



What's New at Chi Chi's

September 2017

Welcome Back Chi Chi Academy Scholars!



Top: The Golf Club & Academy street sign welcomed our students back; Middle: 7th grader Tristen, 8th grader Renee, Middle School Assistant Mrs. Sutura, Food Services Assistant Ms. Brittany and Middle School Assistant Ms. C enjoying catching up after summer; Bottom: Director Chris Hoffman greets 4th grader Marissa.

On August 10th, our Chi Chi team welcomed back our Academy students to begin preparing them to graduate high school. Our students are referred to us by the Pinellas County School Guidance Counselors because they're below the grade level they need to be making them at risk for dropping out in the future. We're here to help by offering a smaller, hands-on learning environment with more one on one help every day. Learning through interactive experiences in the fields of management, marketing, retail sales, landscaping, agronomy and various other real-world business environments are the ways all kids develop interest in and have more fun learning. The goal is by their 8th grade graduation, students are caught up from behind both socially and academically integrating successfully into public high schools to receive their diploma.

Introducing our newest Chi Chi teaching team members:



Barbara Spanolios
4th Grade Assistant



Chris Hoffman
Academy Director

Bobbie Hill
Guidance Counselor



Meg Lucas
5th Grade Assistant

Upcoming Events

Chi Chi Charity Classic
Sunday & Monday, November 12th & 13th
Chi Chi Golf Club/Nielsen

Music 'n Mistletoe - Holiday Event
Sunday, December 17th
Trans-Siberian Orchestra concert- Amalie Arena



Mission: To 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.

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The First Tee Spotlight: Sonya makes her high school golf team as a freshman!

Sonya is a freshman at Palm Harbor University High School and has been participating with The First Tee of Clearwater for over five years. She is one of only four participants who has reached BIRDIE certified level and will begin Eagle level this school year. Throughout her years as a participant, Sonya and her younger brother Joey have volunteered during Summer Camp and many of the Foundation's fundraising events. In 2014, she started the Ambassador program where students demonstrate the Nine Core Values on and off the Course and commit to finishing Eagle level certification. In March, she participated in her third year as a Standard Bearer during the Valspar Championship, our only student to do so three years in a row. Our grateful thanks to the many supporters who gave Sonya her incredible opportunity through The First Tee programming.



Top: Sonya with Program Director Karen Wise and three participants from summer camp; Bottom Left: Sonya with PGA Pro Golfer Matt Kucher after acting as standard bearer for his first round of the Valspar Championship in March; Bottom Right: Sonya assisting one of our young campers during 2016 summer.



Top: One of our groups during the summer with their Coaches and volunteers; Bottom Left: Campers Charlotte and Samantha take a break to smile for the camera; Bottom Right: Kaleb shows off his great swing on the par 3 #6.

Program Spotlight: The First Tee Summer Camp

The First Tee welcomed 267 campers for the Life Skills Experience this summer! Instruction is based on an introduction to the game of golf plus core values and life skills seamlessly incorporated throughout each lesson. Students enjoyed course time at least one day each week, along with driving range access and many fun games. Thanks to grantors like the Florida Junior Golf Council, Pinellas County Business Technology Services, Paradise Golf and the Salvatore Mascari Family Fund, we offered camp at a discounted rate to all families and provided 51 scholarships for youth in need!

Did You Know...?

The Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club 18 tee markers include Did You Know Facts that share the story of the Foundation and its educational programs to over 45,000 golfers each year. Each hole is sponsored by a supporter, like Hole #18 below:



25 cents of every dollar from the Golf Club and Sports Complex go towards educational programs.