

Friends of
**JOSHUA
HOUSE**
Foundation, Inc.

Joshua House CONNECTION

WWW.FRIENDSOFJOSHUAHOUSE.ORG

FALL 2023

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FOJH – FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DeDe Grundel
Executive Director

It is hard to imagine the holidays without family. Maybe for you, Thanksgiving is complete when Aunt Clara's stuffing is placed on the table, or Christmas is perfected after witnessing which ugly sweater Grandpa Joe chose this year, or maybe you look forward to ringing in the New Year with people you love. Not seeing even one family member for any of these holidays is a painful reality for most foster children.

Yet, holidays happen no matter the stressors or grief they can bring to anyone, not just foster children. And although I am sensitive to how our Joshua House residents feel, I love this time of year. It is because I am inspired by how people reach out to help others around them. How brother lifts brother, and humankind seeks to be more humane.

In other words, I am so thankful for all of you. Joshua House continues to celebrate unprecedented success because of your support. The list is impressive as we celebrate improved school attendance, soaring self-esteem because of life-enrichment activities that encourage talent and uniqueness, and improved mental health because of compassionate therapists. The list could go on and on. Just know that even though the pending holiday season can stir up sadness and disappointments, the Joshua House residents have lots to celebrate!

When the founders first dreamed of the concept of Joshua House, they thought only of the children that needed a safe haven. They never dreamed that Joshua House would evolve to be so dynamic and enriching for the children that call it home. The landscape of Joshua House has changed considerably, yet it continues to be a magical place for our community's most vulnerable.

I thank you again for being part of this evolution to meet AND greet with open arms the challenge of helping children and teens that are abused, abandoned, and neglected. Thank you for taking our Holiday Wish List and bringing joy to a kid in foster care. Thank you for helping provide a home-like atmosphere with therapy and understanding to youth struggling in traditional foster homes due to emotional trauma.

Together, we have changed many lives. Although we know this holiday season will stir anxiety, depression, grief, and disappointment, we can plan for it. We can keep services in place to intervene when needed, provide homes with safe beds to provide comfort, and share meaningful, enriching experiences with our kids. We can even help them establish new traditions for the holiday season. Here is to happier holidays and healed children. And cheers to you!

FOJH – FROM THE CHAIR



Tracy Falkowitz
Chair

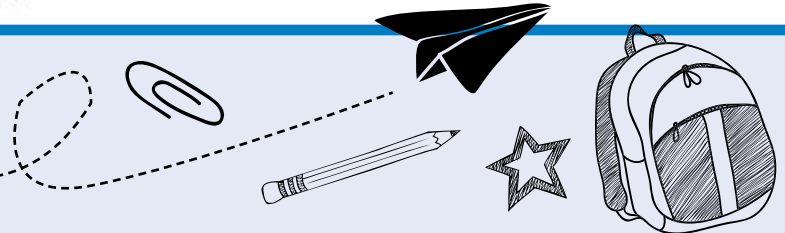
As I watched my children go off to another school year with excitement and a bit of trepidation, I was struck with the thought that the children of Joshua House do not have someone agonizing over whether they had a wonderful day and curious about their friends and activities. These children are missing so much in their lives. Joshua House simply tries to make things a little better so they can heal from their pasts and enjoy the remainder of their childhood.

As we start to look forward to the holidays of Halloween and Thanksgiving, these children will still be in foster care. Families are so critical to celebrations. At Joshua House, we do all that we can to try to replace a loving family by creating special memories and making sure the children know just how special they are.

In order to create festive moments of joy, we rely on community partners. Whether it is a birthday, holiday or just a bad day, our staff is there to support our Joshua House children. This cannot happen without your support. We appreciate all that our donors have done and continue to do. Thank you for understanding the needs of Joshua House and the value of a healing and hopeful environment for foster children.

Tracy M. Falkowitz

BACKPACKS, FOLDERS & PENCILS – OH MY!



