



What's New at Chi Chi's

November & December 2011



Carol Russell Named Volunteer of the Year

The afterschool students read directions, crack eggs and work together producing warm baked cookies, brownies and cakes under the watchful eyes of Carol. Over seven years she has volunteered for many tasks at Chi Chi's—driving the week-end beverage cart, working events and cooking for the golfers, but among her favorite activities is teaching cooking in the afterschool program. "I enjoy the people and watching the kids learn to cook. We make mistakes together, but that's how they learn." She loves golf and being from Wappingers Falls, NY says it's great being out in the fresh Florida air on the golf course". She and husband Don, who also volunteers at Chi Chi's, have two grown children and three grandchildren living up North. It's our good fortune to have her as part of Chi Chi's family. She's always there for us and for the students! Congratulations!

Volunteer of the Year Carol Russell "I'm so glad we're able to be here for these children. Seeing them evolve and come out of their shell is something I really enjoy." Carol Russell

Alumni Spotlight Jeremy Robinson

"As an adult and father, I truly see how remarkable the academy program was and still is today. " Jeremy graduated from Largo High School with Honors in 2002. He was awarded academic scholarships to attend Florida State University. He received his Bachelors of Science in Psychology with a minor in business. Since graduation, he has worked locally to support his young family and attain the life he always dreamed about.

"I am a proud product of the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation. I was given fundamental life lessons throughout my years at Glen Oaks in the early days. " Jeremy Robinson



Alumni Jeremy Robinson, Sales Manager, Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites in Clearwater



Tiny Pieces of Land Yield Big School Lessons

In front of the classrooms on two small plots, volunteer Master Gardeners produce a bounty of fruits, vegetables and flowers. During their four years at Chi Chi's the gardeners have been showing students the lessons of Mother Nature and that smart work in the garden pays off in a big way. Students host an "eat your vegetables" luncheon and the all time favorite pizza party serving homemade pizzas topped with garden fresh tomatoes and fresh herbs. The popular Butterfly Garden lends a serene beauty to the campus and provides hands on science lessons as students observe the process in real time. Everyone is careful not to disturb the chrysalis developing as students wait and watch for the colorful beauties to emerge.

"The reward in all this hard work is the smiles and enthusiasm of the kids. I go home feeling invigorated!" Joyce Smith

Master Gardeners-Joan Robinson, Sally Duggan & Joyce Smith

Chi Chi Charity Classic Co-Chairs

Many thanks to Jessica Majeski, Jim York and Scott Tobe for their work on this signature event. All three volunteer as members of the Academy Executive Committee and together they will chair the 32nd annual Classic. Board member Jessica Majeski will be serving her fourth year joined by Jim York for the second year and now adding Scott's expertise to the mix. The Co-Chairs support the Board of Director's efforts to fundraise and advocate for the Academy's mission of helping children reach their full potential. Chi Chi hosts the festivities on November 13th and 14th with two days of golf and Sunday evening dinner. He will host a student breakfast and thank sponsors while here. For information or to make an end of the year gift visit www.chichi.org or call Nancy Agnew at 727.726.8829 x 209.



**Charity Classic Co-Chairs
Jim York, Sperry Van Ness
Commercial Real Estate, Jessica
Majeski, Northwestern Mutual,
Financial Network, Scott Tobe, Bimbo
Bakeries USA**



**Susan McLean & Josh Meurer,
Academy Teachers**

Chi Chi Teachers Chosen as Facilitators

Susan McLean, the Academy's middle school Reading teacher, and Josh Meurer middle school Math/Science teacher, have been selected as facilitators for the 2011 National Dropout Prevention Network Convention. The convention will be held at the St. Petersburg Hilton on November 9th and 10th. The focus of this year's convention is "Educational Strategies and Student Engagement". Susan and Josh will represent the Chi Chi Rodriguez Academy and Pinellas County Schools.

" Susan and Josh will represent our school well at this prestigious convention. Their insight into student engagement will be valuable given the academic growth that our students have made in reading and math on the FCAT test. " Jayme Pecci, Director Chi Chi Academy

Tree Climbers for Kids

Recently, a dedicated group of volunteers gathered to remove trees and manicure the grounds of the Academy's Golf Club campus. Project leader Tom Hanson said the group's mission is to help families and organizations in need. Douglas LaFortune, State of Florida's Tree Climbing Champion joined the group adding his expertise to help with the landscaping donation to the Academy. Both golfers and students enjoy a safer, beautiful campus because of their efforts.

" We passed the hat and also collected donations so we could give a little more this year."

Tom Hanson



The Tree Climbers volunteers worked to ensure that the course is safe and well cared for. Tom Hanson, far right provided the leadership.

Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Charity Classic, Sunday & Monday, November 13th & 14th, 2011

Chi Chi Invitational, Monday, March 12, 2012

Birthday Bash, Saturday, April 7, 2012

**For more information about the events contact Nancy Agnew
727.726.8829 x209 or nancy@chichi.org**



Visit us at www.chichi.org

