate, 17-year-old Amelia, was expelled for skipping class and drinking. She and two siblings lived in a hotel room surrounded by drug addicts and pedophiles. She had been removed from her home at eight years old due to her mother’s drug use, tossed among foster homes for four years until, at 12 years old, she was reunited with her father. When her relationship with her stepmother deteriorated, Amelia found PACE, where counselors worked with her one on one, treated her depression and donated furniture to her family. Both her parents will watch her graduate this year; she then plans to attend college to become an elementary school art teacher. “If I teach kids early on about art,” she says, “they’ll care about it all their lives.”

Finally, we met retired Circuit Court Judge Joseph Donahey, whose lower back surgery went horribly wrong – he emerged blind. The highly educated judge who liked to read case pleadings on paper, handwrote his rulings, and used his computer only as a paperweight was forced to admit: unable to read or write, he was suddenly illiterate. Specialists at Lighthouse of Pinellas taught him to use a computer, navigate his home, and cross four-way intersections with a cane, when all he wanted was to stay in bed. Months later, he returned to the bench and served another three years before retiring. Now, he wears glasses but only to protect himself from low-hanging tree limbs.

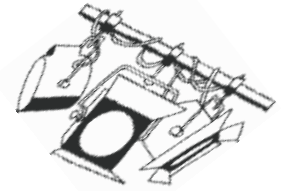
“Do what you do best, and get somebody else to do what they do best, too,” is the motto at Homeless Emergency Project (HEP) in Clearwater, where we saw plans to expand the five acre campus to include another three, devoted to young veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. Almost one in three homeless people in Pinellas County are children, according to Juvenile Welfare Board Executive Director Gay Lancaster – that’s about twice the statewide ratio. “Everyone wants people to be ready to work,” she said, “but first they have to be ready to learn.” The ultimate failure in her eyes: 18 year olds “aging out” of the foster care system without being adopted – forced to leave their households and support themselves while still in high school.

The day’s stories and statistics only inspired the Class of 2011 to do more good. “Let’s go big, let’s go bold, and let’s make it happen,” urged **Bob Childress '11** as we headed home. He then confided: apart from vacations with his wife, this Leadership Pinellas program day was the most rewarding he’d ever spent away from work. **Nick deCeglie '11** later posted on his Facebook page: “After 14 hours and an incredibly humbling day, I’m home with my family that I love more than anything.”





Volunteer Organization Spotlight of the Month



Someone Is Waiting Just For

UPARC Foundation, Inc.

“A Spirit of Hope for the Developmentally Challenged”



For nearly 50 years it has been the mission of **UPARC** to enhance the dignity and independence of persons who are developmentally challenged in the Upper Pinellas area. **UPARC** is dedicated to enabling individuals with developmental disabilities to choose and realize their goals of where and how to live, learn, work and play. **UPARC** is further committed to supporting the families of individuals served, realizing that the family is the central unit of society. **UPARC** also provides leadership to the community by assisting efforts to understand and empower individuals with developmental disabilities by providing the full use of appropriate community services.

UPARC has a world renowned reputation for developing innovative and unique programs, a distinction **UPARC** holds with pride. Some recent major advancements have included establishing homes for elderly individuals with developmental disabilities, including those who have Alzheimer's and Prader Willi Syndrome, which **UPARC** has the distinction of being the first in the world to develop. Other such programs enable 500 consumers and their families an opportunity for a better life—one with dignity, self-esteem and a place where dreams become reality.

Tours are available of any one of our 21 group homes throughout North Pinellas or one of our day programs in the Long Center in Clearwater, the Tarpon Springs Center in Tarpon Springs or Harborside Studios in Safety Harbor. Please contact the **UPARC Foundation** office at (727) 797-8712 or info@uparcfoundation.org to schedule a tour at your convenience. Visit our website at www.uparcfoundation.org to find out more about how you can become involved.

CELEBRATING THE 26TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF TREES, TAMPA BAY

The 2010 Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay **“Home for the Holidays”**, presented by **UPARC Foundation** is celebrating its 26th annual event in partnership with the City of Clearwater from November 12-15, 2010. This year's event will take place in the gymnasiums at the Long Center on N. Belcher Road in Clearwater, the “home” of **UPARC** and **UPARC Foundation**.

Showcasing over 100 uniquely decorated trees, the Festival kicks off Friday, November 12 with the exclusive Premier Night Gala **“Rocking ‘round the Christmas Trees”**. Our Honorary Chairs for the 2010 Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay are Dr. William E. and Jeanette Hale, Founders of the **UPARC Foundation**, with Leeward and Kerry Bean serving as Co-Chairs. Patrons, including city officials and community leaders, will enjoy libations, entertainment by **“Otis Velt and the Old School Band”**, of seventies movie fame and fine cuisine from area restaurants while searching for the perfect tree for their home, office or favorite charity. The evening will feature a live auction with exciting vacation packages, dinner parties and much more. Tickets for Premier Night available for \$75.00 per person with Patron level sponsorship available at \$100.

Trees ranging from two to seven and a half feet high will be on display and sold during the four day event. Free tree delivery will be available for seven and half foot trees within 30 miles. Ticket prices for Festival will be \$5.00 per person with children 10 and under free. All proceeds will go to support the programs and services of **UPARC**. We would like to encourage individuals, businesses and service clubs to participate by becoming a sponsor, competing in tree decorating, volunteering your time and talent to help make this year's event another huge success, or just come to enjoy the start of the 2010 holiday season with us.

Support from the Pinellas business community includes Pinch-A-Penny, Publix, the City of Clearwater, St. Petersburg Times and Florida Van Lines. Free parking will be available both at the Long Center and at the Salvation Army Parking area immediately north of the Long Center. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact **UPARC Foundation** at (727) 797-8712.