The new school year started
It's not really "new" any more,
Our kids have been studying
Even though it's a chore

Alarm clocks & homework
Rushing late out the door,
With smiles on their faces
And cool clothes galore

Our donors make it happen
Year after year,
Long supply lists are filled
of that, never fear!

Our donors are the best
We know it is true,
We couldn't do anything
Without support from YOU!



Personal Hygiene Item Drive at the HUB International
Tampa office



D.R. Horton Tampa supporting our children



BTS drive by Federal Bar Association, Tampa Bay
Chapter Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers
Hillsborough County Bar Association



Collection drive by Corsa Rally and Maserati Tampa

LIFE ENRICHMENT

It truly is the most wonderful time of the year! The upcoming holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek ways to improve life for those around us.

At Joshua House this season, we want to rewrite the narrative of what the holidays mean for our foster children, and fill them with joy, cheer, and the spirit of gratitude.

Last year, we started a NEW tradition at Joshua House for our residents – the Advent Calendar! It was surprising and disheartening to learn that almost ALL our children had never experienced an Advent Calendar before coming here, making this experience exceptional and enriching for our children!

We are planning to provide an Advent Calendar again, and we will need an activity for every single day. We know the children excitedly waited for the unveiling of each day's "surprise" activity last year. They could partake in festivities and holiday fun, such as baking Christmas cookies for Santa's arrival, crafting beautiful and innovative gingerbread houses, and watching outdoor holiday movies on our lawn (complete with hot cocoa and sugary treats, of course).

Crafting the PERFECT Advent Calendar for the upcoming holiday season requires creativity, imagination, and resources. Our friends in the community help us make this happen. If you are interested in touching the hearts of our children this holiday season, please reach out to Laura Calco, Life Enrichment Program Manager, at (813) 406-5694 or LCalco@joshuahousetampa.org to discuss ways in which you can make the most impact on our foster children.



Unveiling of the Advent Calendar – 31 days of fun!



I like selecting the days



Our daily elf shares today's activity!



Each house uses team work to create a Gingerbread masterpiece



Holiday themed art classes create a therapeutic environment



Gingerbread House creations - This is a way to see the enrichment in action

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE



Joshua House is a therapeutic residential shelter for abused, abandoned, and neglected children.

Only **ONE GIFT DRIVE** is held to gather enough gifts for **ALL** our children for the holidays, birthdays, special occasions, and day-to-day play throughout the year.

We also support **hundreds** of other foster and at-risk children by filling their Holiday Wish Lists. Your generosity makes our children feel special, comforted, and filled with joy. Thank you!

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

Please deliver your unwrapped gifts to one of these locations by **Thursday, December 7th**. Need more details, call our Head Elf at 813-728-3165.

FLORIDACENTRAL CREDIT UNION

All Hillsborough, Pinellas & Pasco locations

www.floridacentralcu.com/connect/locations-atms.html



JOSHUA HOUSE DONATION CENTER

1515 Michelin Ct, Lutz, FL 33549

M-F: 10am – 4pm, or by appointment

SCRAPORIUM

16518 N Florida Ave, Lutz, FL 33549

M/W/F: 10am - 3pm

T/R: 10am - 6pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Closed Sunday

HAND & STONE MASSAGE AND FACIAL SPA

13129 North Dale Mabry Hwy, Suite E
Tampa, FL 33618

1664 Bruce B Downs Boulevard
Wesley Chapel, FL 33544

M-F 9am – 10pm

S/S 9am – 9pm

ACCOUNTANTS WEALTH NATIONAL TAX SERVICES, LLC

28050 US Hwy 19 N #300

Clearwater, FL 33761

M-F: 9am – 5pm

S/S Closed

**UNWRAPPED GIFT DEADLINE:
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**

If you would like to help by purchasing specific gifts that are on a **WISH LIST OF A CHILD**, please click:

[BIT.LY/2023HGDSIGNUPGENIUS](http://bit.ly/2023HGDSIGNUPGENIUS)

You can **"SIGN-UP"** for specific gifts and then deliver the unwrapped items by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7th to one of the Drop-Off Locations.

