



HOMETOWN Happenings

September 2021

President's Corner



Happy Fall, ya'll! We are all gearing up for the upcoming holidays that are fast approaching. This involves dealing with our "new normal" as the pandemic environment is still playing havoc with our daily lives..... There have been several improvements made this past year within our Hometown's "house" like the acquisition of new members and our new and fabulous website and newsletters which are being produced within our membership family.

During the year, we accomplished important and interesting projects, had interesting speakers, some fun monthly meetings, resumed our new member welcome socials, and our Hometown sisters enjoyed fun socials. We just handed out our yearly grants to 6 of our worthy charities which the money came from our Adopt-A-Precinct early elections fundraiser in October 2020...an impressively successful year for sure!

Alas, we will move forward as we continue to connect with and serve our charities and interface with our community's needs like we do best. With my many thanks so much to my sister Board members and everyone who helped me in my premier year as President! Here's to a joyful, peaceful, & healthy holiday season with a Happy New Year 2022 too.

Mary

Chickee Holtzman donated \$1000. To the Marion Therapeutic Riding

Thanks Chickee!

At the general meeting on September 14, Hometown Civitan members celebrated its annual day of giving. The following deserving nonprofit organizations were presented with a check:

- Center Hill Children's Mission
- Hand in Hand, Lake County, Inc.
- Lov Extension, Inc.
- Marion Therapeutic Riding Association
- PACE Center for Girls, Marion County
- Young Performing Artists, Inc (in absentia)

These groups were selected based on the recommendation of Hometown's Philanthropic Committee headed by Arlene Kaplan.

There were some surprises too at that meeting. New member Chickie Holtzman personally made a \$1,000 donation to Marion Therapeutic Riding, and our club secretary, Judi Higbee, purchased lovely new books and puzzles which were designated for Center Hill Children's Mission.

All monies granted by Hometown came as the result of the club's participation during the 2020 election in Sumter County's Adopt-A-Precinct program. This year we were able to divide over \$11,000. among our charities.





Member Spotlight

Judi Higbee



I was born in Detroit, Michigan and grew up on a farm near Cheboygan. I graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and minors in music, business and geography. I served for a year with the American Red Cross in South Vietnam in 1969 as a Recreation Aide/Donut Dolly, working directly with GI's stationed there.

During 30 years as a medical transcriptionist, I moved several times with husbands to Georgia, South Carolina, Virginia, Illinois, Michigan, Texas and Miami, Florida. I was very active in American Association for Medical Transcription, was Treasurer of the Florida state component for five years, and earned the Fellow of AAMT designation.

John and I have been married for 28 years. He had eight children from two previous marriages and we now have twelve grandchildren, most live in Michigan. We retired to The Villages in 2010 and have been blessed to be able to follow our dreams of traveling the world - over 75 trips to over 125 countries and 50 other destinations. Can't wait to start traveling again to see those last few places on our bucket list!

Music is my talent and I love ringing handbells and singing in choirs at New Covenant UMC, Village Ringers, Village Voices, Pops Chorus, and a little musical theater now and then.

After a Donut Dollies reunion in 2019, I met Laura McLaughlin and we became friends. When friend Laura needed help staffing the Adopt-A-Precinct project, friend Judi offered her services and volunteered husband John. Shortly thereafter, Hometown Civitan Club gained a new member.

Social Committee Suggests.....

There will be a pool party at Chickee Holtzmans home on November 4. More details to follow....

Monthly Guest Speaker

For our November meeting, we will have author Nery Kirchner to be our speaker. She will tell us her story of escaping communism and moving to the U.S. She is a former District Governor, and President of the Marco Island club.

Thanks!

To all of the wonderful ladies who have contributed to Ruth House, we've managed to fulfill their needs for now. I know Ruth House is under the umbrella of Hand in Hand, but our focus has been mostly on Ruth House. I hope to restart our mentoring program soon. If you're interested, please let me or Beth know.Penny Badolato

October Meeting Center Hill

The children of Center Hill need our help with clothing and school supplies. Please bring to the October meeting on October 5th at Perkins Pancake House.

5 children / 1st grade: sizes 7 & 8 - 2 boys and 3 girls and 1 girl is size 10 - 12

4 children / 3rd grade: 2 boys sizes 10 -12 & 2 girls: 1 - size 7/8 and 1 - size 10-12

Tory's Inspiration

7 RULES OF LIFE

1. SMILE

IT ALWAYS WORKS OUT IN THE END!

2. BE KIND

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL GOOD!

3. DON'T GIVE UP

IF IT DOESN'T WORK THE FIRST TIME, FIND ANOTHER WAY!

4. DON'T COMPARE

EVERYONE'S ON A DIFFERENT JOURNEY!

5. AVOID NEGATIVITY

AVOID NEGATIVE THOUGHTS, SITUATIONS & PEOPLE!

6. MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR PAST

FOCUS ON BEING PRESENT & CREATING A BETTER FUTURE!

7. TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY & MIND

ONE STRUGGLES TO SURVIVE WITHOUT THE OTHER!



Hello Civitans,

This story, originally written by Loren Eiseley, is a powerful depiction of making a difference and brightening the corner where you are, no matter how small your light is. If you know the starfish story, I hope you don't mind me retelling it to remind you what a big difference you can make in your small corner.

An old man was doing his daily walk along the beach one morning, it was a beautiful day to be by the sea. The man was enjoying his alone time, enjoying nature and reflecting. Then he spotted a young boy crouched by the ocean, picking something up from the sand and throwing it into the sea.

