

The  
Glenridge

FEBRUARY 2022  
NEWS

*Charitable Foundation*

*By Marny Stuart, Executive Director*

## Glenridge Couple is Changing Lives One Smile at a Time



*Doctors Wally Smith and Clarice Yentsch*

For Doctors Wally Smith and Clarice Yentsch serving others came naturally. Living their philosophy — *“of wanting to give back,”* and both having a soft spot in their hearts for disadvantaged children, they embarked on a joint venture to raise money to acquire a mobile dental clinic for use in Monroe County to serve the Florida Keys.

Wally, a retired United States Coast Guard Chief Dental Officer, and Clarice, the founder of the not-for-profit Waypoint Foundation, began a fundraising campaign in 2019 with the commitment to raise \$125,000 for the purchase of a mobile dental clinic. Learning of Wally’s previous experience with the *“Miles of Smiles”* program, which provided free dental services to the disadvantaged children living in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, Clarice thought he would be the perfect person to partner with on this

new initiative with the Waypoint Foundation. The Waypoint Foundation serves to celebrate human creativity, specifically focusing on education, exhibitions, and collaborations to address unmet needs in the Florida Keys.

Indeed, the need is great. The national average of dentists to patient ratio is 1 dentist to 1,600 patients. In Monroe County, that average was twice the national average; 1 dentist to roughly 3,200 patients. To make matters worse, Monroe County only has 22 dentists serving the area and none of them take Medicaid patients.

It took three years of hard work and dedication for Wally and Clarice to make their dream a reality. They could not have achieved their goal without the help of major contributors including the Ocean Reef Community Foundation of Key Largo, with a significant campaign match, Baptist Health of South Florida, *continued on page 2*

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and the Commission Officers Foundation of the United States Public Health Service, an organization near and dear to Wally's heart.

Once the \$125,000 was raised, the project was turned over to the Florida Keys Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Under the leadership of Michael Cunningham, CEO of AHEC, the two-operatory-chair unit was equipped with the most advanced state-of-the-art dental equipment available so that it would have a longer life span. AHEC will continue to operate the "SmileMaker" clinic and provide free dental pediatric services to the disadvantaged children in the Florida Keys.

This project holds a special place in Wally's heart, as he and his late wife, Pam, started and ran a similar successful mobile dental clinic 20 years ago. This program is still providing much needed dental services to children in rural North Carolina. Although his work with disadvantaged children through the Miles of Smiles and SmileMaker programs may be his charitable passion, Wally also supports The Glenridge Charitable Foundation's charities, including the Compassion Fund, the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund, and the Angel



Tree project for Easterseals' clients.

Clarice is equally generous with her time and her treasure. In addition to running the all-volunteer Waypoint Foundation in Key Largo, she also supports The Glenridge Charitable Foundation's Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund and the Angel Tree project for Easterseals.

Congratulations, Wally and Clarice, on a job well done! It is a pleasure to recognize Glenridge Members and the good deeds they do to make this world a better place. If you would like to know more about the SmileMaker project, feel free to contact Wally and Clarice directly. I am sure they would be glad to share their work with you!



# Glenridge's Angel Tree

## – A Project of Love

For the past few years, Glenridge Members and team members have generously responded to the call to make the Christmas holiday something very special for those less fortunate. This past Christmas was no exception.

Easterseals of Southwest Florida was chosen by the Glenridge Charitable Foundation to be the recipient of our 2021 Angel Tree partnership. The Easterseals organization's mission is to provide services for children and adults with autism, developmental disabilities, physical and mental disabilities, and other special needs. They currently serve more than 250 individuals in their education and support services programs.

On the first of December, the Glenridge Charitable Foundation team hung 178 children's name tags on the Angel Tree. Members and staff alike chose a tag from the tree to purchase gifts for the individuals served by Easterseals. Many Members who found it too difficult to shop donated cash or gift cards, and the Foundation team was able to do the shopping and gift wrapping for them.



*Ginger Judge with the Glenridge Angel Tree*

This year's gift giving season resulted in gifts for all 260 individuals receiving services from Easterseals' schools and adult day care programs!

Two weeks after the first name tags appeared on the Angel Tree, Easterseals sent a bus to The Glenridge to pick up the gifts and have them redistributed to three of their locations in the Sarasota-Bradenton area — the Happiness House, which also houses its Lily School's Pre-K program, the Academy at the Boys & Girls Club in Sarasota attended by K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and the Boys & Girls Club in Bradenton where students in the VIP Academy, grades 9 through 12, go to school.