OR, SCAN THIS CODE:



Or shop directly from **AMAZON** and have the items shipped directly to Joshua House:

[BIT.LY/2023AMAZONHOLIDAYWISHLIST](http://bit.ly/2023AMAZONHOLIDAYWISHLIST)

Please include the child's **name** and **code** on the gift receipt when using this option. Thank you!

OR, SCAN THIS CODE:



DON'T HAVE TIME TO SHOP?

To make a monetary donation please visit

[BIT.LY/HOLIDAYGIFTDRIVEDONATION](http://bit.ly/HOLIDAYGIFTDRIVEDONATION)

and we will use the proceeds toward making a foster child's holiday wishes come true!

OR, SCAN THIS CODE:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHILDREN!

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE



MOST REQUESTED GIFTS

Gift Cards: Visa, Target, Walmart, McDonald's, Hot Topic, etc.

Hoodies! Nike, Adidas, any anime or anything from Hot Topic – Junior and Adult sizes

Graphic t-shirts: Nike, Adidas, any anime, cartoon, etc. in Junior and Adult sizes

Anything Anime/Manga: Clothing, books, posters, etc.

Video Games & Controllers for XBOX, PS4 & Nintendo Switch

Fine art kits for older kids

Gaming headsets – RBG, etc.

LEGO Sets: Star Wars, Super Hero, etc.

Crocs – adult sizes & the jibits, too!

Make-up & Nail kits – Ulta, Urban Decay, etc.

Fragrance Sets: Bath & Body Works, AXE, Victoria's Secret, etc.

Action figures: Super Heroes, Anime, Fortnite, etc.

Super Hero comic books for all ages

Books/Book Series for teens/pre-teens: Graphic novels, Joke Books, popular YA novels



HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Gift Cards: Walmart, Target & Publix

Laundry & Dishwasher pods

Bath Towels & Wash Cloths

Extra soft throw blankets in fun colors/patterns – for teen boys/girls

Ethnic Hair Care items

Batteries: AA, AAA, C, D & 9 Volt

FOOD

Canned vegetables

Dry Pasta & assorted Pasta Sauces

Name-brand, kid-type cereal

Brownie Mix

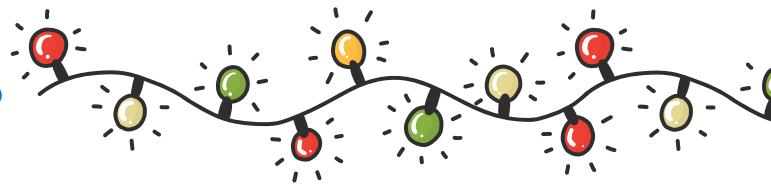
Chick-fil-A Sauces, BBQ Sauce, Hot Sauce

Individually wrapped snacks: cookies, chips, etc.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR CHILDREN!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS



OCTOBER 1, 2022 –
SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

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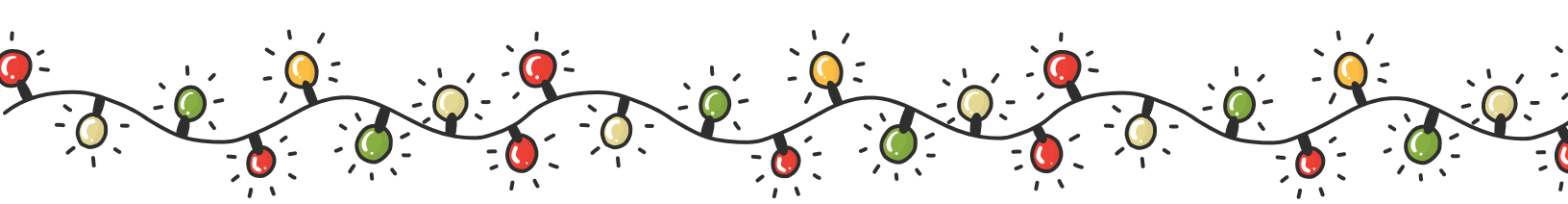
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GIFTS & CONTRIBUTIONS GALORE

