

Prestige CLUB

... helping those in need

Inside this issue:

President's Message2

Member's Cocktail Party3

News Briefs3

Love Fest Picnic 4-5

Prestige Tea Party6

Halloween Photos7

Golf Tournament7

Butterfly Garden8



Prestige Club Donates Over \$60,000 During Volunteer Florida Week

Once again our Golf Tournament and donations have raised money to help numerous special projects for 2008.

Our membership breakfast in April at which we made the presentations was packed. Lateefa Dooling of the Boy's and Girl's Club sang the National Anthem for the opening ceremony.

The Agencies helped were:

1. The Easter Seals PAL program for small children and families of different nationalities works on communication skills between these groups.
2. The Pal Youth Programs of Hallandale, Miramar, Hollywood, Davie, and Pembroke Pines were

given checks for educational needs.

3. The autistic program at Walter C. Young received money for new educational programs.
4. The pantries of EASE, LES and Hope Outreach were each given several thousand dollars for Publix gift certificates.
5. SOS Village and Children's Harbor were also helped with their projects as were A Child Is Missing, Schott Communities, and the Boy's and Girl's Clubs.
6. School Resource Officer Vic Thompson was one of the recipients for reading programs in Dania Beach.
7. Over \$3,000 in books were given to

Flamingo Elementary and Davie Elementary.

8. James Jr. Fund for kids with cancer, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital, Chris Everett Hospital and Light of the World Clinic were also helped.
9. We paid for several programs at the Susan B. Anthony Center, and at the YMCA for Florida Suicide Prevention Program called SUN.

In addition we helped the individual needs of children who were ill, and gave three small Christmas parties for children - one at each of the Boy's and Girl's Clubs and at Hope Outreach at which the children were able to make Christmas gifts for their parents. The Board of Directors and members really enjoyed helping the children. They mentioned that when they walked in the first thing the kids would say was: "When is the picnic?"



See President's Message on page 2 for an explanation of this intriguing photo.

President's Message

Over our many years, despite the fact that good members have had to move away, we have been able to find replacements who have enabled our organization to grow. I try to keep up with them by phone and am happy to report that all are doing well. Lisa Catterson, former Board Member, bought a Limo conversion factory in Missouri. Gina Devine of TGL Environmental moved to Deerfield Beach as has Per Soderman and have started a Prestige Club there. Carmela Michon moved to Jacksonville to become a country club caterer. We miss Leah Rubinoff of Easter Seals, Shawn Meinman of Benchmark, and Maureen Johnson of Juice Plus.

Welcome to new members: Hal Myrah of Cardinal Contractors, Inc., Lorraine Celestino Wilde, CEO of Go Airport Shuttle, Dan LaMonte of Turner Construction, Sonya Kline, Manager of Pembroke Pines Self Storage, Cindy Eisen of Broward Health, Wayne Eisen, CPA, Maxine Silva of Keller Williams Realty and Diane Ortiz of D&CO.



I belong to many organizations in which only a few members actually work. In ours it is different as we are family and everyone helps. Thank you to the board and the members who are always there working as a team. This is the only way we can remain a vibrant part of the community.



Special Thanks to our Webmaster and Photographer Extraordinaire Clarence Robinson

At the picnic this year with its record 2900 participants, I met a stranger who was from a Kiwanis Club in Ft. Lauderdale. The gentleman would not give me his last name, but he was so impressed with what we did that he sent me \$10,000 in Publix gift certificates to be used for the kids at the Christmas Holidays. At this event we were able to help one thousand families with clothes, toys and food. Thanks to our Chair Melinda Rao of Regent Bank and all those who helped to make it a success. She has agreed to be the Chair for the affair once more.

With families finding themselves on the unemployment lines, they are dropping by the food pantries only to find them short of food. At recent meetings members have been bringing in bags full of food that they purchased at local food markets offering buy one, get one free items. Keep in mind that Hope Outreach, Ease and LES are always in need.

Boys and Girls Clubs have had to cut back due to the economy and we still have seven hundred children who cannot pay the 40.00 a year. Thanks to so many of you who have been sponsoring a child. We have also been helping out families who are having difficulties taking their



sick children to the doctor because of the price of gas. Our members and the James Jr. Fund have been distributing gas cards to help out.

