



WHITE CLUB

INTERACT STUDENTS REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND SHOW COMPASSION EVEN IN THE FREEZER

At Share Florida, Interact members helped distribute food that goes to people in need in the "cooler," a warehouse that's kept around thirty-six degrees. 1// Junior

Sara Villa holds a box, or "master," of sweet potatoes. 2// Junior **Ingrid Diores** gathers a "split," or single bag, of onions.

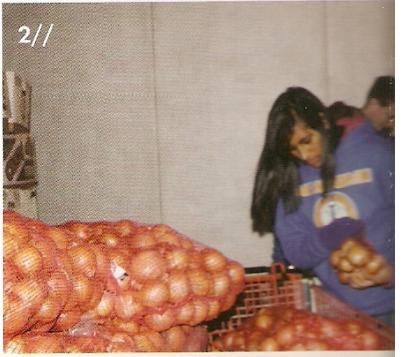
3// Junior **Cory Hodges** rummages for a split of potatoes. 4// **Sara Villa** hands sophomore **Emily Price** a split of sweet potatoes!

5// Seniors **Ryan Coulter**, **Ashley Singleton**, **Janaye McGrew**, and **Michael Brewster** shiver in the freezing temperature.

1//



2//



3//



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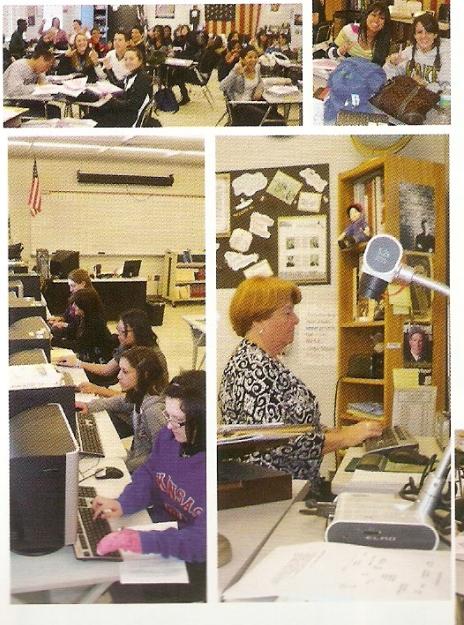


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Confronting THE Issues

AMNESTY



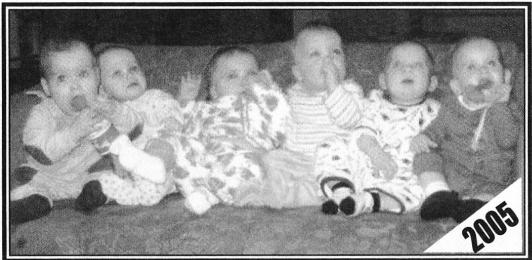
Amnesty International was a new club founded this year by senior **Janaye McGrew**. In this organization, the main goals were to increase awareness of human rights violations that transpire every day around the world. "I wanted to start this club so that students can learn about ways to prevent and help those who are suffering from this issue," said Janaye. "People don't realize just how many people are deprived of their basic human rights. Around here, kids often forget that not everyone is fortunate enough to be living in a country where their rights are protected."



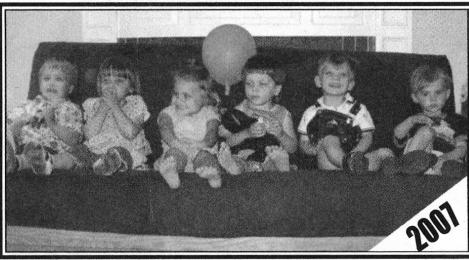
Sponsored by Ms. Lindsey Ragsdell, the Leo Club topped new heights this year with more club members and more than ever before. "We always have the goal that the club members can partake in benefits, not only the community, but also the students performing them," said junior **Bargamin**, president. "My favorite benefit was Relay for Life," said senior **Stallings**, secretary. Other big projects involved working with children at an elementary school and at a local foster home. "The Club has stepped it up a notch by involving more projects and more people," said **Ari Hakkarainen**, vice president.

U.S. ADOPTIVE FAMILIES REUNITE SIX RUSSIAN CHILDREN FOR BI-ANNUAL MEMORIES

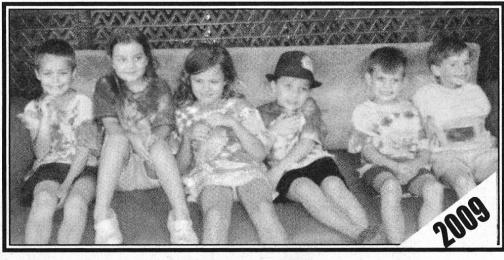
By Jenny O'Donnell



THIS IS THE FIRST PICTURE TAKEN AT THE HOTEL IN RUSSIA AFTER FIVE FAMILIES ADOPTED HART AND ELLE VANDZURA, SYDNEY WOLF, NICK WOLFE, WESLEY BOGART AND NICKOLAS KING.