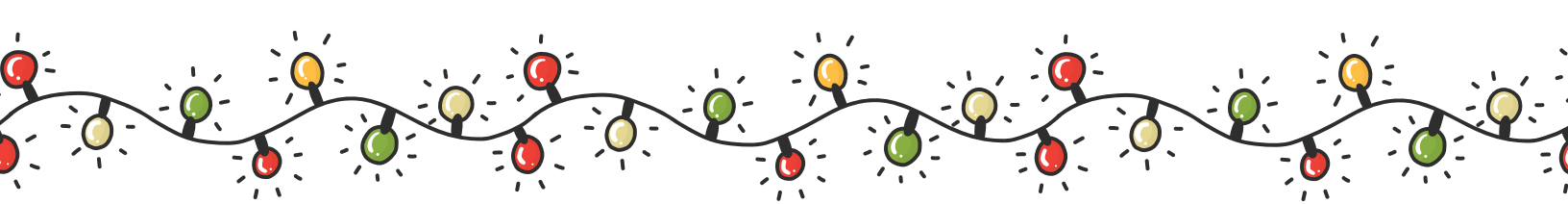
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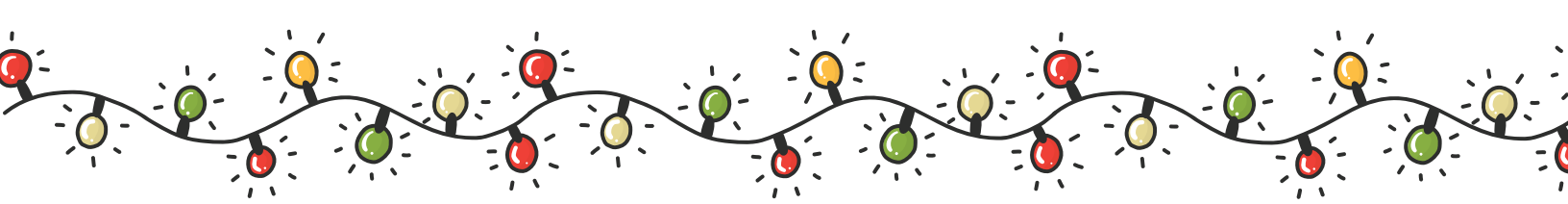


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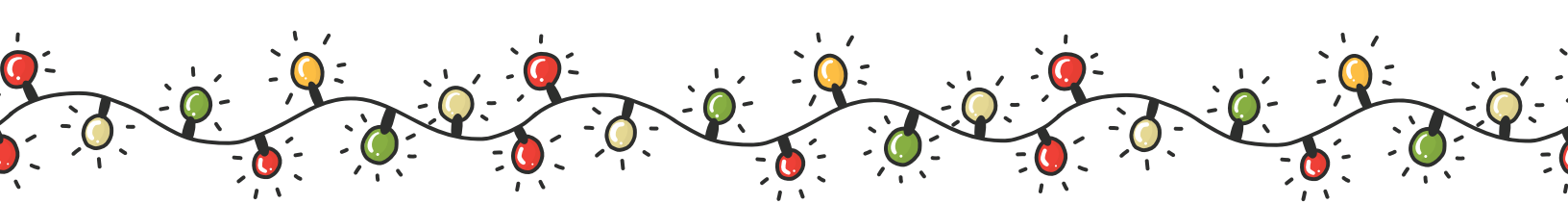


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Steven Perkoski
Sam and Beth Perlozzo
Bobbi Perry
Rita and Sean Peters
Breanna Peterson
Michelle Peterson
Ronnie and Kayla Pettis

