In the Know

Your guide to noteworthy appointments, nominations and donations taking place within our community of nonprofit organizations

Jessica June Children’s Cancer Foundation

Keith Costello, left, Sandra Muvdi, Muriel Miller with son Malachi Dean, Marie Thezan with son Gabriel Thezan, and Joe Dorsey

The Jessica June Children’s Cancer Foundation recently won Broward Bank of Commerce’s “Bank on My Dream” contest. On Aug. 12, CEO of Broward Bank of Commerce Keith Costello and CEO of Community Bank of Broward Joe Dorsey presented the awards of two $5,000 checks to the foundation. The checks will go toward fulfilling the dreams of two children battling cancer and their families.

"As a member of the Florida Bankers Association, Broward Bank of Commerce is pleased to see this organization support local organizations that provide a hand to those who need it most in the community," said Costello. "The Jessica June Foundation is a long-time client of our bank, and I know this award will help them to continue to provide much-needed support to the children they serve."

The awards will be used to fund shelter for Malachi Dean, a boy battling brain cancer, and his single mother, as well as Gabriel Thezan, who is battling Burkitt’s lymphoma, and his family. The recipients were selected for the awards after the Jessica June Children’s Cancer Foundation entered them in the contest and shared their stories.

The “Bank On My Dream” contest, launched by the Florida Bankers Association, gave nonprofit organizations the opportunity to nominate deserving persons for a $5,000 prize that could help make their dream a reality.

Police Athletic League (PAL) of Hallandale Beach

Riener Insurance Group sponsored a day trip for children from the Hallandale Beach Police League to the Magic Kingdom at Walt Disney World in Orlando. PAL is a nonprofit organization established to use athletic, recreational, and educational activities to instill positive life principles and character-building tools in youths in an effort to deter juvenile crime and violence.

Ninety youth age 6-15 were taken by bus to Disney for a fun-filled day. Hallandale PAL presented a plaque to Stephen Riener, president of Riener Insurance Group, at the Riener Insurance Group Corporate Offices. Each child also received an event T-shirt, hat and a park ticket that included meals. Snacks were also provided and sponsored by Cherry Brothers and the Hallandale Beach Rotary Club. Riding along for the festivities were Honorable Mayor of Hallandale Beach Joy Cooper, police chief Dwayne Fleurony and fire chief Daniel Sullivan.

Jim Moran Foundation

Barbara Sussman leads an Alzheimer’s Family Center caregiver support group at the Colony Club in Sunrise.

In honor of what would have been automotive pioneer and philanthropist Jim Moran’s 96th birthday on Aug. 8, the Jim Moran Foundation awarded two grants of $96,000 each to Alzheimer’s Family Center in Margate and The Senior Life Foundation in Jacksonville. The funding will help elderly individuals maintain their well being while remaining self-sufficient in their homes or with loved ones. Every year, the foundation celebrates Jim Moran’s life with Founder’s Day grants - one in North Florida and one in South Florida.

John Knox Village (JKV)

Employees assisting the Sharing and Caring Program with the backpack efforts

Recently, more than 550 backpacks were filled and distributed by JKV’s Sharing and Caring Program and a dedicated group of retired resident teachers. Pencils and pencil boxes, notebooks, folders, crayons, markers, erasers, glue, index cards, rulers, highlighters and other essential supplies were purchased and added to the backpacks. Each year residents donate backpacks for JKV employees for their children, ages kindergarten through 8th grade. The finished backpacks were then distributed among the departments and employees.