

What's New at Chi Chi's

January/February 2016
(727) 726-8829 * www.chichi.org

Celebrating Chi Chi's
80th
Birthday!

Event Spotlight: 36th Annual Charity Classic Celebrating Chi Chi's 80th Birthday

This past November, the Foundation celebrated Chi Chi's 80th Birthday during the Charity Classic two day fundraising event. Guests enjoyed two golf tournaments and dinner by Glory Days Grill of Palm Harbor at Nielsen Oldsmar. During the celebration dinner, Chi Chi was honored with a Key to the City by Clearwater Mayor George Cretekos, City Manager Bill Horne and Council member Doreen Hock-DiPolito. Also, Academy Alumni Ethan Low was the guest speaker, providing his own Journey to Success. See the story the below to catch up on Ethan!

Event Co-Chairs Jessica Majeski, Katie Majeski and Sean Tobe proudly announce the event netted approximately \$220,000, the most in over 10 years for this signature event. Funds raised go towards the \$805,000 yearly education budget serving our mission to educate and assist at-risk children by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment and academic performance using the golf course as a living classroom.

Thank you to co-title sponsors Terrazzo Marble & Supply, JM Family Enterprises and Raymond James!

"It is a true honor to be involved in such an important event for a great organization. None of this would have been possible without our amazing sponsors and volunteers. Thank you doesn't begin to cover it! I am excited to see what next year's Classic brings to the Foundation." ~ Katie Majeski



Clearwater City Manager Bill Horne, Councilmember Doreen Hock-DiPolito, Mayor George Cretekos and Alumni Ethan Low present Chi Chi with a Key to the City



Chi Chi and Iwalani Rodriguez with long time supporters the Braddock Family



Co-Chairs Sean Tobe, Katie Majeski and Jessica Majeski celebrating with Chi Chi

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Left: Ethan ready to race; Center and Right: Ethan and Chi Chi at the 2008 and 2015 Charity Classic

Alumni Spotlight: Ethan Low shares his "Journey to Success" during the Charity Classic Dinner

Ethan Low came from a local Fundamental school where he never truly felt confident or accomplished. When he joined the Chi Chi Academy, little by little, he began to develop confidence in his own abilities and became a different kind of student. Chi Chi's brought a sense of safety and security that he didn't have before. Earlier this year, Ethan graduated from Clearwater High School and Pinellas Technical College with a 2.9 GPA. He is currently pursuing his longtime dream as a Professional Race Car Driver in the Continental Tire Challenge.



Top: Co-Chairs Bill & Whitney Hurter receive gifts from 7th graders Sean and Hailey; Bottom: Academy Executive Committee Member Dan Etlinger and 4th grader Triston enjoy a go-kart ride

Event Spotlight: Student Holiday Party

On Friday, December 18th Academy Students had a fun and exciting day of riding go-karts, playing games and soaking each other on the bumper boats! The end of year Holiday celebration gives students an opportunity to grow their social skills and friendships outside the classroom.

Special thank you to Co-Chairs Bill and Whitney Hurter, Bimbo Bakeries USA, Chi Chi Rodriguez Ladies' Golf Association, East Lake Woodlands Women's Golf Association, Fairways for Warriors, Dan Etlinger, Linda Damsky, Jessica Majeski and all of our wonderful volunteers who help make the Student Holiday Party a success every year!



Jeff Baker from Duke Energy presenting a check to Foundation Director of Development Mallory Hubbard

Donor Spotlight: Duke Energy Foundation

A big thank you to Jeff Baker and the Duke Energy Foundation who dropped by the campus on December 17th to donate \$9,000. This donation pays for two students at the Academy to attend all three programs all year long: the Public School, The First Tee of Clearwater and Boys & Girls Club.



Top: Academy Director Jayme Pecci reads the Polar Express; Bottom: 4th graders choosing a book for their personal library

Program Spotlight: Recreational Reading

The Recreational Reading Program is utilized as an incentive for students who document reading for fun at least thirty minutes each evening for a month. At the end of every month, all eligible students attend a celebration and receive the reward of choosing a book for their personal library. To celebrate the Holidays this month, students received hot chocolate with whipped cream and sprinkles, a cupcake, pencil and pencil sharpener. The class listened to the Polar Express read by Academy Director Jayme Pecci.

Academy Executive Committee

- Elliott Ross - Chair
- Bob Baker
- Scott Brown
- Linda Damsky
- Daniel Etlinger
- Bill Hurter
- John Kobasic
- Monica Kobasic
- Jessica Majeski
- Katie Majeski
- Chuck McGee
- Pete Morrell
- Jeremy Robinson
- Scott Tobe
- Sean Tobe
- Katrina Trump
- Richard Wegman

Academy Mission

To assist at risk children by improving their self-esteem, character, work ethic, social adjustment, and academic performance using the golf course and its business as living classrooms.

Contact Information

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Clearwater, FL 33761

For more information
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call Cary Stiff
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email: cary@chichi.org

Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Pro Am
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Valspar Championship
March 10 - 13, 2016

Did You Know...?

The First Tee of Clearwater is a beneficiary of the PGA Tour's Valspar Championship presented by BB&T at Innisbrook Resort March 10-13, 2016.

As a part of the Valspar Championship's Community Drivers Program, The First Tee program received \$22,000 this year.

The First Tee and Academy students also participate during Thursday of the Tournament as Standard Bearers. This gives our children an inside the ropes experience next to some of the best golfers and role models in the world.

Over the weekend, you can find volunteers and Chi Chi staff working concessions at the 19th hole, raising money and awareness about our programs.