We have contacted many restaurants and asked if we buy a \$25.00 gift certificated if they would give matching gift certificates and many have agreed. Once a month we give needy families the gift certificates so that they can take their family out for dinner.

We recently took 150 Boy's and Girl's Club members to a Marlins game where they were treated like royalty in the picnic area. Every child was given free transportation and dinner. Prestige Club was in neon lights all night.

Israel and Samantha, our survivors of cancer are still helping us after years in remission.

All of the non-profits have been helping us get auction items for our big Gala in October.

A special thanks to Signature Grand for the wonderful cocktail party they held for us.

Please mark your calendars for our big Halloween event October 24th. I know everyone loved the entertainment last year. We have hired the same entertainment company and they promise lots of surprises.

Thank you for being my friend and helping all of the children.

Polly



Member's Cocktail Party

The Signature Grand



News Briefs

At the time of the last newsletter, my grandson was facing yet another operation but was doing better. Some of you have asked his present condition. Sad to say Derek finally reached the end of his fight and passed on. All of you who knew him knew he suffered for a long time. Now he is with God and my son.

We are glad that one of our members, **Lourdes Perez**, is not moving. She was a great model at the Tea Party and I think she bought her clothes again.

Ed Priore has a wonderful new person in his life as does **Ed Roer**. These women are both assets to our organization and we welcome them to our Prestige family.

Drew Pickard has agreed to Chair our golf tournament and **Melinda Rao** has done the same for the picnic.

Our Halloween bash on October 24th just got a big boost. Signature Grand for years has hosted the Grand Ghoul at which their vendors donate everything. Prestige was the charity picked this year. Tickets for our members will be \$100.00 all others will have to pay 150.00 — but no chicken dinners and open bar. There will be carving stations and a variety

of other food stations. They are putting us on bill boards, and have hired the PR firm of Bitner and Bitner to do the press. Professional decorations will be done by Mrs. Pecora, and the big entertainment group from last year will return. The money raised goes to Prestige. This is an opportunity for us to make three times what we usually make.

Jim and **Dree Stoodley** made a trip to Alaska and now have bought a camper that looks like a bus.

Harry and **Jackie Rosen** also travel in their big camper.

Joanne and **John Miner** are off to their cabin in Georgia but because it is so far they bought a mobile home near Ocala for weekends.

Our treasurer **Diane Ortiz** is heading to Italy, London and maybe Paris.

Our President **Polly Wilkie** was put into Broward County Senior Hall of Fame. She states she is not a senior citizen but a seasoned person. She also was Woman of the Year of 1000 Plus Cancer Society with over eight hundred attending.

Member, **Marsha Carrant**, Executive Director of Susan B. Anthony will be First Lady of Broward in October.

Joanne Miner received a Pinnacle Award last month.

Member **Stephen Greenberger**, was just made Vice President of Crime Stoppers.

Through a board member, we received a grant for \$50,000 from The Wasie Foundation of Minneapolis, MN for this year's Christmas program. We will be able to clothe, feed and buy presents for more than the 1000 families that we hosted this year. The foundation was very impressed with the picnic and with all the families who were helped. Add an additional ten thousand gifted by one of Polly's friends.

Wings of Gold this year is contributing \$2,000 for food for the picnic.

Special thanks to **Jim Kleinrichert** and the Ark for catering our November breakfast at the Ark. Also a special thanks to **Steve Feldman/Z Magnifique Catering** for all his dedication for the picnic.

Drew Pickard and his lovely wife just got back from Italy.

Prestige Love Fest Picnic

The picnic this year drew a crowd of approximately 2900 which represented 21 agencies - almost double of last year's attendance. We invited many new agencies that had asked to be part of the picnic. They included: the PAL Programs in Pembroke Pines, Davie, Hollywood, Miramar and Hallandale, Hope Outreach, Ease, LES Pantries, Schott Communities,



James Jr. Kids, Chris Everett Children's Hospital, Joe DiMaggio's Children's Hospital, Easter Seals, SOS Village, Children's Harbor, Light of the World Clinic, Firewall Ministries, Kids in Distress, and Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center.

