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What's New at Chi Chi's



January/February 2013

Volunteer Spotlight Congratulations!



Cortez Love and Chi Chi Rodriguez

When asked why he devotes

his time to The First Tee, Cortez replied, "It's all about the kids."

Dr. Cortez Love is a familiar face to hundreds of junior golfers in Pinellas County. We are fortunate to have "Tez" serving as our Golf League Director for summer golf leagues and other unique junior golf opportunities. Not only does he bring years of experience and a good golf game he provides what kids need most and that's a caring, kind mentor who is always there to listen. We are thankful to have Cortez on the Chi Chi team

New Program Specialist for the Boys & Girls Club at Chi Chi's



Keegan Khan, Program
Specialist with Student Kenny Pena

Born in Trinidad & Tobago, Keegan Khan grew up in Illinois where he earned his AS degree. Keegan has spent the majority of his adult life working with kids teaching and coaching basketball. At Christmas he joined all 95 Academy students for their annual party at Celebration Station and already we can see that he is providing inspiration as a role model. He continues to coach a National Top 100 traveling basketball team the "Rantoul Elite." Now juniors and seniors, they were 4th and 5th graders when he began. Four of his players have earned scholarships. Keegan is a valuable asset to Chi Chi's and brings an enthusiastic professionalism to his work with students.

Keegan's favorite quote: "Don't give up, don't ever give up!" by Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Jimmy V



Graduate Alexis Bush

Chi Chi Alumni Invited to Christmas Celebration

Alumni were invited for the annual Christmas party at Celebration Station in Clearwater. More than a dozen attended and took time to thank their teachers while mingling with current students.

Thanks to generous donations from donors, both Alumni and students enjoyed games, go carts and goodies as students received gifts from a wish list. The consensus among Alumni was that they would all meet back again next year, this time with additional graduating students, where they could show their optimism and support by staying in school.

Graduate Alexis Bush said, "I was here five years...Mrs. Pecci always helped me with my problems and the teachers helped me get through my work when I was struggling. Now I'm in tenth grade and have made honor roll."



Sports Complex Team
Members:
Randy Cohen, Doug Curles and

Chi Chi's Sports Complex moves from top 100 to top 50!

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf and Family Sports Complex has been selected as a 2012 Golf Range Association of America Top 50 Range. It took hard work from Sports Complex Manager Randy Cohen and his team to make the move up from the top 100. The range qualified in categories like amenities, range instruction, club fitting, number of visits, balls dispersed, range promotions and special programs. If you haven't already visited the Sports Complex, go check it out. Congratulations Randy and team!

Randy's wish is to have everyone visit the Sports Complex and see for themselves why we are in the top 50!



Fourth graders Nicholas De Souza and Sean Hall "Speed Stacking"

Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy helps set a new Guinness World record!

On November 15th the Academy participated in Guinness World Records Day in the category of "Most People Sport Stacking at Multiple Locations in One Day." It was a unique opportunity for the students to be part of the record breaking team. The new record is 483,658 people stacking cups at different locations. As the colorful cups were clicking and flying the students honed their skills of concentration along with left brain right brain thinking, hand eye coordination and team work skills according to Academy Coach Postans.



Ali and Josh Rawlings, Jan Reardon, Jim York

Chi Chi Charity Classic Recap

The Classic Co-Chairs Jim York, Josh Rawlings and Auction Chair Jan Reardon are pleased to report the following results of the 2012 Chi Chi Classic. Net income of \$185,030 beat both 2010 and 2011. In-kind giving at \$58,290 allowed holding expenses to a record low, earning 33% of our annual education budget. The Classic leadership team and our Program Services team worked together to produce a smooth, successful event and we appreciate their efforts on behalf of the Academy's students. Our thanks to board members and donors whose support is also invaluable in helping continue the quality programming for children in our community.