

Your Heron Creek Community Foundation has continued to overcome challenges presented by COVID-19 while working toward our goal of helping those in need in the North Port community. The following email received from Mr. Douglas Staley, executive director of the Child Protection Center, Inc., is an example of the impact the HCCF grants have on our community. In 2020, The HCCF awarded a \$5,000 grant to the CPC.

“The Child Protection Center is extremely thankful for the support of the Heron Creek Community Foundation. The funds provided therapy sessions for verified victims of physical and sexual abuse in North Port. The pandemic has increased a demand for all of CPC’s programs and services with our counseling program seeing a 23% increase in therapy services compared to pre-pandemic numbers. In fact, we are currently recruiting more staff to meet the demand as we have 16 verified victims of physical and sexual abuse, in North Port, on a waiting list for services.”

“Our therapy team just received recognition from the Florida Department of Health as “Exceeding Expectations” in their most recent Clinical Monitoring for their knowledge and skills in treating trauma victims. We are making a difference, but we know we cannot do it alone and support from Heron Creek has been vital for our services in North Port. We are doing more as an agency in spite of Covid 19, but we need to do even more. More prevention, intervention, and therapy services. No child should ever have to wait to see a therapist.”

Success Story from therapy:

“This success story is for a 6-year-old female client who came into treatment to overcome the considerable emotional and behavioral distress she was experiencing after enduring physical abuse by her biological mother. Upon entering treatment, this child exhibited anger and aggressive behaviors, and would become dysregulated whenever she could not be in control. In addition, her sense of self-worth and self-esteem had been eroded, and she tended to blame herself for the abuse. Her progress was slow but steady and marked with several additional stressors along the way including an abrupt change in placement, onset of visitation with her abuser, a brief need for inpatient assessment for suicidal ideation, and the lingering potential for reunification with the abuser. Nonetheless, through continued efforts, this client was able to successfully complete all her treatment goals and reduce her trauma symptoms. Through therapy, she learned safe and appropriate ways for expressing her feelings, successfully processed the experience and impacts of her abuse through creation and sharing of her trauma narrative, and ultimately was able to say of herself that she was stronger and wiser for the difficulties she had been through and the hard work she had put in to overcome her trauma. By the end of her treatment, she had no remaining clinically significant symptomology, and observations by caregivers and therapist indicated overall consistency in emotional regulation and appropriate behaviors.”

NEIGHBORHOOD DRIVEWAY MEET AND GREETs

The HCCF has begun scheduling Neighborhood Driveway Meet and Greet to afford residents the opportunity to hear firsthand how their donations are impacting the community. The first Meet and greet was hosted by Joe and Diane O’Connor for the Quail Run, Creeks Edge, and Palmetto Lakes neighborhoods. Joe O’Connor, HCCF Membership Director, kicked off the event and introduced Christine Varcoe from The Salvation Army. Christine discussed the impact the 2020 \$10,000 grant provided by the HCCF had on The Salvation Army’s ability to support local citizens. Over the next few

months additional Driveway events will be announced for other neighborhoods. Bring a lawn chair and your favorite beverage and learn more about HCCF activities.



COMING EVENTS

The **Annual HCCF Golf Tournament** will be held on **Friday, October 22, 2020**. This is our largest fundraising event of the year and the net proceeds generate a substantial amount of the Grant Awards funds presented each fall. Every tournament requires many volunteers to be successful. You can participate by playing in the tournament, being a sponsor, or volunteering to assist with putting on the tournament. If you wish to be a volunteer, please call Jack Steinkirchner – 717-413-3443.

The **Dupree's Concert**, twice-postponed due to the Covid 19 pandemic, has been rescheduled for **Friday, January 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm**. Those who have previously purchased tickets, please read below. As mentioned in our last update, we have worked diligently with the Dupree's management team, the North Port Performing Arts Centers, and event volunteers to arrive at a date that we believe will allow full capacity, be conducive to our "snowbird" population, and above all, provide a safe environment for attendees.

All of the existing 500+ tickets will be re-issued to reflect the date change, and your seat selections will remain intact. You may discard your existing tickets, since you will be receiving new tickets via e-mail from "Purplepass" (our ticketing agency) over the next few weeks. Please note that we have approximately 450 seats remaining, so we ask that you spread the word to family and friends who may have an interest in attending this outstanding event next January. The re-scheduled event makes for an excellent 2021 holiday gift or stocking stuffer.

Details regarding these and other HCCF activities can be found on our website at www.heroncreekfoundation.org.

