

Winter 2009

Prestige CLUB

... helping those in need

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Signature Grand Ghoul



Once again our Gala was a smashing success raising over \$65,000 for Publix gift cards for the Picnic and Christmas. A special thanks to Arlene Pecora owner of Signature Grand and Manager Michael Berry. Prestige was chosen as their Charity of the Year. It came with the support of the PR firm of Bittner & Goodman and a bill board on I-95. Michael Berry and his staff outdid themselves with the decorations which included big screen TV showing wonderful old time horror movies. They set the scene

with an open bar, and a wonderful buffet with turkey, special chicken, prime rib, salmon and many other specialty dishes followed by Irish Coffee. All were underwritten as well. The party, put on by their vendors, cost them \$75,000.00. What a gift to Prestige! Tickets were kept at \$100.00 for members and \$150 for outsiders. LeCirque entertainment was fantastic as usual, keeping everyone dancing the night away. The cocktail party highlights included a magician and a policeman who wrote tickets for



“dress code violations.” With so many interesting costumes, Gerlinde Photography allowed our guests to keep the memories on print while raising over one thousand dollars in donations.



President's Message

I am so proud what our members have accomplished this year. Unfortunately we have lost several good members because of the economy. One main supporter, since day one, was Sun-Sentinel, who due to their Chapter 11 had to resign. They helped us for many years.

Surely this next year will be challenging for all of us in the non profit arena as well in our own businesses. Now is the time to trim waste, but more importantly we must support each other's businesses when we can. If you are doing

business with a non member remember, Prestige members are your friends. Try to help them out if you can.

If you are feeling down look around. Every one is in the same boat. When I see a member down the first thing I think of is give them a call or drop them a line just let them know I care.

I challenge everyone to call one member before the next meeting just to say hello. See you at the next meeting!

Polly

P R E S I D E N T ' S N O T E S

A Special Thanks To:

Sherri and Drew Pickard for helping at the picnic. By the way, great costumes at the Halloween Party!

Joanne Miner and her staff at Minuteman Press for the great designs this year.

Ed Hickey from Smith Barney for having his company send us two checks last year for his matching employee charity hours.

Special thanks to Leslie, Heather, M/M Bruce Keir, and Sue and Bruce Friedman for adopting families for the Holiday.

To all the volunteers who helped at the Susan B. Anthony Party.

Tera Jenkins for all her help and Melissa Sherman who designed the Grand Ghoul billboard on I-95

Ed Roer who is always helping on demand at short notice.

John and Susan Ellingsworth of WorkSpace Supply for jumping right in to help with school supplies.

To Vicki and Bob Minnaugh for helping to edit the newsletter.

To my husband Tom who wants to know if I forgot where I live.

News Briefs

Thank you Ronnie Oller for all of your help with the parties.

Special Thanks to Ed Roer, Nick Spana, Bobby Rodriguez, Tera Jenkins, John Ellingsworth and Susan Boxer for helping with the cookout for Bennie's school.

Thanks to Dr. Till who gave us the information to get free books for the kids.

Our treasurer Diana Ortiz recently graduated from college. Congratulations.

Former member and supporter Chris Del Campo is now Lt. for Hollywood Firefighters. Thanks for being a paramedic at the picnic.

Thanks to Chief Magill for bringing his grill and staff to cook at the picnic. I know he had first degree burns on his hand.

Kudos to Go Airport Shuttle owner Lorraine Wilde, who agreed to put Crime Stoppers Tips Number on all the cabs and vans. Also to All Service Refuse for putting Crime Stoppers on their garbage trucks. These times need the help for all of the Communities to be safe.

Thanks to Melinda Rao, Picnic Chair and all of the wonderful volunteers. The Ark's Steve Feldman and Jim Kleinrichert made it happen, and to member Twan Russell for getting the Jr. Dolphin Training Camp, to the City of Pembroke Pines and their Police and Recreation Dept. Special thanks to Donna Adelkopf and the Monico family for being in the hot sun with all the games.

Thanks to Crazy Ray and the Eagle Scouts and the Key Club at Boys and Girls Club for all of their dedication.

The Davie Rotary, Community Bank, Regent Bank, Miller Legg and all their staff of volunteers deserve special recognition for their hard work.



We're starting them early!

That cutie is Sloane Jenkins, taking a break from helping Prestige members sort books for Academy High School.

