



Town of Palm Beach United Way

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Town of Palm Beach United Way Turkey Trot provides Thanksgiving meals for 4,363 children, adults and seniors in Palm Beach County

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PALM BEACH, FL – During a year of extreme hardship for thousands of families, proceeds from the 12th Annual Town of Palm Beach United Way Turkey Trot are providing Thanksgiving meals for 4,363 children, adults and seniors in Palm Beach County.

Using race registrations and donations, the Town of Palm Beach United Way awards grants to local nonprofit agencies that in turn provide take-home meals and socially distanced Thanksgiving celebrations for low-income clients who would otherwise go without a holiday dinner.

“We are beyond grateful to the Palm Beach community for supporting this year’s Turkey Trot,” said Cara Coniglio McClure, Co-Chair of the race with her husband Jared McClure. “This Thanksgiving, as we come together for our own family meal, we will be filled with joy and gratitude knowing thousands of our less fortunate neighbors will be doing the same thanks to the support of so many generous donors.”

This year, grants totaling \$17,439 were awarded to 25 area charities: Achievement Centers, Adopt-A-Family, Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse, Alzheimer’s Community Care, The Arc of The Glades, Catholic Charities, Center for Child Counseling, Drug Abuse Foundation, Families First, Farmworker Coordinating Council, Ferd & Gladys Alpert Jewish Family Service, The Glades Initiative, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Homeless Coalition, The Lord’s Place, Milagro Center, Opportunity Early Childhood Center, Palm Beach County Food Bank, Palm Beach Habilitation Center, Seagull Services, Take Stock in Children, Urban Youth Impact and YMCA of the Palm Beaches.

The Palm Beach Habilitation Center, which serves adults with developmental disabilities, provided Thanksgiving meals to 210 individuals the Friday before Thanksgiving.

“It was such a wonderful day to come together with our clients and we thank the Town of Palm Beach United Way and the Palm Beach community for their continued support,” said Patty Isola, Interim CEO of Palm Beach Habilitation Center. “Because of COVID, we were unable to all celebrate together as usual, but that did not change the excitement and thankfulness that each and every one of us felt.”

Achievement Centers for Children and Families provided 125 Thanksgiving meals to families of children enrolled in the Centers’ early learning and afterschool programs.

“Although we had a drive-through distribution event this year, instead of celebrating in person, our families were still incredibly grateful to receive a delicious meal from some of our local favorites. We were equally excited to be able to support local businesses in the process, with the meals provided by Ceasar’s Famous Ribs and Bruno’s Haitian Food Truck,” said Stephanie Seibel, CEO of Achievement Centers for Children and Families. “The event would not have been possible without the generous support of the Town of Palm Beach United Way.”

ONE COMMUNITY. ONE GOAL.

A total of 696 individuals registered for the virtual Turkey Trot. The race began Friday, November 20 and ends Friday, November 27. Participants could enter their time online or through the race smart phone app. All registrants received a T-shirt, finisher medal and goody bag.

Alzheimer's Community Care served a Thanksgiving meal to 550 patients and caregivers at the agency's eight specialized day care centers throughout Palm Beach County. Alzheimer's patients practice songs, create centerpieces and decorations, and participate in therapeutic music and art activities during the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving.

"In the absence of physical closeness this holiday season, we must treasure the emotional connections that are meaningful to us, every day," said Mary M. Barnes, President & CEO of Alzheimer's Community Care. "Thanksgiving reminds us to cherish our loved ones and be thankful for the times we can spend together. We are grateful to the Town of Palm Beach United Way and its donors for holding these values. Their faithful support of patients and families living with Alzheimer's disease is making a difference through the belief, 'where there is help, there is hope.'"

The Turkey Trot was made possible with the support of 34 sponsors and in kind donors. The 2020 race was again graciously underwritten by title sponsors **Findlay Galleries** and **Livingston Builders**. Platinum level support was provided by **Douglas Elliman Real Estate: Cara Coniglio McClure + Lisa Wilkinson**. Gold sponsors were **Christian Angle Real Estate, Compass Real Estate, The Law Office of Abigail Beebe, Schumacher Automotive** and **Surovek Gallery**.

"Even though it was an uncharacteristic year for us with the Turkey Trot being virtual, we are incredibly grateful for all of the support we've seen this year," said Mary Freitas, Board Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach United Way. "Through sponsorships, race registrations and donations, we were still able to provide thousands of Thanksgiving meals for families in need, and that is what the trot is all about. We thank the Palm Beach community from the bottom of our hearts for showing support in a year when children and adults in our community need help the most."

-end-

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