Fascinated by the boy's actions, the man stopped to watch the boy for a while. He noticed the boy kept scooping something up, running to the ocean and throwing it in. The man watched the boy repeat these actions again and again – stop, pick up, throw, move. Over and over. The man was indeed intrigued by the strange actions of the boy at the beach. "What could he possibly be doing?" The man asked himself. And so he walked closer to the boy and asked him. "What are you doing there boy?"

"I am saving these stranded starfish" answered the boy. "If they stay on the beach any longer, they will dry up and die. I am putting them back into the ocean so they can live." Then he picked one more starfish and threw it in, then another, and another. The old man was silent for a while, watching the boy labor away. He didn't understand the young lad's enthusiasm and drive; it just didn't make sense to him at all. Because life had taught him that if he was to spend time doing anything at all, it was better to spend it aiming for the stars, doing big things that made a difference with a bang. "Young man" he said, "on this stretch of beach alone, there must be more than one hundred stranded starfish. Around the next corner, there must be at least one thousand more. This goes on for miles and miles and miles – I've done this walk every day for 10 years, and it's always the same. There must be millions of stranded starfish!

I hate to say it, but you'll never make a difference." In response, and without missing a beat, the boy picked up a starfish and threw it into the water, saying, "well I can make a difference to that one, and that one, and

just made a difference to that one." Then he picked another and threw it, "and that one."

And so on and so on, one after another, it made a difference to that one, and that one, and now this one...."

And on and on the boy went, making a difference one starfish at a time.

The starfish story teaches two important lessons; well-meaning people can discourage and stop you from helping or making a difference in small but important ways. And it also teaches the importance of small contributions. "You don't have the power to affect meaningful change", "this is too big a problem for you", "I know this problem very well, you cannot solve it." Have you ever been told any of these?

And did you buy into the pessimism? Well don't. That is Stinkin' Thinkin' and it doesn't have a place in Civitan. I share this story with you today to serve as a call to action for all of us to be that boy, picking up each starfish and giving it a chance at having a future. My friends, we need to act like that boy and find those people that aren't a member yet and bring them into our family so that they and your club benefit. So for the time remaining this year until September 30th, I ask you to find one person and recruit them into your club.

If you do, your action will be rewarded. You will receive a symbolic pin, like the one you see below. Let's all resolve to be wearing these pins on October 1st as we enter our new year and let's not stop there, Keep Going!!

Warmest Regards,

Frank Kelly



Civitan International Meeting

Hometown was proud to be presented with our earned two awards from the July Civitan International Convention!



On stage with us is Patsy Perkal, the immediate Past International President. We were receiving our 2 award patches that I'm holding:

Dr. Courtney Shropshire Outstanding Club Honorable Mention and Outstanding Community Service, Second Place, International Awards 2019-2020.



July Meeting

4

Our guest Speaker was from Sumter County Animal Rescue in Lake Panasoffkee. She told of the needs of the shelter.

We also honored Daisy Vargas, who's lamb we bought at the County Fair.

Judi Higbee and Tori Palivoda made a beautiful gift basket for the Convention.

Welcome! New Members!

Paula Goldstein -

goldstein.paula@gmail.com

(don't miss the dot and gmail)

Marilyn Laurent -

laurentmetoo@aol.com



It's that time again! Civitan membership dues are due October 1.

Please remit check made out to HOMETOWN CIVITANS and mail to me,

Karen Goodman, 2914 Luraville Road, the Villages, 32163

Dues are \$150 for the year or \$40 per quarter payable Oct 1, Jan 1, April 1, July 1.

*You are cordially Invited
to a Tour and Tea Party*

Given by Betty Ann Klein

Friday, October 15

Center Hill Children's Misson

RSVP a Must to arlenekaplan@yahoo.com no later than

October 5

Directions: Take SR 44 west to Us 301. Turn left(south)
Go about 8 miles and turn left on 471 (in front of SECO bldg.
)

Go about 7¼ miles turn left onto 48 and go about 3.5 miles.

(Right after you pass the Fire Station on the right, Turn right
onto Virginia Ave, Center Hill is on the left.

has a whole NEW tab called 'Video Channel' - seven topics with background music, most less than two minutes long. Fun, entertaining, and educational! The Home Page has a NEW link to the 'Event Calendar' page immediately below the slider panels. There is a NEW President's Message in the sliders, NEW 'Current Charities' to click on, and NEW 'What is HCC?' video that plays by itself – wait for it . . . There is a NEW 'New Member Resource' page that everyone should visit and view the latest videos from CI (awesome!) and HCC. The Photo Gallery has pictures from our recent 2021 Grants Presentation and the CI Convention this July in Jacksonville. 'In The News' has two new stories from the Villages Daily Sun on HCC & Center Hill Children's Mission and the 2021 Grants presentation. Talk about A.C.T.I.O.N.! For a bunch of 'old ladies', we are downright DYNAMIC! Enjoy the view. Judi Higbee, WebAdmin.

Visit our Website:www.hometowncivitanclub.com

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

SEPTEMBER

Ellen Grivas

DECEMBER

6-Carol Broos

OCTOBER

8 - Arlene Kaplan

1- Lana Rosenberg

22- Deb McCoy

4-Betty Rohan

26- Laura
McLaughlin

7- Sharlene Floam

7- Clair Gore

7- Beth Halstead



Civitans makes the news again!

This photo is from the Daily Sun. It appeared after our awards breakfast.

Nice going! Thanks to Laura McLaughlin for inviting Andrea Davis from the Daily Sun to attend. Laura is a true asset to our Civitan Club