Week of Parties

Susan B. Anthony Party was December 22nd at the SW Focal Sr. Center. The girls arrived by buses provided by the City of Pembroke Pines. The girls and their children came elegantly dressed. Among the newborns, some dressed in santa suits, were two sets of twins. They were met by Mickey and Minnie who brought them in for games, dancing and a sing a long hosted by Rob of Super Stars. Three face painting clowns were there along with a clown doing balloons.

The Center was decorated with a variety of Christmas trees with special themes – butterflies, Disney, Firemen, angels, and many others. One room was half full of a working village and the new addition of a working carnival. It was amazing that our volunteers were able to keep the trees in tact with all the children.

The Ark did a wonderful job presenting a traditional turkey dinner with pumpkin pie and all the trimmings. Jim was able to buy the food wholesale and Steve Feldman prepared the food and brought along the servers who were paid by the club.

It was a wonderful day to remember all the happy faces of these women who are dealing with drugs, alcohol and are now in recovery. This facility allows them to have their children while they are getting their GED's, going to college, and getting jobs. On the 24th thanks to the Prestige Club Members spearheading the help, they all received toys, clothes, and food for the holidays.

Polly's granddaughter found out that these young women cannot get diapers with food stamps. To help out her Honor Society at Coral Springs

High is having a diaper drive in January. It was a busy time but Thank you all for volunteering again.

Our member, BSO Officer Vic Thompson, had twenty nine families in need due to unemployment and Twan Russell of the Miami Dolphins had two hundred needy children promised presents which were never delivered. We were able to go to Walgreens and get the needed gifts



that made their Christmas a little cheerier. Twan was the good member who helped us to get the Dolphins Jr. Training Camp for the picnic. Helping each other is the key.

A BSO Officer in Cooper City brought us Bryan, a boy of eight who won an essay contest at school. The boy wanted to see Disney World before he went blind. Facing yet another surgery soon and already being 60

percent blind, the James Jr. Fund joined us in sending the whole family to Disney World which included a special dinner with Disney characters. (See story he wrote to us and picture.)

Light of the World Clinic, which serves mostly Spanish children, was in need of toys for the Feast of the Three Kings on January 6th. We were pleased to help Dr. Vasquez after hitting the toy sales at Walgreens. Ease, Hope Outreach and Les Pantries were given aid as was Fr. Paul who used \$1,000 in Publix Gift cards to fee the poor that come to his church.

An Officer at Community Bank just donated two checks to Polly. One for her to go shopping with the little girl that had been raped by her father and a second to buy uniforms for the Academy School. Reggie Givens has started a team

there but they are lacking the proper equipment for play. Channel 10 is also going to try to do a news story for us on their sports segment to encourage people to donate used/new football equipment.

Congratulations to Polly on the celebration of her 72nd birthday! She said that she thought about how old she was getting – then on second thought she thought she was young but ready for a vacation – enjoy it Polly. You deserve a well earned rest.

We hope all our members and their families had a Happy Holiday season and will have a Happy New Year! Lets make Prestige the club of the year. All in all Prestige fed, clothed, and provided toys to over one thousand children. God was kind to us this year and we pray our fund raising effort remain successful in 2009.

2009 CALENDAR

March 27 – Golf Tournament
June – Tea Party
October 30 – Halloween Gala
November 21 - Picnic
December 12 – Boat Parade

Party for ESE Students at the Academy

We were asked by former football giant and now the principal and teacher, Benny Blades at ESE Academy to look at the school of 500 students to see if we could put together a party for them. We found out that several ex NFL players donate their time to teach there and to help out at the institution. You could not but be overcome after meeting Nina Kaufman, the owner of the school who, now in her seventies, has for thirty-six years dedicated her life to helping problem children. She told us that they did not have computers nor did they have sufficient books. The question arose as to how can kids who are poor learn without the right tools?

Polly approached one of her close friends who loves to help children get a better education and he donated \$10,000 for computers and books. That money translated into ten Dell Computers and \$5000 for used books. This is a good start but we have a need for thirty books per class in grades 3 through 12. A list of books needed is being prepared in case anyone knows a source for additional books. They need not be brand new.

Included are: Math books (Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Calculus), Social Studies (Geography, World History, American History, American Government, Economics), Science (Earth Science, Chemistry, Biology, General Science), Language Arts, Health, Spanish, and dictionaries.

We decided to have a cookout on December 17th using the left over hamburgers and hot dogs from the picnic. Board Member Ronnie Oller baked 300 cookies, then was taken to the hospital. When Board Member Tera Jenkins found out, she ran and picked up the cookie dough and baked the other 400 in between stuffing bags of candy for 500 kids.