Jeremy Pfeifer
Deborah Phillips
Dana Philp
Kim Piercy
Theresa Pietruszka
Pin Chasers
Gilda Pines
Larry and Eileen Pittman
Rosemarie Pittman
Platinum Advertising &
Promotions Inc.
Patricia Podlas
Nanette Poll
Mary Pond
Jodi Poore
Kimber Popadopoulos
David Pope
Melody Porter
Furrever Portraits
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Andrew Powers
Danielle Powers
Robert Andrew Powers
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Travis Prince
Print Solutions
Proforma
Dinelle Prospere
Jessica G Pruitt
Rachel Pruitt
Publix - Chelsea Place
Michael Pugliese
Sussy Pulido
Ana Quagliana
Ida Quamina
Daniela & Troy Quast
Paige Quinta
RAD Diversified
Laila Ramadan
Connie Rasmussen
Catherine Ratcliffe
Helen & Stephen Raterman
Donna Raucher
Ileana Ravenna
Raymond James Global
Sherry and Rick Reber
Stacy Regan
Brooks Reilly
Reliaquest Bowl
Lynda Remund
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Robyne Rentz
Debbie & Tom Ressler
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Ouida Rice
Kathryn Richardson
Mary Jane Rickles
Dee Rios
RIPA & Associates
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Michelle Jimenez Rivera
Natalie Rivera
Sandra Riveron
Kaydene Roberts
Bridget and Dale Robertson
Terri Lynn Sugar Robertson
Dawn Robinson
Leslie Church Robinson
Rockwell Building Systems
Sergio Rojas
Ligia Romero
Brianna Roque
Dannielle Roque
Pedro J Rosado
Aimee S Ross
Randy & Chad Eiben Rossi-Eiben
Rotary Club of New Tampa
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Sara Rubinstein
Rugs As Art
Naomi Rushukins
Gayla Russell
James D. Russell
Christopher Rux
Tien Ryan
Lynda C. Saffell
Brooke & Tim Sakow
Salesforce.org
Sally Beauty
Sam's Club - Brandon
Anita Sanchez
Regla Sanchez
Susan & Charles Sand
Nicole Santana
Salome Santos
Beth Satter
Karen & Jimmy Saulnier
Barbara & Bruce Savage
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Angela Scarantino
Sabine Schaller
Carri Scheiner
Nancy Schneider
Sandy Schofield
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& Throat
Scrapendipity Retreats
Sally Scribner
SEA Creative Photo Booths
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Laura Sell
Richard Sellers
Lucas Seltzer
Seminole Spine Chiropractic
Janey & Stephen Sergay
Karl Sexton
Devendra Shah
Haji Shamsuddin
Kristi Sharpe
Tiffaney Shaver
Deborah Sheridan
Dina Sheridan
Lindsey Shindel
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Group Inc
Showmen's Association Charities
Corporation
Anita & Robert Shuler
Shnai Simmons
Taiwan Simmons
James K Simon
Philip Singer
Ken Singh
Jennifer Skinner
Lisa Sklet
Deborah G Smith
Lisa Smith
Sharon Smith
Stephanie Smith
Terri Somerfield
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Southern Eaze
Lori Souza
Amanda Spadafora
Andrew Spangler
Eric Spencer
SPOT, Inc. Freight
Ashley Springer
Joyce A. St Clair
Staged Right
Missy & Corey Steadman
Anita Stecker
Samantha Stewart
Nikki Stieben
Stonewater Grill
Subject Point
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Brianna Swales
Dorothy Swartz
Katy Swets
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Charles & Catherine Talcott
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Tampa Bay Business &
Wealth Magazine
Tampa Bay Chapter - Federal Bar
Association
Tampa Bay Newcomers Inc
Tampa Bay Tootsies
Tampa General Hospital Nurse
Practice Council
Tampa Steel & Erecting Co.
TAT Civic Association
Margaret Tauceda
Tina Taylor
TD Bank
Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club
Stella Thayer
The Bank of Tampa
The Drapery Company
The Gabriel & Jeanne Shaheen
Family Foundation Inc
The Learning Experience
The Peterson Family Foundation
The Progressive Insurance
Foundation
The Standard
Gemma & James Thomas
Jennis Thomas
Daniel K Thompson
Sol Thorn
Thuy Murray Insurance Agency Inc
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TLR Group - Nexus Brandon
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Rachel Tome
Holly Tomlin
Tracey Topper
Ana Torres
Crystal Traeger
Giovanni & Amy Trentalange
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Morgan Trochesett
Sarah Tucker
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Melissa Tutton
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United Way of Central Florida
Unity of Tampa Inc
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US Air Force Reserve
Anna & Thomas Valenti
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Joseph Varner
Lavinia Vaughn
Natalie Veilleux
Darren Veneri
Craig Verville
Luis Viera
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Vision For The Nations Inc.
Kim Vreeland
Lisa Walker
Holly Wallace
Kathie Ward
Samantha Ward
Kerri Warkowski
Debbie Warren
Sharon & John Warren
Carolyn Warren
Kimbert Warrington
Warrior Notes Fellowship
Waterford Properties
Heather Watkins
Wawa-State Road 54
Wawa-Bearss
Brenda Wax
Donna Weaver
William Weeks
Sandy Weinberg
Danielle Weissman
West Coast Cycling
Kim & Ronnie White
Mary Anna White
Patty & Robert Whitescarver
Debra Whiteside
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Colleen Wieners
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Kimberly Williams
Tess Williams
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Zuesette Woods
Darien Worden
Rebecca Worsdale