The City of Pembroke Pines and Broward County were co-sponsors. Pembroke Pines provided police, tents, tables, chairs, insurance, and a stage. Wings of Gold, Majic Radio, Stapelton Foundation, Community Bank of Broward, and Memorial Health Care Systems were additional sponsors.



After entering at the gate, guests were greeted by Drew Pickard and his lovely wife. Excitement was enhanced by a new feature this year — the Florida Renaissance Festival with their castle, knights, pirates, and sword swallower. All were provided by member Jackie Rodriguez's husband. The fun continued in three tents with arts and crafts – one

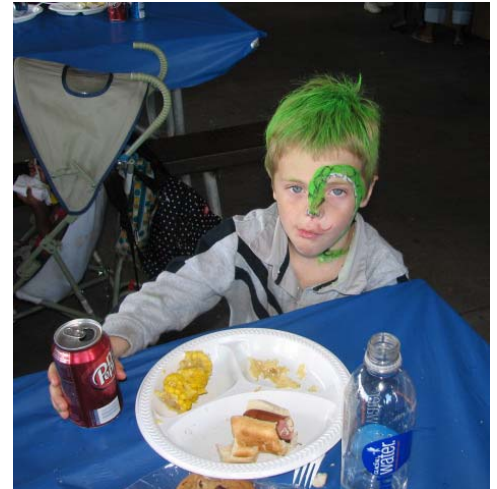
with six clowns doing face painting, another with games, and an interactive Dolphins Jr. Training Camp. Special thanks to Donna Adelkopf and the Monaco family for helping with the games. Featured on stage were Indian dancers, Mickey, Minnie, Elmo, Big Bird, Ronald Mc Donald, Diego and Dora, Whinnie the Pooh and Tiger along with singing, dancing,

and hula hoop competition. With the help of gift gathering by the Boy's and Girl's Club, the Winterfest Santa was able to give out 1000 toys to all the kids. The Motorcycle Girl's Club brought tattoos and put them on the children. At the end of the day each family received a \$25.00 gift certificate to Publix for Thanksgiving dinner.

No picnic is complete without food! Our cooks Jim Kleinrichert, Bobby Rodriguez, Jim Stoodley, Per Soderman, Esrom Williams, Stephen Greenberger, Steve Feldman, Alan Renzer, State Representative Joe Gibbons, and Russell Setti along with Chief Magill of Hallandale and his staff made sure plenty was on the serving tables. Meanwhile Vicki and Bob Minnaugh and all of the wonderful servers kept the line of families moving smoothly.

A special thanks to Melinda Rao, who served as chair of the picnic, to Ed Roer our energizer bunny who did the

running for hair spray and other last minute items, and to Chris Del Campo who volunteered to be a paramedic. Over 70 of our members along with those of Rotary, Kiwanis and car loads of seniors helped to make this huge event a reality!



One teary eyed minute that most did not see was the Russian immigrant couple with a new born who came up to me and asked if their family could come to the picnic. They showed me their passports where they had arrived the day before. Someone told them to come to the picnic where they would see how everyone, no matter what nationality, got along. They took my address and mailed me \$25.00 when the father got a job. He wants his



family to volunteer at the next picnic.

Another highlight happened for me when I met a black gentleman and two small children sitting under a tree. I asked him if was ok. He told me that he had worked all night but had promised his children that he would bring them to the picnic. They had taken two busses to get there

and for the moment he needed some rest. I brought some Boy Scouts over to take the children for the afternoon while he fell asleep knowing that his kids were fine. When he awoke, he enjoyed lunch and we had someone drive the family home.

Did you catch all the Westlake Junior Prestige members, the Boy Scouts, and the Boys and Girls Clubbers picking up the trash without even being asked and the cancer kids holding hands with the HIV children singing – It's A Small World After All? I am sure that there were lots of more stories but just seeing the smiling faces was enough for me.

See you all next November 22 at our Third Annual Picnic at C.B. Smith Park. We are hoping to raise enough money from our big Gala at Halloween to give each family a \$10.00 gas card.



Contribution Envelopes

The Prestige Club is a dynamic organization raising much needed funds for seniors and children in Broward County. If you would like to help, please use the enclosed envelope. Your donation would be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

The Prestige Club is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. A copy of our official registration can be obtained by calling the Florida Division of Consumer Services at (800) 435-7352. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the State.

