



# HOMETOWN Civitan Newsletter

April 2024

## President's Corner



It's April and Spring is here! We are also half way through our Civitan fiscal 2023-2024 year, and what a first six months it has been! October was nonstop: At the club meeting we learned about the Tim Tebow Foundation and their annual Night to Shine. Then we worked helping Beacon College with their Parents Weekend. Next was the Civitan Region 2 quarterly meeting at Laurel Manor with Rich Killian speaking on the specialness of Beacon College – a 4-year learning center for the neurodivergent community of students who learn differently. Bonnie Ruth, CI R2 Membership Engagement Chair, conducted the installation of new HCC officers. The Giving Clubs Showcase is always a great social time where we network with many of the other charitable organizations in the area.

November brought us a program honoring Veterans Day and Bing Johnson from Operation Shoebox based in Belleview. Their monthly 'care packages' sent to active military overseas are funded by donations of items for the ditty bags and their resale thrift and furniture shops. Giving Tuesday marks our annual donation of \$1,000 to the Civitan International Research Center at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. December 5th marked the adoption of our revised bylaws by the club membership, concluding a months-long review effort. We donated needed items for Kids Central collected at our holiday party. Our donated decorated tree to the Special Olympics Festival of Trees brought them \$310. Three of our members decided not to rejoin, we gained three new members from the deactivated Leesburg Civitan Club, so our membership remained at 33.

January was training month for Adopt-A-Precinct poll workers. February brought us a program about H.O.M.E. (Hands of Mercy Everywhere) and a pizza party at the Sunrise Civitan Club in Leesburg. Valentine's Day was highlighted by a delightful party at PACE followed by the ribbon-cutting and dedication of their Calming Center, designed by the girls and funded by our grant. (There are lots of great pictures in the Photo Gallery on [www.hometowncivitanclub.org](http://www.hometowncivitanclub.org))

March was another busy month with a club meeting program on the Girl Scout Camp in Wildwood, our annual Bunco fundraiser, working the AAP polls for the Presidential Preference Primary, and a social outing to tour the Royal Historical Museum – Forty Acres & A Mule. So impressive that it will be scheduled again.

Many thanks to all those ladies who made these events possible and to all those who gave of their time to support and attend! ~ Judi

John and I are walking in this year's Best Buddies Friendship Walk at Lake Eola Park in Orlando on April 27th. We became involved in Best Buddies because we have a 17-year-old grandson with cerebral palsy. Best Buddies International is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to providing social opportunities to individuals with special needs (intellectual and developmental disabilities) through their one-to-one friendships, integrated employment and leadership development programs, and inclusive living. I've committed to fundraising \$500 and have raised \$375 to date with less than three weeks to go. It would be awesome and so appreciated if you would give just \$15, the cost of a local concert ticket or 3 Starbucks beverages, to support this special people charity.



## Monthly Guest Speakers

**January**- Training for election workers. Thanks to all who participated.

Our thanks to Karen Schwering assisted by husband Joe and Penny Badolato for another successful Bunco Party. They worked hard to ensure a party with food and fun! Again we raised about \$800.

Editors Note:

I apologize that this newsletter is late. Life just got in the way!

Sorry!



**March**-Courtney Hatch and Pat Walsh from the Girl Scout Camp in Wildwood provided information on their camp which was started in 1960 and consists of 589 acres. The camp can serve 500 scouts at a time.

Their focus is teaching the girls to be leaders. Cookie sales generate 80% of their funding.



On January 21<sup>st</sup> we had a surprise cart parade for Karen Goodman's Birthday. She was surprised, delighted and grateful. Her new chemo is improving.



In **April** we had Maureen Quinlan and Kim McGlothern from Kids Central. They gave us an overview of the services they provide. The main goal is reunification of the family if possible. They currently have 1600 children in the 5 counties they support. Pictured with them is Chickie Holtzman who gave them a donation for their organization.



# Members in the News



Mary Anderson's Twirling Group went to Las Vegas to compete.



Civitans worked the Republican primary voting. We were at Everglades and Bushnell. Thanks to all who participated!



Penny Badolato and Mary Anderson trimmed our entry tree for the Special Olympics.

*Next Meeting: May 7,*

*10:30*

*Evans Prairie Golf Club*

**WELCOME!**

New Member  
Julie Stein



On March 21<sup>st</sup> the cardio drummers from all classes participated in the big "Drum In" at the Polo Field. There were 1000 drummers and we did a routine that was 9 minutes long. We were trying to break a world record set on March 21, 2016 in Australia. All of the paperwork has been submitted to the Guinness Book of World Records. It was a once in a lifetime event! Diane Seymour attended.

**BE GRATEFUL THAT  
NO MATTER HOW  
MUCH CHOCOLATE  
YOU EAT, YOUR  
EARRINGS WILL  
STILL FIT.**



## May

### April

22 Carole Savage

10 Karen Chlebek

13 Barbara Morris

21 Chickie Holtzman

24 Pat Rusk

### June

6 Judi Higbee

12 Diane Seymour

19 Rebecca Randall