



The Foundation PAGES

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Dear Members and Friends,

On November 3rd the Foundation held its Annual Meeting and celebrated its 5th Anniversary in the Senior Center's dining room. We couldn't have held this event in a more appropriate place. After all, the Center is the Foundation's raison d'être. Surrounded by Members, Friends, Sponsors, Volunteers and others, it was a proud moment for me to recap the many ways in which we moved forward with our Mission in 2008. We end this year with momentum, a growing Membership, greater public awareness, and a fundraising project in place!

The Foundation is committed to furnishing the Center's new Exercise Room, in addition to continuing support for its existing programs and services. We need the help of every reader of this Newsletter, along with every Center participant, Member, Sponsor, and Friend to help us meet our \$100,000.00 goal. Equipment alone will require about ¾'s of that amount. Recently we received significant contributions from Humana, Inc. and Neighborly Care Network. We are grateful for donations from those who share our commitment to the success of our Foundation. Every penny, nickel, dime and dollar helps!



If you "do the computer" you'll be happy to know we have a terrific website up and running! Please visit us online at: www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org. We thank local resident and friend Amy Oatley for her help in designing and maintaining our site.

2008 is over and we're gearing up for an exciting New Year! Plans are underway for the Chorus Angelorum to take to the stage in the Catherine Hickman Theater on February 27th.

At this special time of year, let's be thankful for the gifts we have received as a Foundation and as individuals. Let's remember those who most benefit from our work. Let's greet 2009 with enthusiasm and hope, and remain aware of the needs of others and help when we can.

Thank you all for your commitment to continuing to build a strong Foundation. May you experience peace in your heart, mind, and spirit during this Season of Hope.

All good wishes!
Jane D. Ogilvie, President

Chorus Angelorum, Friday, February 27th at 7:30 p.m.

We invite you join us at the Foundation's first benefit event of 2009. Chorus Angelorum, a premier a capella ensemble of male and female voices will perform Friday evening, February 27th in the Catherine A. Hickman Theater. Tickets are only \$15. For more information and reservations, call: 727-893-2237 or 893-1231
Email: mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com
Tickets are available at the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue S.
Or online: www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org



Value of Accreditation

Accreditation is an official recognition that a local senior center is meeting its mission in a professional way. It also demonstrates that the center is in compliance with national standards for senior centers. Accreditation confirms that a senior center is a viable, fundable, and qualified provider of services to its community. This distinction assures its consumers, as well as their families and caregivers that the center is operating out of a common senior center philosophy without compromising its own ethnicity or other unique features. The national accreditation process consists of two phases: senior center self-assessment and a peer-review process. Successful completion of both elements results in accreditation status.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation Board of Directors

Jane D. Ogilvie

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Senior Solutions
of Pinellas County

Greg D. Stemm

Vice President
St. Pete Pride
The Gabber

Cynthia M. Dean

Secretary/Treasurer
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Senior Center

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William H. Distel

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Carole C. Gabrio

Stetson University

Bernadette Homan

Arden Courts

David Lemke

ResponseLink

Sarah Peel

SHINE Counselor

Pat M. Smoot

Reverse Mortgage Advantage, Inc



Please Help Us Raise \$60,000

... to complete our dream of creating a fully equipped fitness room at the Senior Center.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation has made its first purchase of exercise equipment for the senior center. Three state-of-the-art treadmills and a recumbent cycle are now installed.

Now the Foundation plans to purchase new Shapemaster Powered Exercise machines that provide a low impact workout. Selected especially for our seniors, these machines will provide a healthy workout without the heavy exertion. Shapemaster Powered Exercise Equipment is designed to give a total body workout with smooth, quiet movements without risk or overstretching joints or muscles. These machines are the best money can buy!

Want to help us bring this safe, smooth zero joint impact exercise program to the Senior Center's Fitness Room? We need \$60,000 to purchase a set of six Easytone unique, individually designed exercise machines. Your large and small donations will make this a reality. You can donate on our Website through our user-friendly Pay Pal service.

The Senior Center's 25th Anniversary



Staff and participants enjoyed celebrating the Senior Center's 25th Anniversary on October 15, 2008. Two separate meals were served in the afternoon with a dynamic performance in the Hickman Theater by Debby Bacon. Free ice cream was also served following the performance. Former Senior Center Directors Ted Potyka and Jan Vance joined the festivities as well as former Leisure Services Director Mike Bonfield. Each played a significant part in the development of the Senior Center over the years.

The Gulfport Senior Center started as a dream by members of the Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee and was brought to fruition in 1983 through grant funds. Since the majority of Gulfport's population were seniors 60 and over it seemed only natural that a facility would be built for their enjoyment. The building consisted of a large dining hall and one smaller activity room.