In mid-December, Amanda Olsen and Marny Stuart were invited to participate in the Easterseals Christmas party at the Happiness House in Sarasota, representing the entire Glenridge community. They were joined by Mrs. Claus, Easterseals' holiday angel, Glenridge's own Ginger Judge. Ginger is a



*Marny Stuart and Amanda Olsen collecting gifts*

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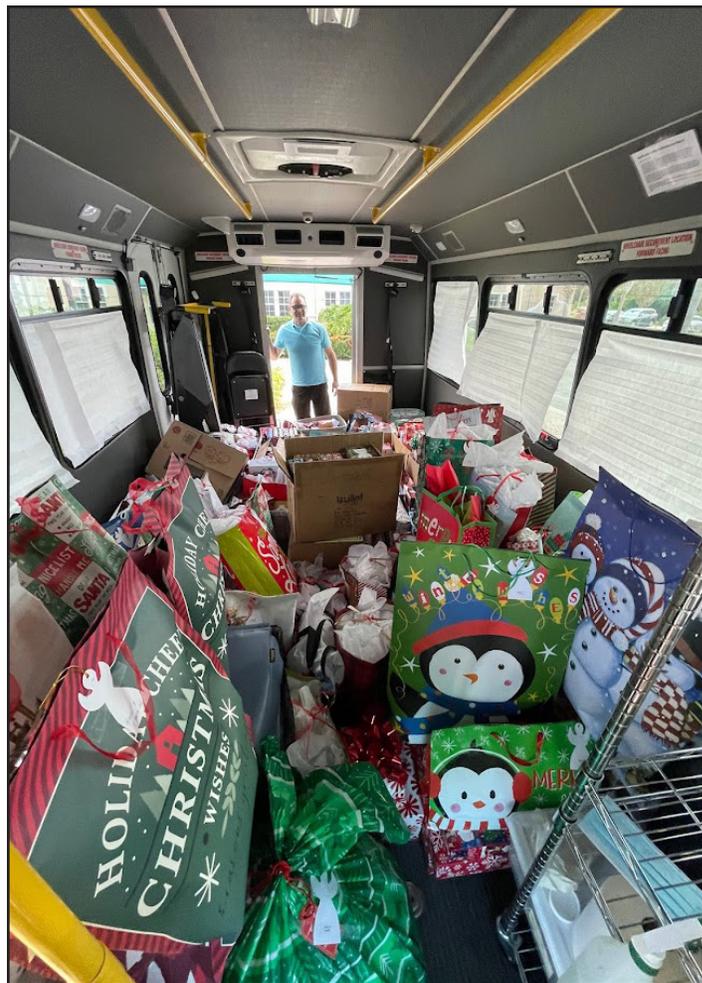
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Glenridge Member and a former member of the Board at Glenridge. She has been involved with the Easterseals organization for over 50 years serving on their Board of Directors and in several other roles. Each year, she works with a local shoe company to provide a new pair of shoes to every student in the Easterseals' Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grade programs. The shoe company gift wraps all the shoe boxes and labels them with the students' names.

Amanda and Marny were fortunate to represent our Glenridge community as Mrs. Claus gave out gifts to all those in attendance, including the shoes and the gifts provided by everyone at Glenridge. The clients, many of whom have families facing economic hardship, were delighted by what Mrs. Claus (and you!) brought them.

The adults in their day care program were just as excited as the younger kids to receive an early Christmas gift. A new water bottle, wallet, shirt, socks, or holiday throw were just a few of the items that brought smiles to their faces. There were hugs and “thank yous” all around. You created incredible joy for hundreds of people!

Thank you, Glenridge Members and team members, for your generous spirit and for sharing your good fortune with those having a wide range of developmental disabilities — Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and other special needs. Through early diagnosis, intervention, therapy, education, and employment services, Easterseals continues to provide opportunity, independence, and significant quality-of-life improvements for their clients



and their families.

Glenridge Members and Team Members made a difference in the lives of all those associated with the Easterseals organization. We were especially proud to have partnered with such an incredible group and look forward to continuing this relationship in the future.

The Glenridge Charitable Foundation would like to extend a special thank you to Tom Waters, Easterseals' President & CEO, and to Debbie Timpone, Executive Assistant, for this partnership. Without your gracious help we would never have had the opportunity to meet your tremendous staff and enjoy the company of your clients. There is a line in a popular country song that sums this up beautifully — **“Do what you love and call it work.”** It is obvious that everyone at Easterseals is passionate about their work. What a wonderful reflection on your tremendous organization.

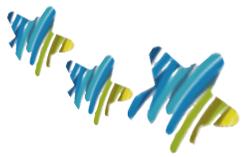


*Jeff Tarbell, Easterseals Director of Facilities and Transportation picked up gifts from GPR*

*See page 5 — depicting the excitement and joy as the gifts were distributed.*

# Gift Distribution ... A Project of Love





# The Glenridge Charitable Foundation Celebrates 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

How do you celebrate five years of impact on more than 250 non-profits? Five years of generosity of more than 200 Glenridge Members?

On December 1, 2021, the Glenridge Charitable Foundation (GCF) celebrated that impact and generosity for its fifth anniversary by hosting a reception for the Member donors who make it all possible.