THIS IS THEIR SECOND "COUCH PICTURE" AS THEY ARE NOW CALLED, TAKEN AT THE GROUPS' FIRST REUNION IN 2007 IN BOSTON WITH THE KIDS IN SAME ORDER. ALL THE KIDS ARE AGE 3.



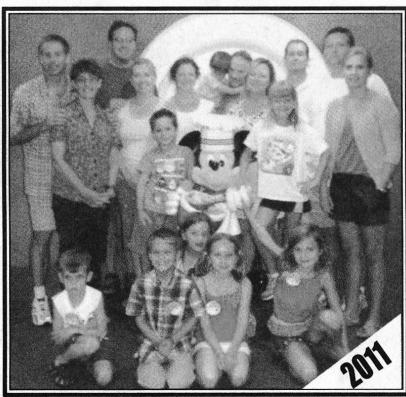
AT THE SECOND REUNION IN 2009 IN SAN FRANCISCO, HART AND ELLE VANDZURA, CAITLYN BOGART (7), NICK WOLFE, WESLEY BOGART, AND NICKOLAS KING. ALL OTHER KIDS TURNED 5 THAT SUMMER. THE OTHER WOLF FAMILY WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTEND DUE TO ILLNESS.

Six years ago, five families from across the United States adopted five different infants from Russia. After meeting in Vladivostok and Moscow, the group bonded over the unique experience of adopting a child.

"[My husband and I] started looking into adoption in 2004," said

Michele Wolfe, board certified media specialist at Bevis Elementary for 11 years. "We flew to Vladivostok, Russia in 2004 to meet our son [and] returned to Russia to adopt him in 2005."

Wolfe recalled that the group of adoptive parents enjoyed the time they spent together. "We shared the ups and downs of the adoption process, played the waiting game and spent the



THIS IS THE LAST REUNION PHOTO TAKEN THIS YEAR, 2011 AT CHEF MICKEY'S.

first couple of weeks with our new babies together in a hotel in Vladivostok," she said.

After getting to know each other and their newly adopted babies, the group had decided that they should hold a get-together every two years. They

decided on June, the month of all of the children's birthdays, in a city where each of them lives.

The first reunion was held in Boston in 2007, and the second in San Francisco in 2009. This year, Wolfe was ecstatic to host the newest reunion party here in the Sunshine State at Disney's Animal Kingdom

Lodge. They ate at Chef Mickey's, rode the roller coasters and enjoyed an unforgettable birthday celebration.

All of the children turned seven this June, including Wolfe's son, Nick. The children even sat down on a couch for the customary "couch picture," where every reunion the children sit in the same order and smile for the camera.

"Our families shared a very special experience together and it is awesome to be able to reconnect every couple of years to reminisce and share new experiences," said Wolfe of the

reunions. "Each time we reunite, it feels like a family get-together. We all feel truly blessed with these amazing children."

The group is planning their next gathering at Yellowstone National Park in 2013, where parent Boone Vandzura is a park ranger. After the last reunion, the families cannot wait until they meet again.

For more information about the reunion or the adoption process, contact Wolfe at Michele.Wolfe@sdhc.k12.fl.us.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR BAKES AND SELLS COOKIES, TO BENEFIT BIG CAT RESCUE

By Jenny O'Donnell



LOCAL VOLUNTEERS BAKE COOKIES TO SELL. COINS FOR CATS RAISES MONEY FOR BIG CAT RESCUE, A SANCTUARY LOCATED IN TAMPA WHICH HOUSES ABANDONED EXOTIC AND ENDANGERED CATS.

Newsome High School senior Christina Hendryx is simply one of many high-achieving students in the community—she has attained a noteworthy grade point average, volunteered with various organizations, and participated in a variety of extracurricular activities. What makes her different, however, is her passion for animals in need. She founded Coins for Cats, a charity that supports the Big Cat Rescue of Tampa, when she was only in the eighth grade. What began as a young girl's dream has blossomed into a certified charity as well as a benefactor for the sanctuary.

"Coins for Cats started in 2008 on the bus ride home from school. A few friends and I were talking and discovered that we shared a passion for animals and an interest in Big Cat Rescue," said Hendryx, 17 years old. "Even though we couldn't volunteer there [because of our age], we still wanted to help out in what-

ever way we could."

Coins for Cats is a small but devoted organization, consisting of six volunteers who bake homemade cookies during the weekends to sell for the charity. These teens meet over the summer to decide their "cookie months," and have spent more than 20 hours a week baking hundreds of goodies. The money earned supports the widespread efforts of Big Cat Rescue, including providing food, medical care and maintenance of enclosures for the wild cats. "Big Cat Rescue takes in exotic cats from all over the world for rehabilitation and offers a safe, comfortable retirement for former circus animals and pets," said Hendryx.

Big Cat rescue is the world's largest center for recovering exotic and endangered cats and is accredited by the Global Federation of Sanctuaries. The rescue sits on 55 acres of land and contains more than 100 cats representing 14 species, which means it relies heavily on donations from sponsors such as Coins for Cats. "We are delighted to have the privilege of knowing these young people," said Beth Kamhi, the education director for the rescue. "These kids are helping fund the care of our cats, and raising awareness of the bigger issues of wild cats in captivity among their peers."

