

# What's New at Chi Chi's

July/August 2016

(727) 726-8829 \* www.chichi.org

## Program Spotlight: 8th Grade Graduation

In June we said goodbye to our 8th grade graduating class as they head off to high school! On their last day, the group created their class stone to join the "Footsteps of Champions" surrounding the school's flag pole. For graduation, each student spoke in front of a large group of parents, family members and supporters about their personal *Journey to Success* at Chi Chi's. The Foundation and teachers took great pride in seeing them prepared for a future that holds great promise. We'll be watching as they continue to grow and follow their dreams.

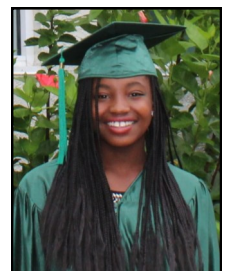
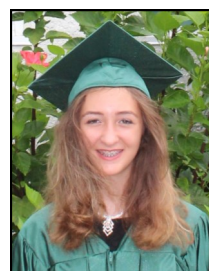


**Top: 8th grader Abrar, Christina, Asaiya and Gianna get ready for graduation; Middle: Academy Executive Committee Members Scott Brown, Linda Damsky and Dan Etlinger celebrate with graduates Abrar and Elijah; Bottom: Keionate with Academy Director Jayme Pecci after receiving his diploma**

**Top Left: 8th grade class by their Footstep of Champion stone; Bottom Left: Elijah, Kenny, Atila, Keiontae, Gabe and Austin take time before graduation.**

## Board of Directors

- Thomas A. James, Board Chairman  
Chairman, Raymond James Financial
- Frank Chivas, Vice Chairman  
Owner, Island Way Grill, Marlin Darlin, Rumba, Salt Rock Grill, and Marina Cantina
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Sr. V.P. & Managing Director N. Shore Wealth Mgt. Group, Raymond James & Assoc.
- Bill Wickett  
Executive Vice President Communications,  
Tampa Bay Lightning



**"I'm proud to say I graduated from the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy."**  
~Elijah

**"The help I got at this school has improved all of my skills."**  
~Christina

**"My teachers have had a big influence on my life, and the friends I have met here are now my family."**  
~Asaiya

Over





**Leadership Pinellas at the 19th Hole Michelob Ultra tent during the Valspar Championship**

### Donor Spotlight: Leadership Pinellas chooses Chi Chi's as a class project

During the Valspar Championship in March, volunteers from Leadership Pinellas class of 2016 represented the Foundation while working the concessions. With 25 shifts taken throughout the four-day event the class raised a total of \$2,308 through hourly wages and tips! All proceeds go to the educational programs preparing students for the game of life.

### Program Spotlight: The First Tee welcomes Program Director Karen Wise

As the Program Director, Karen will be responsible for overall implementation of the Life Skills programs through golf to over 1,600 youth in the community. She grew up in Orlando before moving south to obtain her B.S. in Professional Golf Management, Business & Hospitality at Florida Golf Coast University. As a PGA Class A Golf Professional, Karen has experience in instruction, course management and golf course operations. She worked at several courses in the Orlando and Naples area including the Osprey Ridge Golf Course at Walt Disney World and the Esplanade Golf and Country Club. Karen is excited to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs that promote character development and life enhancing values through the game of golf.



**Top: Coach Karen teaching a chipping lesson during summer camp; Bottom (left to right): The First Tee participants Samia & Hadleigh with Coach Karen**

### Event Spotlight: Buck Jones and Andy Krusen host a Chi Chi Celebration at Palma Ceia Golf & Country Club in Tampa

Co-Hosts Andy & Jessie Krusen and Buck & Mary Jane Jones welcomed 51 guests to the newly renovated Palma Ceia Country Club on Wednesday, April 13th for an uplifting evening with Foundation Board members. The goal of this dinner was to educate potential supporters about the Youth Foundation and gauge their interest as a Board candidate or other potential volunteer roles. Gil Gonsalves was the evening's guest speaker where he shared fond memories of his time on the PGA Tour with Chi Chi. Tom James captured the audience with an open conversation of how we can better serve at-risk children in our Community. Julie Mastry spoke about Academy metrics and shared her personal story about a Chi Chi Academy Alumni. We're grateful that Buck and Andy choose to help us prepare for the organization's future by doing this every other year.



**Top: Co-Hosts Andy Krusen and Buck Jones entertain the crowd; Bottom: Board Members Scott Curtis, Andy Krusen, Tom James (Chairman), Buck Jones, Bob Basham, Julie Mastry, Phil Powell and Elliott Ross**

### 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

3030 N. McMullen Booth Road  
Clearwater, FL 33761

For more information  
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(727) 726-8829 x 202  
email: [cary@chichi.org](mailto:cary@chichi.org)

### Upcoming Events

**The First Tee Day at the Tampa Bay Rays Sunday, July 31, 2016**

**Chi Chi Charity Classic Sunday & Monday November 13 & 14, 2016**

### Did You Know...?

You can research a charity's financials, transparency and even compare them to other non profits?

Guidestar and Charity Navigator are two of the leading resources for donors to learn more about non profits. You can find information on ALL IRS registered non profit organizations. These websites also help non profits become more transparent and reach a larger scale of donors.

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation is proud to be a Gold Participant on Guidestar and 3 star charity on Charity Navigator.

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

[www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)