Once again new member John Ellingsworth took his truck off company deliveries to pick up sodas, and grill and headed for the school where he cooked all day. He was joined by Bobby Rodriguez, Ed Roer, and newcomer Nick Spana. Ed Braxal showed up to cook when he found out that Benny Blades was the principal. It seems Benny had coached his son in the PAL Program football. You just never know where you will meet people.

Nina, the owner, cried all day saying her kids had never had anything like this in the school's whole existence. Rob from Super Stars brought Mickey and Minnie and had them teaching the NFL football players the two step. This had the kids howling with laughter. Rob also brought a Trivia Game Show which was a hit. At the end each child was given five dollar certificate for McDonalds.

A highlight of the day was a girl named Susan Boxer from the Susan B. Anthony Center. She had been on drugs and had spent time in jail during which she lost her five children.

Deciding to pull herself up, she went to BCC where she was on the dean's list. She graduated and was accepted at FAU. She has been going back part time to Susan B. Anthony to help with the girls. Her goal is to be a Social Worker. She met a gentleman with a Masters in Labor Law, was recently married and has all her five kids back at home. Susan volunteered all day and volunteered the following day helping wrap 1000 presents. She was impressed by what we do and has asked to join Prestige. Everyone gives back to Prestige when we help them — that is what is so amazing.

Overall, it was sad to see so many poor kids with nothing. One little girl in a wheel chair rolled up and asked if she could have another hamburger for her dad. She said he was out of work and that there was no food in the house. Members packed up two hot dogs, four hamburgers and cookies for her to take home. Some other boys were seen stealing food but Benny said that their mother was on drugs and that there was usually no food in the house. He personally feeds some of them. Even the teachers at the school are paid very little and they have second jobs to make ends meet. We fell in love with everyone there – all trying to make a difference.

We left tired but feeling good and happy that we had the chance to make the world just a little better place.

Community Bank of Broward Helps Prestige

President Bruce Keir and Executive Vice President Joe Dorsey have given the Prestige Club, the James Jr. Fund and the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center the best Holiday present. The bank, in lieu of sending large baskets to all of its prime customers, decided to take the \$11,000 and divide it among the three charities. Each of these customers will receive a holiday letter informing them that a donation had been made in their name. A follow up thank you will be sent by the Prestige Club. What a great surprise for all of us - Thank you: Bruce, Joe Leslie, and the Board of Directors for your generous gift.

Scenes from the 5th Annual Love Fest Picnic November 2008



Once again our picnic was a great success with over 3000 in attendance. Every year we try to add something new and different and this year was no exception. A gentleman named Rob from Super Star Productions spent the day as MC on stage with music and games for the kids. Bobby Rodriguez Productions brought their Renaissance Festival Knights and Pirates again and lent us tents.



We are already planning next year's picnic. Jim and Steve from the Ark are strategizing ways to make the food lines more efficient. Check in went well with the new design of the registration tables in tents, away from the cooking fires.



Donna Adelkopf and the Monaco family (Sabrina, Mario, Gina and Sherri) expanded the kids games in the fields. The Arts and Crafts were doubled this year, however we ran out by one o'clock. Next year we are adding another tent, since it is such a popular part of the event.

All of our sponsors have agreed to (next year) donate the same amount of money as this year. They called me early so I would not be worried all year whether we would have the money or not. This year we added buses to bring families from Women in Distress and Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center.

All of the families had a wonderful time. Thanks to our great sponsors and volunteers who made the event a reality!



Another Successful Tea Party



Our third Tea Party was a real success with Dillard's doing the fashion show. It was great to see all of the mothers and grandmothers bringing their families. Many of the women wore beautiful hats. The little girls in attendance loved everything about the tea party.

Per, the owner at Vienna did a great job. The waitresses asked if next year they could dress up as hostesses. JMR

jewelers furnished the jewelry and donated sixteen Pandora Bracelets. Our silent auction had everything - even face peels and botox!

As you will remember we started the tea party because we acquired Royal Dalton tea cups donated from Joel and Melissa from JMR Jewelers. Melissa inherited them from her grandmother and decided to donate them to Prestige.

Al's florist did beautiful arrangements in tea pots. Per made little explanation sheets for everyone on how to make a scone and the recipe.

Our next tea party will be the end of June.



VIP Party for Boys and Girls Club

The Admirals Club of Boys and Girls Club was founded by a group of yachting People, who paid for the club in Davie to be built. Its focus is to train teenagers for a career in the yachting industry. Yacht owners say they cannot find people to work on their yachts since there are so many here in South Florida.

