

NOTE FROM MYRA JANCO DANIELS, FOUNDER

If we can help children build a better life, there's nothing better we can do with our time and money.... Myra Janco Daniels, Founder

Dear Members of the League:

I have thought of you all often during my healing from my big fall. I am on the mend and will be ready to “kick up my heels” in the near future.

I just wanted to tell you that I am so proud of the Latchkey League progress, and next year looks like a very exciting one. I hope to see you at the meetings and some of the wonderful events which are being planned.

Have a happy, healthy summer and watch where you are walking from one who can prove that it can be dangerous.

LETTER FROM BETTY BAILEY, PRESIDENT – “WE ARE THE LATCHKEY LEAGUE”

AWARD – The Latchkey League was the recipient of the Community Foundation of Collier County “2017 EXCELLENCE IN CIVIC LEADERSHIP” award on June 8, 2017. The award, sponsored by the Naples Daily News was accepted by **Myra Janco Daniels**, founder of the Latchkey League. The award, one of four presented at the November Celebration of Philanthropy luncheon, recognizes a civic organization whose members volunteer with a program or project in our community that has demonstrable impact.

VOLUNTEERS – **Bob Young** continues to coordinate members who want to volunteer their time at The Salvation Army’s Fran Cohen Youth Center, New Beginnings and New Horizons. Matching up volunteers who have limited time can be a challenging, but fortunately many Latchkey League members have volunteered for the much-needed assistance. Please contact Bob if you are interested in volunteering; his email is bobyong.123@icloud.com.

MEMBERSHIP – Membership is very important to our organization. Many took the opportunity this year to bring along a luncheon guest, with the understanding that if the guest became a member, your next lunch was complimentary. As we continue to grow our membership, we look to each one of you to help us by reaching out to your friends, neighbors, and other groups you are part of to spread the word on how we are helping children. You can get an application on our website www.latchkeyleague.org, or email **Sally Bettin** at sallybettin@yahoo.com. A new member coffee get together was kicked off this year with the help of **Jo Ann Ward** and **Joann Johnston**. It was a great way to introduce new members to Latchkey. Thanks to board member **Sally Bettin** for her continued efforts to keep our membership current and active. Membership renewals were due July 1 and the fee is only \$50 a year.

BOOK NOOK – Thank you to **Judy Tedder** and **Sally Bettin** for taking on the project to create a special reading area at the Youth Center where children can read books our membership has purchased or donated. Our immediate need is for books for beginning readers, although we will continue to need books for all ages. Currently, over 200 books have been donated or purchased for the special reading area.

Happy 1st Birthday to the Youth Center - The Center celebrated its first birthday on April 7th. We also got word of the advancement of Paul Conklin to his new position in Texas. He will be missed not only by the children, but also by those of us who have worked closely with him over the past year. **Katherine Perez** is the acting interim director until the appointment of a new administrator.

WEBSITE – The Latchkey League website was revamped this year and continues to be updated with information for our membership and also for those who want to learn more about our mission and goals. Check out our website www.latchkeyleague.org where you just might see a photo of yourself.

FACEBOOK – We encourage you to like our page if you are a Facebook user. Facebook allows us instant access to publish information about our luncheons and parties and to post photos after our events.

EMAIL BLASTS – A special thank-you to **Judy Tedder** and **Laura Clemo** who help create email messages for our Constant Contact list which distributes information on parties, messages for holiday wishes, birthday greetings and other notifications of importance sent to our members.

GRANTS – We appreciate the assistance and advice the Community Foundation of Collier County has given us with the grant process. The Foundation has provided us a list of local after-school programs which meet our requirements. The programs are reviewed by the Grant Committee and recommendations are then made to the Latchkey Board of Directors. In November 2017 we provided \$25,000 each to New Horizons and The Salvation Army's Fran Cohen Youth Center. Thank you to Grant Committee members, **Myra Janco Daniels**, **Gail Webster-Patterson** and **Bob Young**.

PUBLICITY – We continue to send photos from all our special parties to various publications such as *Gulfshore Life*, *Bella Magazine*, *Life in Naples*, *Florida Weekly* and *Naples Illustrated* which results in many of our photos being printed. Thank you to **Jo Ann Ward** who continues to support us through her exceptional media contacts and relationships in our community.

NEWSLETTER – This year revisions have been made so you can receive our newsletter via email. We realize some of our members do not have access to email, so we will continue to send printed copies to those individuals. Thank you to our new members **Marcia Wolfe** and **Barbara Plocharczyk** for taking over the editor and publication positions.

SPECIAL DONATIONS – Thank you to our generous members who have given donations to support our goals. Many members have sponsored parties and their names are listed in our party booklet. In addition, there are a few extraordinary individuals who have provided additional gifts to support special projects, and we especially thank them for their contributions. We welcome every dollar given and want to remind you we are a total volunteer organization with all your board members working hard to keep every expense at a minimum, while looking at the most profitable events.

RESULTS FROM OUR PARTIES – This year we expect to be close to our goal of raising a grand total of \$100,000 which will go toward our fall grant-giving program. Some of our parties were more profitable than others, but remember we are doing these events not just for current members but also as an opportunity for new members to become involved in after-school programs for our kids. *"We're in it for the kids."*

What's in the Latchkey League's future? As we enter our sixth year, luncheons will remain at the Hilton, with thanks to the staff who are always there to help us. Parties next year will be limited, not as many as the 12 we had this year. Our luncheon speakers are being contacted, with programs again focusing on what we should know about how Collier County children are being impacted through local efforts in our community.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Charmaine Banky, Barbara Connelly, Jacqueline Generous, Clare Kearns, Peggy McKenna, Catherine Scanlon Nauck, Cheryl Rizk, Melrene Savin, Bethany Sawyer

MEETING DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Latchkey meetings are always on a Friday at the Hilton Hotel. November 30, January 11, February 8, March 1, April 12

The Meet and Greet begins at 11:30 and the luncheon begins at 12:00. Programs to be announced. We are looking forward to a great year of making new friends, having fun but most of all helping the kids!

SALVATION ARMY – FRAN COHEN YOUTH CENTER

As of July 1st, please welcome Captain's Ben & Annie Bridges who will assume the duties of the entire Naples Salvation Army campus. Ben and Annie relocated from the Tampa area with their three small girls and are looking forward to being here for the next three to five years.

Also, a newly appointment Lt. Noldine Joseph will assist in the various areas of operations. Both Noldine and Annie Bridges are presently overseeing the day to day operations of the Youth Center with a new director expected to be appointed before the school year starts.

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A PICTURE TELLS A THOUSAND WORDS...

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

FOURTH OF JULY BOAT RIDE