The Senior Center was a great hit for the 200 members of the Senior Citizens Club which formerly met at the Gulfport Casino. Neighborly Care Network (formerly Neighborly Senior Services) also relocated their Group Dining and Meals on Wheels programs from a local church to the Senior Center. The GEMS Mini-Bus Program and Telephone Reassurance Programs also transferred to the Senior Center from a smaller city facility.

Rooms were added piecemeal throughout the years as the needs increased. Two new activity rooms were added as well as a small conference room for mental health counseling. The Senior Center lobby area was also renovated.

Participants have enjoyed dances, parties, health fairs, presentations, meals, painting classes, sewing classes, etc. Social Services were also offered throughout the years with a focus on recreation and education.

Much is the same and much has changed over the years. Some of the people who came to the Senior Center 25 years ago are still participating. The GEMS Mini-bus Service and Telephone Reassurance Programs are still offered. Neighborly Care Network continues to offer nutritional meals. Billiards has lost its appeal and the pool tables have been replaced with exercise equipment. Social Services are still a vital part of the Senior Center but now with a focus on recreation and healthy aging.

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The most significant change occurred five years ago when the Senior Center Foundation emerged as the fundraising arm of the Senior Center. This organization has been a real blessing to the Center's participants who now have a voice through the Senior Center Leadership Team, volunteers and written surveys. Foundation board members listen and respond. That is why the Senior Center has been embellished in numerous ways such as the full service snack bar and the beginnings of a state of the art fitness center.

Only good can come from such a lively partnership between the Senior Center and the Senior Center Foundation. The more members that join it, the stronger it becomes.

The key to success of the Senior Center is its Foundation members. We trust we will see our Foundation membership double in 2009. It's a very appropriate way to show appreciation for all that the Senior Center offers.



Featured Senior Center Activity -- Investment Discussion Group

By Bill Kenefick
Investment Club Group Leader

The Investment Discussion Group is an informal group of retirees that meet weekly to exchange information and ideas that relate to the economy, financial matters and investments. It has no charter, no formal organizational structure and no money changes hands. Our meetings begin in October and generally run through April. We have been meeting at the Gulfport Senior Center for about 5 years and one of the major reasons we do not have to collect dues is because the Senior Center provides their space free of charge. They also provide pleasant surroundings, a safe environment where all of our members feel comfortable.

The format of our regular weekly meetings is that of a roundtable discussion. Each participant presents his/her own comments that

may vary from "I don't have anything to offer this week" to opinions of the general economy, or to a good money market rate at a specific bank. The meeting interaction allows all participants to ask questions of any presenting participant so as to provide the level of detail requested. Because we have such a diverse group we have some members that are more knowledgeable in certain areas of investing while others may have a less in-depth understanding of any given topic. It is this level of interaction that not only educates and raises the knowledge level of individuals in the group but also exposes the entire group to new concepts and methods. Attendance at our meetings varies as our snowbirds arrive and depart for the season but normally we have about twenty people present.

We usually have about 5 speakers per year, normally scheduled on the second Wednesday of the month. Typically they are financial professionals who present an informative topic such as the working of Exchange Traded Funds, fixed income instruments or other aspects of investing. We also have had some outside that area such as elder attorneys talking about wills, trusts, and Medicaid as well as knowledgeable professionals discussing topics of special interest to senior citizens such as fraud directed at them.

Meet Our New Board Members

Bernadette Homan

As Business Development Specialist for Arden Courts, Bernadette Homan brings years of business experience, healthcare knowledge and social work skills to the Foundation Board. She worked at the Boca Ciega Center Nursing Home in Gulfport from 1997-2002 and served on the board of the Gulfport Chamber of Commerce from 1999-2002. She has also helped provide Alzheimer's / dementia Support Groups and sponsored educational programs for Gulfport seniors. She has worked with a number of other community organizations including the Alzheimer's Association Gulf Coast Chapter, and Sun Coast Hospital Foundation.

David M. Lemke

Currently David Lemke is the State Manager for ResponseLink medical alarms, working with senior health care including hospitals, home health agencies, skilled nursing facilities, independent living and assisted living facilities. David has hosted Fall Prevention seminars and other events for the Senior Center. David is involved with the Better Living for Seniors group and serves as Chairperson of the Pinellas Fall Prevention Coalition. With his assistance, the coalition received a \$25,000 State grant to implement a fall prevention training course in Pinellas County.

Patricia M. Smoot

Patricia M. Smoot is currently affiliated with Reverse Mortgage Advantage, Inc., where she originates and processes reverse mortgages for senior clients. She brings a varied business background to the Foundation board, including profit and loss management training and development. In addition, Patricia serves as vice president of the West Coast Chapter of Mortgage Brokers Reverse Mortgages, secretary of Friends of Weedon Island, Inc., the Suncoast Blues Society, and volunteers with the AARP Tax Return Program.