Deborah Wright
Shavelle Wright
Xerox Business Solutions
Yara International ASA
Tammy N Yarbrough
Steve Yerrid
Tony Ynes
Bettie & Jordan Young
Kristen Yousey
Gedeon Zema
Miriam Zicht
Joanne Ziegler
Deb Zimkus
Douglas Zoellner

LIFE ENRICHMENT HEROES
Brandon Quilt Guild
Celebrate Birthdays
Jane Case
D.R. Horton Tampa - North Division
Kayla Erickson/Nester of Hope
Floridacentral Credit Union
Grace Family Church
Hand & Stone Massage and
Facial Spa
Highland Canine Connects
Honey's Mini Therapy Adventures
Idlewild Baptist Church
It's My Bag
Kappa Delta Sorority, Inc. - USF
Keller Williams
KPMG
Krewe of Agustina de Aragon
Krewe of St. Brigit
LAMPLighters, Inc.
Metro Inclusive Health
Kamela Myers
Paws for Friendship
RAD Diversified
Radiant Church
Robins & Morton
Rotary - [New Tampa Rotary/
Satellite Club of Wesley Chapel]
Rough Riders
Scraporium
Showtime Transportation of
Tampa, Inc.
Southern Eaze Bar & Grill
Sun Yoga Studio
The ACT Foundation
The Fashion Movement
The Standard Elves

BOUNDLESS ENERGY HEROES

Deena Barlow
Barbara Blue
Rose Calco
Kay Cunningham
Lisa Dudney
Paige Erwin
Sue Hunter
Ian Kahn
David Kirkland
Ronnie Mallack
Karen Matchus
Joy Moore
Carolyn Musselman
Lou-Anne Packard
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Mary Anna White
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• Elizabeth Montero

Tom Hewitt
• Debbie & Tom Ressler

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• Sherry and Rick Reber

Maureen Schwartzman
• Deborah G Smith





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Joshua House and abused, abandoned, and
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SAVE THE DATES

MONDAY JANUARY 15, 2024

(Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day)

8:00 am - 5:00 pm

MJH GOLF CLASSIC

TPC TAMPA BAY

5300 W Lutz Lake Fern Rd, Lutz, FL 33558

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

PIN PARTY

PIN CHASERS VETERANS

5555 W. Hillsborough Ave., Tampa, Florida

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS BENEFIT

THE GATHERING ARMATURE WORKS

1910 N Ola Ave, Tampa, FL 33602

Check our event website to see monthly added events friendsofjoshuahouse.org/events

➔ FriendsofJoshuaHouse.org

f **Friends of Joshua House Foundation, Inc.**

🗨 (813) 406-5694

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