A party was recently held at Ronnie Bergeron's ranch for VIP sponsors of the Boys and Girls Club. The kids made a fancy cocktail party for the VIP



cattlemen. There is a Chef's School at the Admirals Club and the kids prepared everything. They even

made big centerpieces of flowers from fruit. Prestige Club sponsored the food for the kids. All of the kids are between 14 and 15. They did such a great job several of the big business people at the event have hired them.

I was glad we got the idea for them to come to the event and learn how to talk to people in a social setting. It was great experience for them and I was so proud of them. This helps the kids to stay out of trouble while learning a lucrative trade.

Signature Grand Hosts Cocktail Party for Prestige

On February 17th there was a wonderful cocktail party for current and potential members of the Prestige Club. The staff was very warm to our guests and did a great job.

The Corporate Person of the Year award was accepted by Michael Berry, Signature Grand's General Manager. They had hosted our annual Halloween Party - Grand Ghoul - and went out of their way to put a billboard on I-95 that advertised the event. They furnished decorations for the Gala, open bar, buffets, big screen TVs with old horror movies. All of the proceeds went to Prestige. They spent \$75,000.00 for the party.

Gerlinde Photography was on hand at the Grand Ghoul, taking pictures that night for donations to Prestige. They also took pictures at our golf tournament and therefore was given the Small Business Award.

Prestige Club Vice President Melinda Rao of Regent Bank was given an award for her hard work as Chair of the picnic. New member John Ellingsworth of WorkSpace Supply was also honored for all of his dedication at the picnic and also helping at Christmas. Jim Kleinrichert of the Ark Restaurant was honored for helping organize the cooking at the picnic and helping us cook at the Susan B. Anthony Party.

Community Bank of Broward was honored for all of the help they have given us through the year. At Christmas instead of buying baskets for customers they gave \$3,500 each to Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center, James Jr. Fund and Prestige Club. They sent letters to each of the customers stating they had donated in their name to the charities. They were given an eagle.

Bobby Rodriguez Productions was given an Eagle for all they have done for the picnic and other things throughout the year. They give us entertainment, tents, pirates, and Renaissance knights.

Steve Feldman of the Ark was given an Oscar with the inscription "The Man of All Seasons." Steve is our photographer, limo driver, and chef for breakfast. He also organizes the picnic and Susan B. Anthony Dinners.

continued ►



Cocktail Party (continued)

Ed Braxel, our Santa Claus at all our parties was given a plaque with a picture of him and all the children. He was overwhelmed.

The City of Pembroke Pines was given a beautiful marble and gold statue with a glove for all of their help throughout the year. They help with insurance, police and tents for the picnic. They have given us the theater for Susan B. Anthony and helped us get buses to take the ladies places. Mayor Frank Ortis and Commissioner Iris Siple accepted for the City.

Last but not least was an Eagle given to M. Patel, Manager of Walgreens at Hiatus and Sterling. The staff helped us do our shopping for all the kids at Christmas and saved us lots of money.

Several new members joined. The music was lovely pasta stations great and a wonderful time was had by all.



This year I got a VERY special Christmas gift and it came from people I dont even know.

I have had a very tough year. I have had to spend a lot of time at doctors and hospitals. I dont understand all of it but I know it has not been fun. I have a problem with seizures and those seizure have caused other problems with my body. I have to take medicine and get shots everyday and I will have to have another surgery soon. This makes me sad and nervous and has been hard for my whole family.

I had to start a new school this year too. But I made a special friend. His name is Officer Bruce. Officer Bruce told some of his friends about me. His friends said I deserved a special Christmas. Mom and Dad had said we wouldnt be able to do much for Christmas this year but they were wrong. Officer Bruce and his friends gave me a very special gift. My most favorite thing of all. My family and I got to go to Disney World! We stayed at the best hotel I've ever seen! At night from the hotel we could see the fireworks from Epcot. We went to Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party, Downtown Disney, and Disney's Boardwalk. We played a COOL game of miniture golf at Disney's Fantasia golf course. I love miniture golf. At Disney I got my picture taken and autographs with the characters! This is the first time I was brave enough to do that. This was a GREAT trip, and best of all I got to spend some carefree time with my family. So I would like to say Thank You and Merry Christmas to Officer Bruce and his friends.

Bryan Collins
Bryan Collins



Thanksgiving at Boys and Girls Clubs

Just ask Ronnie Oller, Prestige Board Member, about the importance of proper nutrition. She teaches families how to make economical and nutritional meals. Prestige made sure that close to 600 families of the Rick and Rita Case and the DiGeorge Boys and Girls Clubs were treated to a sit down Thanksgiving Day Dinner that they might not have had the opportunity to enjoy.