To become involved with or donate to Coins for Cats, visit the website coins-forcats.webs.com, which contains a volunteer form, or call 951-7355. To plan a tour of Big Cat Rescue, visit www.bigcatrescue.org.

TAMPA MARINE PARENTS ASSOCIATION TO HOST WALK/RUN WITH THE RUN FOR THE FALLEN

By Jenny O'Donnell



REGISTRANTS AT LAST YEAR'S FUN FOR THE FALLEN EVENT. THIS YEAR'S EVENT TAKES PLACE ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, AT E.G. SIMMONS PARK IN RUSKIN.

The Tampa Area Marine Parents Association (T.A.M.P.A.) wants those who have sacrificed so much for our country never to be forgotten.

In conjunction with the national fourth annual Run for the Fallen, in which participants travel one mile for each U.S. soldier who died during the Middle Eastern conflicts, T.A.M.P.A. wants to show its support here in the Tampa Bay area.

On Sunday, August 21, at E.G. Simmons Park, it will host a 5K and one-mile walk/run to commemorate soldiers from the state of Florida who have died on duty. Participants in the event will represent the 293 fallen soldiers, receiving bib cards with the soldier's name and information. Gold Star family members along with active military from MacDill Air Force Base, the USMC Fourth Amphibious Reserve Center, recruiters and veterans organizations will be in



attendance.

The Florida Fallen Memorial will be displayed during the morning of the run. In addition, Tampa Bay Technical High School's JROTC, Ye Mystic Air Krewe and the Riverview Marine Corps League are expected to perform during the opening ceremony.

In 2008, the first Run for the Fallen recruited thousands to run 4,000 miles from Painted Rocks, California to Arlington National Cemetery, Virginia. The event was founded by Jon Bellona after his friend, Lieutenant Michael Cleary, was

killed in Iraq in 2005, and has successfully raised awareness and donations each year.

T.A.M.P.A. has supported the cause ever since, hosting people from all over

Florida. The organization was founded by seven Marine parents in the Tampa area as a support group for those who have loved ones during service. "My son lost his two best friends in Iraq and I promised their families at their funerals that I would do whatever I could to make sure they were never forgotten," said T.A.M.P.A. member Cyd Deathe. "People should attend because it is the very least we could do for the families of the fallen."

The park entry fee is \$2 per vehicle for up to eight people and \$1 for each additional person. To register, visit www.USMCFamilySupport.org or call 965-2682. To contact the event coordinator, e-mail R4F@USMCFamilySupport.org. The event is free, but donations are encouraged.

NEWS RELEASE

September 7, 2013

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University Lutheran Church to Aid 300 Homeless for National Service

Celebration

Event:

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — University Lutheran Church and Student Center is partnering with Gethsemane Lutheran Church to distribute 300 “life packs” to homeless camps this Sunday as part of a nationwide anniversary.

After the weekly 10:30 am church service, members of both Gainesville churches will join forces at ULC, 1826 W. University Ave, at around 1:30 p.m. for what they are calling “Feed My Sheep.” They will make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and organize donations in backpacks that will be personally taken to Gainesville homeless camps. This is part of both churches’ celebration of [the 25th anniversary of membership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#). The backpacks will include toilet paper, laundry detergent, canned goods, fruit, batteries and devotional books for spiritual encouragement, which were donated by churchgoers and Thrivent Financial Group. The churches are targeting their efforts in Sweetwater “Tent City” on 16th Ave. and Williston Road and behind the bus station on Depot Ave., where a good amount of Gainesville’s homeless population resides.

“We have former homeless members in our congregation who told us what the homeless actually need, not just what church members think they need,” said

Bill Chamberlin, Campus Ministry Board Chair at ULC. "They're not just backpacks of perishables — they're packs that will make life easier."

The two churches are among four million ELCA member churches around the country that will partake in the 25th anniversary celebration dubbed "God's Work. Our Hands." ELCA congregations around the country are encouraged to leave the comfort zone of the church to outreach to local community needs.

ULC Background with University of Florida:

A major component of ULC is University of Florida students' involvement in the Lutheran Gator Campus Ministry, who are also expected to participate in the project. ULC started in a small house with a focus on campus ministry in 1950, then moved into an abandoned fraternity house in 1961 before finding a permanent home at the church with the iconic spiky, peaked roof in 2003. Its location has allowed it to be immersed in the Gainesville and UF community for over 60 years. The campus ministry students have a history of being actively involved in church projects, such as: "crop drop," in which 45,000 bags of potatoes were packed and distributed to the needy; the social justice garden, in which plants are grown by churchgoers and donated to St. Francis House; and food collections for Gainesville Ministries, in which churchgoers donate canned foods for those in need. "Feed My Sheep" follows the tradition of community service for ULC, yet will a broad scope due to joint efforts with both Gethsemane and ELCA.

Contacts:

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Gethsemane — Yvonne Will at willway1@mindspring.com or 352-373-7017