Members of the Foundation 2007-2008

Ada Wade
 Agnes Finitzer
 Aileen Price
 Alice Billhimer
 Amandina Bowdoin
 Amy Oatley
 Angela Munafò
 Anna M. Brown
 Anne Ferrone
 Antoinette Cindric
 Arline E. Bean
 Audrey L. Larson
 Barbara L. Pfeiffer
 Barbara Purtee
 Barbara Smeltzer
 Betty J. Pollock
 Betty J. Staebell
 Betty Pearson
 Betty T. Tracey
 Bill & Barbara Rollins
 Brenda S. Coates
 Brian A. Miller
 Carol D'Alessandro
 Carol Nepper
 Carolyn R. Fellman
 Carolyn Seymour
 David M. Lemke
 Delia Saavedra
 Donald & Nancy McKeating
 Donald R. Wingard
 Donna R. Milcich
 Doreen E. Papa
 Ed and Joan Barry
 Edward J. Clancy
 Elisabeth Konrad
 Elizabeth P. Browne
 Elizabeth V. Whitehair
 Ellen W. Clifford
 Enid L. Mirkin
 Esther P. Mitch
 Eva Morison
 Everett W. Husted
 Gerard DiStefano
 Gladys Moses
 Gloria G. Richards
 Gloria T. Impagliazzo
 Grace E. Whitehair
 Greg Stemm
 Hazel DeVine
 Helen Mullins
 Helen S. Piazza
 Henry & Julia Fuce
 Herbert Guelden
 Iris Kroener
 Irvin & Mary Barrow
 James & Beverly Finnerty
 Janet R. Vosler
 Janet Shepherd
 Janet Stutz
 Janette C. Crowley

Janice Ryan
 Jean Tiberio
 Jennie V. Caruso
 Joan Barry
 Joan E. Spangler
 Joe & Margie St. George
 John Bisson
 John Greer
 John & Margherita Porto
 Josephine Amato
 Josephine Curcuruto
 Judith M. Allen
 Karen Christensen
 Laura L. Prosser
 Lawrence W. Cady
 Lilli Holland
 Lorraine DelBene
 Lorraine L. Babus
 Lucy Bednarek
 M. Helen Dukeshire
 Madeline Belkin
 Margaret Reilly
 Margaret Wyrick
 Marie Colello
 Marie Pawlikowski
 Marilyn Howard
 Marjorie A. Ullman
 Marjorie Y. Wayland
 Mary Eleanor McCammack
 Mercedes Losey
 Michael & Elizabeth Reith
 Michael & Shirley Calamari
 Mildred Ajello
 Norma S. Morris
 Pamela McGinnis
 Patricia Garrison
 Phyllis Godano
 Ray Free
 Richard & Dianna Rasulis
 Richard E. Klima, Sr.
 Rita DiBenedetto
 Rita H. Rome
 Rita M. Thompson
 Robert Scalzo
 Roberta M. Johnson
 Rose Raschilla
 Rosemarie Angi
 Ruby F. Pitt
 Sara Marshall Smith
 Serge & Faina Boldireff
 Sharon Lardieri
 Shirley C. Wright
 Shirley J. Protz
 Sophie T. Friedlander
 Stanley A. Szurek
 Steven & Sharon Dante
 Susan Andrews
 Terri Bennett
 Victoria Hewitson
 Virginia Baker
 Virginia Gnegy
 Virginia McCauley
 Walter Bianchi
 Wendy Kincaid
 Willie Harris

Lifetime Members

William R. Wolf, David C. & Carol F. Sjolund, Ruth Bird, David & Michelle Blair, Jane D. Ogilvie, Kathleen M. Andrews, Carole C. Gabrio, Cynthia M. Dean, Mary Connell, Sarah Peel, William H. Distel, Mary Lou Milch, Robert J. Meyers, Juanita Sciuillo, Susan K. Frank, The Woman's Club Of Gulfport.

Friend Partner [\$100 +]

Josef Bonk, John & Margery Milford, Hugh & Raissa Greene, Bernard Wright, Emma Banks, Mary K. Finlan, Sarah Peel, Violet O'Brien, Agnes Shovlin, Gloria G. Richards, Barbara Horton, Caroline Wakefield, Jerry A. Holmes, Pat Smoot, Susan R. Abbe, Abby Frank, William And Lucy Barnett, April D. Hill, Norma M. Lamb, Ken Reichart, Czechoslovak Cultural Center, Ida Brockmoeller

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