



# SPIRIT of the Future



The Newsletter of The



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
OF LAKE AND SUMNER COUNTIES**

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## Adopt-A-Family Is Back! Holiday Giving Program Returns for the 3rd Year

In the current economic crunch, more and more families are struggling to provide even the basics for their children. This year we would like to help as many of our Club families as possible provide a Christmas to remember for their children, but we need your help!

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the last two years of the Adopt-A-Family program have been a huge success. Last year alone, 28 donors helped 34 families enjoy the holidays without having to worry about having nothing under the Christmas tree (or having a tree at all). In all, the 2007 program benefited 84 children, and in some cases the donors even provided for the parents as well! In 2006, the local Eagles Auxiliary spearheaded the campaign that provided gifts for 81 kids, well over the 50 they originally signed up for. Both years, every family that applied was able to benefit from the program!

Although she'd previously worked at the Club as a staff member, Alicia Brinson was brand new to the Teeter Unit Director position during last year's campaign, and the experience showed her how much support from the community really means. "It's a wonderful feeling knowing you can help a family make it through the holidays. We are so grateful for the response from the community for this project," she said.

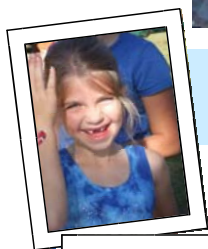
There's still time to participate - if you are interested in adopting a family this holiday season, please contact the Administrative Office at (352) 787-0053.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS  
and **Day for Kids**

NE Lake - September 27, 2008 (combined event)

Teeter - September 26 and October 11, 2008



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# Gala Auction Raises Over \$65,000

Community Shows Support for Clubs in Down Economy

Thanks to everyone who opened their hearts and wallets for a good cause, the 2008 Celebração Latina raised \$65,070 to help support the Clubs. "In this economy, we are thrilled to have been able to raise that amount," said Beth H. Work, Chief Professional Officer.

The evening started with a special cocktail party for donors to the "It Just Takes One" campaign, where the Gregg Strimenos Foundation was recognized as a Jeremiah Milbanks Society member. Beth presented Randy and Mary Mason and Gail Strimenos with Jeremiah Milbanks Society pins for the Foundation's \$15,000 contribution to the campaign.

Dancers from Starlight Ballroom entertained the crowd with a selection of Latin dances to help set the festive mood for the night, while DJ Tom Traser entertained the crowd with a selection of upbeat music in the main dining room.

Lauren Bigham chaired this year's auction, and wasn't quite sure what she was getting herself into. "Coordinating the auction turned out to be a difficult, albeit rewarding job. The board members were all very cooperative and willing to assist with every task. I'm glad the evening turned out well and I was able to help for such a great cause." A big thank you goes out to Lauren and everyone who made the evening possible!

Next year's date has already been set - mark your calendars for August 15, 2009 for another grand celebration with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties!



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Above: Beth Work recognizes Randy and Mary Mason and Gail Strimenos as Jeremiah Milbanks Society members.

Below Left: Attendees peruse items offered in the silent auction.

Below Right: Bright colors and tropical flowers helped set the festive atmosphere.





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 www.bgclsc.org, provided by



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## Board Update

Kristen Barch Knight completes her two year term as Chief Volunteer Officer at the end of this year, and Phil Braun steps into the role as of January 1, 2009.



**Kristen Barch Knight**  
*ATEX Distributing*



**Phil Braun**  
*Central Florida Health Alliance*



Welcome to the Directors who have joined the Board over the past year:

- Kristi Bell-Boliek** *J. Scott's Skin Care and Day Spa*
- Shirley Griffin** *Colonial Bank*
- Jay Hurley** *Trueman's Fine Men's Wear*
- Cat Lockett** *Tavares High School*
- Karen Purvis** *Utility Technicians*
- Mandy Wettstein** *Baker Wettstein*

## Holiday Shopping for a Cause

Did you know you can support the Clubs while doing your Christmas shopping online?

**GoodSearch** (powered by Yahoo!) donates approximately one cent for each search to your selected charity. The revenue they receive from advertisers goes directly back to the charities users support.



The website also includes a function called **GoodShop** - just by clicking to your desired online store through GoodShop, the Boys & Girls Clubs can receive a percentage of your total purchase! GoodShop includes many popular online stores, including Amazon.com, The Apple Store, Barnes & Noble, Expedia, Home Depot, L.L. Bean, Nike, Office Depot, Sephora, Teleflora, Williams-Sonoma and more!

The best part is that it doesn't cost you a thing to use GoodSearch and GoodShop, and you can actually see how your searches and shopping makes a difference to the Club by clicking on "Amount Raised" on the home page. To give you a sense of how the money can add up, the ASPCA has already earned over \$17,000!

Visit GoodSearch.com today to learn more. Make sure that you select the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lake and Sumter Counties as your charity of choice!