

# What's New at Chi Chi's

## July/August 2013

**Volunteer Spotlight:** In late April three Sandpearl Hotel employees took time from entertaining Clearwater Beach visitors to come and play hands-on with the After School Boys & Girls Club students. Together they enjoyed the mentoring time by talking, playing basketball, pool, video games and board games. It's always helpful to our students when they meet caring contributing adults from the community who take time to volunteer.

**KeMaria, Courtney, Natalie (all 6th graders), Courtney Beasley, Jonathan Pelletier, Jaryn Carter, Matt (7th) and Jon (4th)**



**"These kids are our future. It is a well-organized program with the right heart for helping children. As we help others, the real reward is discovering more about ourselves." Courtney Beasley, Coordinator for Sandpearl Volunteer Day**

**Proud 8th Grade 2013 graduates**



**Graduate Spotlight: 8th Grade Graduation** Students gathered the last time to hear wise words from Curlew Creek principal Robert McFadden and Academy Director Jayme Pecci before turning their tassels. The event was extra special for this group since they are the first graduating class to spend 4th through 8th grade here. Six students will attend local high schools, seven are going onto magnet schools and two students will attend a career academy.

**"Graduating Chi Chi's is like leaving my other family behind, we all have been through so much together. But going into high school is opening a new chapter in my life and I have to say I can't wait for it." Ashley Grimes**

**Event Spotlight: Art Par Tee at Raymond James Financial** This year's freshly designed Art Par Tee not only raised \$89,670.76 but honored a long-time Tampa Bay celebrity, Dick Crippin, with the Chi Chi Rodriguez 2013 Humanitarian of the Year Award. The committee arranged for nine local artists, each chosen for their unique forms of expression, to display their talent at the event. All artists donated 50% of their sales to educational programs for the students. Special thanks go to the major sponsors who made the evening successful. See who supports us on [www.chichi.org](http://www.chichi.org). Warm thanks to Frank Chivas and the Baystar Restaurant Group for the delicious array of food offered by Island Way Grill and their talented team.

**"This is our seventh year with this event and I feel we did a great job giving it a new look and feel. The entertainment, food and art was exceptional. It was obvious that everyone attending enjoyed themselves while helping fund the vital programs sponsored by The Chi Chi Foundation." Phil Powell, co-chairman**

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**Dick Crippin accepts the award as his wife Penny, granddaughter Mia, daughter Wendy and husband Michael, watch.**

**Event Spotlight: Boys & Girls Club (BGC) at Chi Chi's is recognized as a chartered club.**



**Chi Chi Board Members Elliott Ross and Frank Chivas help City Commissioner Bill Jonson cut the ribbon to commemorate the new charter.**

The April 17 ribbon-cutting ceremony honoring the new charter status brought enthusiastic attendance from dignitaries, board members and Clearwater City Councilmember Bill Jonson. Chartering provides evidence of meeting required standards and allows the club to access significant pass through grants from the BGCA. The club now has full access to proven Boys & Girls Clubs programs that are well researched with proven results for children who often struggle.

**"The new Charter is key to opening the door for Academic Success and Personal Life Skills. Club programs will help struggling students graduate from High School and go onto post High School education." Nita Smith, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of the Suncoast**

**Student Spotlight: The National Literacy**

**Achievement Celebration** was held on May 6. Linda Damsky, Literacy Coach of Dropout Prevention Sites in Pinellas County Schools presented 8th grader Jakub Cuomo the "Great Gains in Lexile Award." The award was presented for his outstanding achievement in reading and writing. Jakub has attended Chi Chi's for the full five years. On that same day Ms. Damsky received the Champion of Literacy Award ( she is the Academy's Literacy Coach) for her remarkable performance.



**Jakub as a 2013 graduate**

**Jakub said, "I was proud to earn this award especially since reading has always been hard for me. My Lexile level really improved using the Achieve 3000 program."**

**Event Spotlight: Summer Camp** begins with a full house! Both The First Tee half-day summer camp and the full day Boys & Girls Club were packed to capacity the first three weeks and expect the same for the remainder of the summer. Participants learn the rules of the game while practicing at the Sports Complex and playing three holes at the Golf Club. At the full day camp, children enjoy organized games, both inside and out and have lunch as a group. In addition, there are planned field trips twice a week.



**"So far our camps have exceeded expectations and we look forward to a fantastic summer!" Coach Tony Simpson The First Tee Program Director.**

**The First Tee holds a half-day golf camp from 9 am to 12 pm Monday - Thursday, while the Boys & Girls Club has full day hours of 7:30 am to 6:00 pm on Monday - Friday. Call 727.726.8829 x 238 to register your child.**



**Academy Executive Committee**

- Elliott Ross - Chair
- Bob Arnold
- Brad Ausdemore
- Scott Brown
- John Gross
- Hans Kaunath
- Joani Kelter
- Monica Kobasic
- Jessica Majeski
- Pete Morell
- Josh Rawlings
- Jeremy Robinson
- Timothy Salzsieder
- Scott Tobe
- Sean Tobe
- Jim York

**Academy Mission**

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

**Contact Information**

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For more information  
[www.chichi.org](http://www.chichi.org) or  
call Cary Stiff (727)726-8829  
email: [cary@chichi.org](mailto:cary@chichi.org)

**Upcoming Events—2013**

**Chi Chi Charity Classic  
November 10 and 11**

**The First Tee Rays Night**

We sold 350 tickets, plus saw an awesome game! James Poulter, COO, said: "We accomplished our goal of creating awareness for The First Tee, and thank the Rays for their contribution."

**Did you know?**

The Boys & Girls Club received a \$3,000 grant from IBM for 10 Samsung Galaxy Tablets. Our Tab Lab is up and running throughout the summer.

Thanks go to Don Russell for volunteering over 500 hours to be eligible for this grant.