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IN BLOOM

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Random Acts of Flowers Pinellas Newsletter • Volume 2 • Spring 2015



Random Acts of Flowers recycles and repurposes flowers by engaging dedicated volunteer teams to deliver beautiful bouquets and moments of kindness to individuals in healthcare facilities across the country.

As a recycling “green” organization run almost entirely by volunteers, Random Acts of Flowers is committed to nourishing the health of the environment, individuals, and the community.

Fulfilling the Mission

RAF is happy to share some of the many offerings of thanks from our recipients, families, and caregivers.

“I was on my 2nd of 5 hospital stays in 2013 when I received a bouquet from RAF. I was actually in the bathroom, but my mother accepted the bouquet. She had been caring for me... she had stayed so strong and by my side the whole time. When that bouquet arrived, my mom broke down in tears. She was so touched by such an act of kindness, and I believe she needed that moment to just completely give in to the emotion... I am doing much better now, but I’ll never forget what that random act meant to us.” –Rachel I., recipient



“I would like to thank you so very much for the lovely bouquet of flowers I received while I was a patient at Mease Countryside Hospital. The flowers were lovely and truly brightened my day. I had read about you in the paper but never expected to be a recipient of your generosity.” –Grace C., recipient

"I just wanted to say a special 'Thank You' for the lovely roses I received during my recent hospital stay. It was such a surprise and they were so beautiful. It was a wonderful, bright moment in a depressing day and I thank you so very much." – Linda P., recipient

SHARE YOUR STORY – info@rafpinellas.org

RAF Pinellas Board of Directors (2014 – 2015)

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[Secretary]

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RAF National Visits Pinellas

The Random Acts of Flowers National Board Meeting was held in Pinellas County Florida on April 20th & 21st. This 9 member board of directors reside all around the United States. The highlight of their visit was a tour of RAF Pinellas’ warehouse on April 21st. RAF volunteers were able to showcase their creative floral bouquets and interact with the members of the National Board of Directors.

Donate Today! Bring More Smiles to Pinellas.

We are pleased to report that Random Acts of Flowers Pinellas has positively impacted the lives of 14,000 individuals since November of 2013! The smiles and happy moments between our volunteers and the recipients of our bouquets is priceless. Our charitable mission makes a significant difference in the lives of people in area healthcare facilities. We need your continued support to grow our mission of recycling flowers and delivering smiles. Make a donation today, so we can continue to impact and spread more joy in our community. Did you know, that RAF offers hassle free recurring monthly or annual donation? You can support RAF year-round!

Contact us at 727-754-7974 for more information on recurring donations or visit our website at

www.RAFPinellas.org



Volunteer Awards

RAF has many fantastic volunteers that make the magic happen every week. We had the pleasure of honoring two of our volunteers at the recent Vol-A-Bration Brunch.

We are pleased to award our *Volunteer of the Year* to Jim Overton. Jim’s volunteer efforts embody the volunteer spirit in an extraordinary manner. He willingly fulfills any task needed at RAF, from picking up flowers, to general building maintenance. His motto is always, “Yes, I can do that!”

We are thrilled to honor Pat DeBiase with the *Volunteer Service Award*. She routinely contributes her time and talent to RAF, and has logged over 150 hours so far this year!



Update from RAF National

Random Acts of Flowers co-founder and CEO, Larsen Jay, has been busy traveling across the country, focusing his efforts on the incredible expansion of RAF’s mission. RAF continues to blossom as this small, philanthropic endeavor grows into a national charitable organization. The RAF Chicago branch opened January 27th, and the RAF Silicon Valley branch opened in late April. But that’s not all – four additional cities are in development and we simply can’t wait to see what our future holds!

Did You Know?

As of May 5, 2015, RAF Pinellas has:

Made 13,668 floral deliveries to patients in area healthcare facilities.

Recycled 17,804 vases that would otherwise end up in the landfill.

Served 8 area hospitals, 65 senior care facilities, and 4 hospice centers.

Wish List:

- *Cleaning supplies
- *Printer paper
- *Paper Towels
- *Scissors
- *Clippers



Girl Scout Troupe 1310 from the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida visited RAF to earn their flower badge. The girls created 32 bouquets and delivered them to patients at Nurses Helping Hands. Smiles all around!



We are pleased to announce our newest corporate partner is Bouchard Insurance. This company is a Clearwater favorite that has been around since 1948. They have a philosophy of Client First, and they now proudly support the RAF mission of Delivering Smiles.

Thank you Bouchard!



Sunday March 22, 2015

200 Guests attended the 2nd Annual "Art on the Green" Event located on the Dunedin Golf Club patio. They were entertained by 9 outstanding artists creating various art mediums. It was a beautiful day filled with live music, good food and great friends. The sponsors and guests supported the RAF mission by purchasing live and silent auction items.

Please join us next March for another great event.

- Orchid Sponsors**
 Ivon & Jane Culver
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 Publix Super Markets Charities, Inc.
- Iris Sponsor**
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 Rick and Cindy Owens
 Dr. Garland and Martha Forbes
 David and Debbie Stone
 Bruce and Deidra Livingston

"Recently I received a lovely arrangement of flowers from you. It made my day a happy day and my apartment alive! Thank you and God Bless all of you!" – Rose M., recipient

THANK YOU!



So far in 2015, our volunteers have delivered over **4,000 bouquets**.

To streamline our volunteer shifts, we have adjusted our schedule:

Volunteer Celebration

On April 24th, the volunteers that work tirelessly every week gathered for breakfast to celebrate and meet one another. Four days a week over 50 volunteers pick up flowers, arrange beautiful bouquets and deliver the bouquets to patients in healthcare facilities in Pinellas and Pasco Counties.



Volunteer Spotlight



Allstate Insurance collected 300 vases that were delivered to RAF on March 11th. Thank you for your generous contribution and support, allowing us to continue to grow and flourish our mission of delivering smiles in our community.

Ladies' Night Out Coming Soon

Random Acts of Flowers Presents

Ladies' Night Out

To benefit Random Acts of Flowers!



Tuesday, May 28th – 6:00pm

"Wild Birch and Butterflies"

Warm summer days are here. Time to refresh and get back to nature. Come learn to make a natural birch wreath for your home or front door.

Tickets: \$50 / per person

Learn more and purchase tickets by calling 727-754-7974
 Space is limited.

CELEBRATING THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to the following sponsors for making our Christmas Delivery program successful in 2014:

- Jefferson Bank
- Hyundai of New Port Richey
- Freedom Boat Club
- Glenn & Leah Bergoffen
- Katherine Thalheimer & Family
- Mike and Roxanne Connor
- Brandon Construction
- Classic Boutique & Gallery
- GFWC Tarpon Springs
- Dunedin Rotary North
- Dunedin Rotary Waterside
- Kellie Doyle
- Mel & Pam Ora
- David & Nancy Ridnour
- Beth Wilson
- Richard & Dianne Jackson
- Bob & Mary Avedisian



With your help, we delivered over 500 beautiful poinsettias to area hospital patients for the holidays!



Are you interested in participating in the Christmas Deliveries program in 2015?

Opportunities for sponsorship and volunteering

Contact our office for details!