

FOOP allows chance to help youth events



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News from PRNA

We often get asked by the community if there is a way for someone to donate items or sponsor a youth program, tournament or special event. The good news is there is a way, and it is through the Tallahassee Friends of Our Parks Foundation Inc. Established in 1981 by a group of concerned citizens, the foundation assists the City of Tallahassee Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department in acquiring additional sources of funding for programs and facilities. Beyond property acquisition, the primary purpose of the non-profit, tax-

exempt foundation is to accept gifts for use in the City's nationally recognized park system.

Since 1981, FOOP has received over \$5.2 million in gifts and property. Gifts have included everything from supplies for a sewing class and sponsorship of a youth athletic league to the Oven Park property and house. Recently, the foundation assisted the department in purchasing eight new scoreboards for ball fields around town. You can help as an individual or group by making donations for specific programs or facilities, or you can let FOOP decide where your donation can best be used.

Recently, FOOP worked with the Jesse Correia Memorial Scholarship Fund

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to award young athletes, ages 10 and under, scholarships to attend a summer baseball camp or a gymnastics program. The fund was established in memory of Jesse who loved the outdoors, participated in the Tumbling Tots program and dreamed one day of playing collegiate baseball at Florida State University. It was his mom's wish that scholarship recipients enjoy the same positive benefits from baseball and gymnastics that her son did.

We would like to congratulate the following young individuals who were recently awarded the Jesse Correia scholarship to attend a Next Level Baseball camp this summer: Phillip Russell, Giovanna Jana, Kelsey Mead, Carter-Dorsch and Justin Huber. Additionally, the following individuals were awarded a scholarship to attend a United Dance Association (dance camp at the Trousdell Gymnastics Center): Jada Varnado, Aniya Bryant, Makayla Pouliot

and Crystal Hale.

In the next couple of weeks, two golf tournaments will be held to benefit FOOP. On May 19, The Golf Club at Summerbrooke will host the first annual Golf "Friends" Tournament. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the foundation's youth athletic scholarship fund for kids who need financial assistance to play on competitive or travel ball teams. For a suggested donation of \$60 per person, each participant will enjoy 18 holes of golf and lunch. Teams will consist of four golfers, and prizes will be awarded. For more information, contact Joel Schubert at Stang19645@gmail.com or at 445-7979. On May 20, a golf tournament will be held at the SouthWood

Golf Club that will benefit the P. Kevin Davey junior golf camp at Jake Gaither and Jack McLean community centers. This will be a four-person scramble format with a noon shotgun start. The entry fee is \$100.00 per person. Lunch and an awards ceremony are included, along with prizes and a silent auction. For more information about participating or different sponsorship opportunities, contact Steve Davey at steve.davey@gmail.com.

For more information on the Tallahassee Friends of Our Parks Foundation Inc., contact the City's Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Affairs Department at 891-3866, visit us at 3866.gov/parks or like us on Facebook.