The Key Club wanted to give back and help us. They went out and solicited baby toys and highchairs for our Christmas program. This helped us to once again offer donated Mattel toys and turkey dinners at Christmas to the clubs' families. We recently gave the center 10 computers.

Prestige in Boat Parade

Cruising on the Broward Health Boat in the Annual Winterfest Boat Parade, the Prestige Club and the James Jr. Fund, as shared charities, were very proud to have their names in lights. It was great exposure for both organizations even though it is not our largest fund raiser. Tickets were \$150 per person which included a buffet dinner, open bar, and entertainment. It was a wonderful way to see all of the houses and at the turn around guests were able to see all the other boats in the parade. It looks like we will be able to do it again next year on an even larger yacht so start saving. Special thanks to Broward Health for their generosity.

The important part of going through tough times is to make Prestige more visible. The boat parade is a perfect tool for us to be in the lime light. Next year we need to start early and sell tickets to this wonderful event. If we start saving now each week we could all go and have a full house. Let's take advantage of the wonderful opportunity to share the happy holiday with our fellow members and get to know each other on a more personal basis. Even though we are a fund raising group we need to help each other's businesses.



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.



Prestige Club Bus Trip

On Tuesday January 22nd after our breakfast a group of the members took a Limo bus ride for the day to see some of the agencies where we spent money this year. Steve Feldman, our breakfast chef, got up at 5:00 AM to pick up the Limo Bus from our member Associated Limo. He then came and fixed breakfast for us and changed to Limo Driver at 9:00. We did not have to pay a driver because he used to work for the Limo people and they trusted him. Steve is a good member-always there for us with anything we need.

Our first stop was a tour of the Susan B. Anthony Recovery Center. They had a Thank You Sign on the wall when we came in. We toured the day care center and the little six year olds sang a song for us.

The next stop was Gilda's Club, where we saw the new beautiful garden. Prestige pledged \$10,000 over four years for the garden. We were happy to see it and the beautiful sign that is being placed there for Prestige.

The next place was Women in Distress with Mary Riedel, then on to Chris Everett Hospital to see the babies and children. It was an interesting tour of the future children's hospital to be built. We then made our way on to Light of the World Clinic and we met some of the volunteer doctors.

We then went to Bennie Blades' school where we had given computers and got text books donated. Our last stop, close to four o'clock, was at the Admiral's Club- Boys and Girls Clubs in Davie. We had a nice tour and their Chefs school prepared a beautiful spread of hors d'oeuvres for us.

Everyone had a great day and learned a lot about our charities and why we help them. Dr. Francisco Puig's daughter had arrived from Cuba three days before and joined us. Everyone was exhausted.





Golf Tournament Raises \$49,000.00

Once again the golf tournament was a great success with one hundred players having a great day of fun. It all started with an omelet station at the club house orchestrated by Steve Feldman of the Ark Restaurant while bloody Marys, screwdrivers and other drinks were served on the golf course by our cocktail waitresses, Tera Jenkins, Sandy Harnick and Johnnie Porter. Mayor Frank Ortis thought the gals needed a driver training course for the golf carts, but distracted by their good looks, he passed on turning them in for poor driving. There was no problem reading our new, golf ball sponsor tee signs thanks to Alan Bleiweiss of Signs Now – a Prestige member. The larger signs made it much easier for us when soliciting advertisers. Following a terrific

buffet, golfers were pleasantly surprised by the many prizes including: digital cameras, water coolers, wine refrigerators, and a 42 inch big screen TV's.



Our 2009 Golf Tournament, The Rick Case Classic, is going to top the charts. Besides being the title sponsor, Rick Case will also provide us with a car for the hole in one. Celebrities will be on hand – at no charge – due to our help for ESE

students. As of this writing our first foursome is Berry Blades former Hall of Famer at UM and the Detroit Lions, Reggie Givens, Hall of Famer for Penn State and the Dallas Cowboys, and Troy Drayton and Bobby Harden of the Miami Dolphins. On hand will be a Channel 10 Sports commentator as our MC for the day along with the Dolphin Cheerleaders.

The Classic will be played at the Pembroke Lakes Country Club on Friday March 27th. Tickets are \$175 individual, \$700 for a foursome, and \$1,000 for a foursome, tee sign and full page ad. Sponsorship are available for shirts (\$3000) and photography (\$500). For information call Polly Wilkie 954-431-2993. Make sure to set the date and join us.



More Great Pictures Inside!

Prestige CLUB

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