



Communities Connected *for Kids*

Connections - Feb. 21, 2024

Love makes your soul crawl out from its
hiding place.

- Zora Neale Hurston



Members of the PGA community receive donations brought to Tuesday's Drive-Through Baby Shower, hosted by the PGA Knit Wits, a group of knitters, every year in February.

Knit Wits Host Annual Drive Through Baby Shower for Children in Care

Port St. Lucie – A steady parade of cars made its way through the portico of PGA Village's Island Club Tuesday afternoon. But this parade had something more than banners, lights and float fringe to offer.

Every car that stopped by brought with it donations for children and families in Community's Connected for Kids' community of care.

It was the annual Drive Through Baby Shower, a February event hosted by a social group of knitters called the PGA Knit Wits. Started as a sit-down evening event, the shower suddenly changed into an outdoor drive-through event in 2020 to accommodate the COVID pandemic.

"We look forward to this event every year, and not just because of all the wonderful things that come our way," said CCKids Community Relations Director Christina Kaiser. "Hanging out with these ladies is a great way to spend a sunny day."

Jordan Bebout, community resources coordinator for CCKids, agreed. But she was pretty excited about the donated resources.

"This event sets us up with baby items, pajamas and clothing for the year," Bebout said. "And the diapers are an essential supplement to the donations we receive from the Treasure Coast Food Bank's diaper program."

In fact, CCKids requested and received larger-sized diapers and pull-ups - something very difficult to get through the food bank.

Gift cards to local grocery stores and fast-food restaurants also poured in, ensuring another year for CCKids' gift card program - a project that takes the financial burden off of case managers to feed children while en route to visitations or while waiting to be moved to a new home.

"This event checks a lot of boxes for us," Kaiser said. "We can't begin to say how much we appreciate everything the PGA community brings in for our children."



Volunteers of the Year Announced

Port St. Lucie – Communities Connected for Kids is proud to announce this year's volunteers of the year. Each volunteer will be honored April 12 during a special volunteer appreciation breakfast at CCKids' new headquarters in St. Lucie West.

This year's volunteers of the year are:

- Brenda Stokes, public information officer for St. Lucie County Fire Rescue, who leads the Lil' Feet project, making shoes available to local children and stocking the CCKids shoe pantry throughout the year; Volunteer of the Year.
- PGA Knit Wits, a group that hosts the annual Drive-Through Baby Shower for CCKids, collecting diapers, baby items, new clothing and pajamas and gift cards; Volunteer Group of the Year.
- The Mark and Terry Young Children, a sibling group of children who stay busy all year long volunteering for and contributing to CCKids' various campaigns and projects; Youth Volunteer of the Year.

More information, including a registration link to the April 12 breakfast, will be available in the coming weeks. If you are a volunteer - whether you are part of a group that collects Christmas gifts, school supplies or toiletries, an individual who organizes diaper or luggage drives or a young person who helps make our annual foster family pool party run smoothly - we want to see you and celebrate you!

Ready, Set...Spring!

By Christina Kaiser
Community Relations Director

It may feel like it's still winter - and I suppose it technically is - but we in outreach are already planning for the litany of events and campaigns that is the spring.

Look out for registration links and save the dates as we move out of February and into the warmer days of March, April and May, when CCKids hosts many of its signature events.



Those events include Social Work Appreciation Month in March; we'll introduce our hard-working staff throughout the month on social media, which we hope will give you greater insight into our local community of care.

We will also do a soft launch of our annual MANicure Movement, when we ask the community to paint one fingernail blue to raise awareness for the one in five children who experience child abuse.

That campaign will continue into April, which is National Child Abuse Awareness and Prevent Month, when we will bring our MANicure booth out to community events throughout the month. Please email [Jordan Bebout](mailto:Jordan.Bebout) if you have an event you'd like us to attend.



And mark your calendars for the April 27, this year's 1KforKids and Story Stroll. This special walk will bring our MANicure Movement to an end while opening the door on Foster Family Appreciation Month. We will unveil our 2024 1K tee-shirt, which is free to anyone who comes out for the walk, hosted each year at Port St. Lucie's Hillmoor Lake Park.

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