Donors and invited guests were hosted in the theater lobby and honored with a special thank you gift from the Foundation for their continued support. Previous Board Chairman, Howard Crowell, was honored for his five years of service as he announced his retirement. In commenting about his retirement, Howard stated, *“It has been a pleasure to be associated with such a successful organization since its beginning. The Foundation’s success is due to all of you (Members) supporting and believing in our mission and generously supporting the*

*Foundation’s charities. It is now time for me to move on and turn over the reins to new leadership which will be announced soon.”*



Jim Cater, Vice Chairman of the GCF, presented Howard with a gift from the Foundation’s Board as a token of appreciation for his dedication and leadership over the years.

And everyone there had one thing in common — **recognizing the good being done by Member donors who fuel The Glenridge Charitable Foundation.**

Thank you, Member donors, for making this all possible. Your generosity is overwhelming. We look forward to continued success and growth of our organization.

If you would like to learn more about the Glenridge Charitable Foundation, feel free to contact Marny Stuart (941-552-5302) or Amanda Olsen (941-552-5299).

## Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Holiday Gift Give Away Big Hit at The Glenridge

The holiday spirit was in full swing at The Glenridge during December. There were beautifully decorated Christmas trees throughout the campus and the palm trees outlining the entrance to the Administrative Center were all aglow, welcoming Members and staff to the activities inside.

Members were invited to a myriad of events including the Glenridge Singers Holiday Concert, the Holiday Gala, the Heather Ivy Holiday Concert, participate in a lighted bus tour around Sarasota, listen to Kevin Costello lecture on the origins of the Christmas holidays and art, attend the Pineview Jazz Holiday Concert, or be serenaded by the Glenridge Harmonaires, in addition to attending the community sponsored holiday movie festival.

Team members were invited to a holiday luncheon, to



*TM Terry Koach and granddaughter, Molly O’Brien*

take holiday time off with pay, were given a holiday ham, and invited to participate with their families in a gingerbread house decorating event.

ALL were invited to participate in the Holiday Gift Give Away event sponsored by the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund. Members and staff alike were able to choose from holiday coloring books, latch hook rug kits or paint by sticker art books.

More than 350 coloring books and kits were distributed to Members, team members and their families free of charge thanks to the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund as a means of encouraging the beauty of art, even in its simplest form.

The Foundation thanks the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund for bringing this new dimension of art-related fun to our community. Stay tuned for more exciting news to come from the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund.

# Team Members' Families Enjoyed Decorating Gingerbread Houses Thanks to the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund

What could be more fitting for the holidays than making a gingerbread house? As part of a continuing effort to make it easier for Glenridge team members and their families to access art in all forms, the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund sponsored a family gingerbread house decorating event on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The beautifully decorated Thistle Stop welcomed team members and their children and grandchildren. Guests had the choice of having their kids decorate a smaller, individual house, or taking on a larger house design as a family. Some kids chose individual houses so they could compete with their sibling(s) as to who could make the coolest looking house.

Each house kit came with prepackaged icing and enough candy for decorating if it didn't get eaten by the kids first! The kids enjoyed refreshments and were excited to show off their work and take their gingerbread houses home.

The Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund Committee oversaw the event. Dodie Sorensen, Bill Cutler, Janet Schrock, and Mary Brummett joined Al Pezzillo in hosting attendees and cheering the kids on.

The team members who attended this special event thanked Al Pezzillo and the Kay Pezzillo Arts Fund for sponsoring this fun event and look forward to taking part in more fun art-related activities in the future.



# THE COST OF COMFORT

Through the generosity of several donors, new hospital beds were purchased for our family members, friends, and neighbors, spending time in our 5-star rated Carroll Center. Whether their stay is short-lived or longer, our community is ensuring they're comfortable while receiving care.

As first reported in the fall Glenridge newsletter, Julie Irvin, Director of Health Services, recommended replacing the beds. She chose the Empresa bed by Accora, along with a 42" wide Accora pressure redistribution mattress — meeting the criteria for comfort, resident care, and supported clinical care. Replacing all 59 beds wouldn't be low-cost, however, as the total came to \$180,392.50.

Thanks to many Members' generosity, the Glenridge Foundation has raised 76% of this cost — **and we need your help raising \$43,000 to fund the final 14 beds.** You can start the New Year with a tax-deductible gift from your heart to help your friend, neighbor, or loved one rest peacefully in a new bed.

With your help, we can reach our goal. You can make a difference ... one bed at a time!

To learn more about donating toward the new beds in the Carroll Center, please get in touch with Marny Stuart (941-552-5302) or Amanda Olsen (941-552-5299) in the Foundation office.

**We're honored to recognize the generosity of Members who have given to bring this project so far:**

Sally and Howard Crowell  
Jody and Jack Allen  
Carlotta Parsons and the late Clark Brink  
Lou Davis  
Loretta Naylor  
Rita Fenichel  
Don and Lois Heasley  
Allene Hazeltine  
Louise Pippenger  
George and Carol Tilley  
Jackie Schmidt  
Carol Kopeck  
Jenny Wood  
Mike and Cynthia Charles  
Ruthann and Richard Kiegler  
Betsey Tavenner  
Walter and Theresa Reichert  
Betty Stewart  
Fred and Jo Falkner  
Carol Stevenson  
Sidney Wasch  
Mary Manegold