We appreciate your continued support!

For additional information on the Prestige Club, please contact Polly Wilkie, Club President, at 954-431-2993.

Tea Party Raises A Record \$6,500.00

Once again we received great coverage on our Tea Party held at Vienna Cafe and Wine Bar. Per the owner did a great job. He made a sheet telling everyone how to make a Scone and then had the recipe on the back for the ladies.

It was lovely to see all the ladies so dressed up bringing their daughters and granddaughters. This year Dillard's did a great job with the fashions. Our auction had everything from Brighton purses to botox. The waitresses liked it so much that next year they want to wear dresses so they are part of it.

The Herald was represented as were the Seminole News, the Sun Sentinel and Life Style Magazine. The models were members Lourdes Perez, Diane Ortiz, Tera Jenkins and Sloane, Jonnine Porter and daughter, and Joel and Melissa's (JMR Jewelers) little baby, Heather. A dress was modeled by a little yorkie named Emmie. Member Al's Florist put fresh flowers in tea pots, which were lovely. JMR jewelers not only furnished the diamonds for the models but gave each of the 22 tables one Pandora bracelet to raffle. Each of the sterling silver bracelets had a cup and saucer as a first charm.

Everyone had so much fun and can hardly wait for next year. The Tea Party found its beginning when Melissa's (JMR Jewelers) grandmother left her 100 Royal Dalton tea cups and saucers. In memory of her grandmother she donated them to Prestige to be used at tea parties.

Special thanks to Tera Jenkins from Seminole Media Productions for taking over the event. She made us more money while I did nothing. Special thanks to JMR Jewelers, Al's Florist and our sponsors from the Seminole Tribe and Broward Health.



Halloween Party Raised \$32,000.00

Last Year's: Once again our annual Masquerade Ball was a great success. Signature Grand did a great job on our event. Next years event will be held October 24 – the Friday night before Halloween. Mark your calendar and start planning your costume!



Annual Golf Tournament



March 28, 2008
Pembroke Lakes
Country Club



Susan B. Anthony Center "Adopted" by Prestige Club

We gave a Christmas Party for the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center with the help of the city of Pembroke Pines. They donated the Senior Center and several buses to transport the families to the party. With Publix Gift Certificates left over, we asked Jim from the Ark if he would buy the food and turkeys at Publix and cook the dinners for three hundred people. We still needed five hundred dollars for his helpers so Polly sold some Publix Gift Certificates to her Rotarians - Where there is a will there is a way to achieve your goal. Mickey & Minnie Santas greeted the kids and led sing-alongs with the help of DJs dressed as elves. It was all topped off when the Winterfest Santa made an appearance. The center had decorated trees in every room but the real fascination was the room with the villages that had everything working. It was a challenge to keep the children away from the displays but they

soon started dancing with the elves and Santa and soon forgot all about it.

The 64 women and 80 children along with other relatives were dressed so nicely. They live at the center with their children due to being homeless or while they recover from alcohol, or drugs addiction. A Nova professor has one building for child day care allowing the women to go to work, therapy, college or GEDS classes. One reason for the program's success is that they maintain close contact with their children. Marsha Currant, the founding Executive Director, is a very dedicated lady whose love for the women and babies really shows.

Prestige goes once a month to give a birthday party in the Butterfly Garden for the residents at Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center. The Garden Club and Prestige just completed the garden with

its nice benches and trellis. The Garden Clubs have started a club for the ladies and taught them how to take care of the plants.

Our member, Alan Bleiweiss from Signs Now, made huge signs the shape of butterflies and gave them to the center. All around the edges are pictures of butterflies and a picture provides a description as to kind of butterfly shown. It provides an educational experience for adults, as well as children.

The next project is a gazebo to offer shade which is sorely lacking on the five acres. Sam Engle, architect, is preparing free architectural plans and we have a builder who is donating his services. We will soon have a list of materials and perhaps we may be able to get Lowes or Home Depot to get involved in the project.

Prestige Club finishes the Butterfly Garden for the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center



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**A Very
 Special
 Thanks...**



to Community Bank of Broward for contributing the necessary funds to print this newsletter.