Volunteers will be onsite throughout the Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay to educate the public about the role **UPARC** plays in the community, serving the developmentally disabled. **UPARC** focuses on the unlimited potential of each person served, regardless of the degree of disability. Independence, dignity, self-esteem and personal choice are afforded each person as they choose their destiny and form their long-range life plan.

For more information, and to purchase tickets to Premier Night, contact the **UPARC Foundation** at (727) 797-8712 or e-mail Leslie DiPaci at ldipaci@uparcfoundation.org. You can also find more information regarding Festival of Trees, Tampa Bay on our website at www.uparcfoundation.org.

From the Desk of:



Judy Mullican,
Executive Director



Hello All,

Wednesday, September 8th was the first official program day for the Class of 2011, Human Services and if that day is anything like the rest of their year, this is going to be an awesome class. They decided to bring food to the bus at the beginning of the day since they knew they were going to the RCS food bank as their first stop. They brought 1,083 pounds of food. Pretty impressive for a group of people that didn't even know each other a month ago. Look for big things from this group. They are very energetic and excited to learn more about our community and begin a class project.

I especially want to thank **Duggan Cooley '07 (Chair), Karen Skiratko '07 (Co-Chair), Brenda Green '07, Kim Praitano '10, Mike Dibrizzi '10 and Tirrah Switzer '08** for putting together such an awesome day. The evaluations were very positive. Everyone enjoyed all the stops and the speakers at each stop. As always, many thanks to **Brian Scott '09** with Escot Bus Lines for providing, Rick, our very capable driver for the day. Thanks also to **Duggan Cooley '07** and RCS for providing our breakfast, HEP and **Barbara Green '03** for providing the lunch and **Karen Skiratko '07** with Skiratko Carpenter Wealth Management Group for providing the drinks and snacks.

Next up is Education Day. The committee is hard at work setting up the day and the class is anxiously looking forward to it. Keep in mind that the committees can always use sponsorship funds to help with setting up their day. It is never too late to offer to be a sponsor for one of the upcoming program days. Just contact me with the day you want to sponsor and I will see that you are put in touch with the proper committee.

Also, don't forget about the end-of-the-program day alumni/class of 2011 socials that are held at the end of every program day. Plan to attend and meet the class at the end of their day to catch up and see how their day went.

Thanks
Judy

A Huge Thank You To The 2010-2011 Corporate Sponsors

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Gary E. Williams, Esq., '09
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PLEASE CONTACT ANDREA CAMPAGNA '10 AT: Andrea@campagnahomes.com
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SPONSORSHIP.

A Huge Thank You To The 2010-2011 Alumni Sponsors

ALUMNI GOLD BOOSTERS

David Becker '99
Donna Blazevic '09
Bollenback & Forret, PA – **Michael “Mike” Bollenback '83**
Bollenback Builders - **Rob Bollenback '10**
Carlisle, Fields & Co. - **Pat Carlisle '09**
D-Mar General Contracting & Development, **Andrew Caudell '08 & Doreen DiPolito '07**
Homeworks Inspection Services Corp. – **Georgetta Doyle '05**
Richard “Brett” Dulaney '10
Charlie Dye '09
Ed Halleran '03
Jerry Hubbell '10
Roger Johnson '08
Straighten Up Orthodontics - **Dr. William Layman '07**
Timothy Papp '10
Karen Skiratko '07

ALUMNI BOOSTERS

Ileane Altamura '10
Eric Beck '09
Tracey Birch '07
Ray Bouchard '94
Cathy Bush '10
Liza Carter '07
Bob Chiavacci '09
Katie Cole '01
Michael Faehner '02
Ruth Fanovich '05
Dianne Wheatley Giliotti '02
Jerry Fletcher '08

Cyndie Goudeau '96
Nancy Greenberg '05
Kenneth Hamilton '80
Lisa Hamilton '02
Sirena Ionata '09
Sally Lindberg '06
Bruce Livingston '00
Timothy McMahon '05
Sydney Niewierski '08
Craig Phillips '07
Joy Pollack '10
Mark Postma '08

Gary Regoli '10
Nancy Ridenour '98
Janet Rosenquist '06
B. A. Safely '03
Brian Scott '09
Jeannie Shapiro '00
Tom Stathopoulos '06
Tom Wagner '09
Lauralee Westine '03
Debbie White '95



M - E - M - B - E - R - S O - N T - H - E M - O - V - E

C O N G R A T U L A T I O N S t o . . .

Jamie Cataldo '09 has been named Development Director at American Stage Theatre Company

Cyndie Goudea '96 is retiring as Clearwater's City Clerk after 25 years in the position.

Emerald Contractors' President **John Marzulli '11** received the Tampa Bay Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) 2009 Hall of Fame award. Each year NARI selects an individual who has unselfishly given their time and talents in service to NARI, the remodeling industry, the community and their clients.

Grant Petersen '09 has been included in the 2011 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America*. He is a shareholder with Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC, Tampa.

Please help fill this page by sending information to: judy@leadershippinellas.com



DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS, ERRORS AND OMISSIONS

Susan Dees '94 has a new email address: grantison@aol.com.

Shannon Martin's '06 position has changed to Director of Communications with Aging Wisely, LLC (www.agingwisely.com) and EasyLiving, Inc. (www.easylivingfl.com). She can be reached at the same email address: shannonmartin@agingwisely.com

Gretchen Mitchell '11 has a new email address and cell number: gmitchell29@tampabay.rr.com, 727 580.2492

Mary Morrow '10 has a new cell number: 727-871-3340

Judy Siracusa '95 has a new email address: winnings@tampabay.rr.com



Our thoughts and prayers are with **Laura Snell '10** in the recent passing of her mother.