



## PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS FOR YOUTH

ENCOURAGE - SUPPORT - ACHIEVE

# ***CHAMPIONS CHATTER***

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.  
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Early February, 2025

### **NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3**

Our next meeting is **Monday, February 3, 6:30 pm**, at a new venue: [Hungry Howie's Pizza](#), 208 North Alexander St. We will wrap up the Basketball Skills Challenge and organize our future spring events: Citizen of the Year Luncheon (Feb 12), High School Graduate Scholarships (entries open Feb 1), Marie B. Ellis Park Celebration and Family Support event (now in March—date to be announced), Easter Egg Hunt (Apr 19), and Soccer Skills Challenge (Apr 26). Bring a new member candidate and treat them to dinner!

### **BASKETBALL SKILLS CHALLENGE A SUCCESS!**

The [Parks & Recreation Basketball Skills Challenge](#) saw 68 participants on hand for the Saturday, January 25 event at the Sadye Gibbs Martin Community Center. Thanks to those that assisted, especially the Plant City High School SkillsUSA Electric students. Pics on page 2, more later when posted by Parks & Rec.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM ANNOUNCED!**

We have revamped our [High School Graduate Scholarships](#) program and have provided information to Plant City High School for student distribution at the Senior Breakfast coming up soon. In an effort to obtain more vo-tech applications, separate on-line applications have been developed to make it more appealing to the vo-tech students. Check the info on our web site at the scholarships link above!

### **CITIZEN OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON - HEAD COUNT NEEDED**

A head count for attendance at the [2025 Outstanding Citizen of the Year Luncheon](#) on **Wednesday February 12, 11:30 am**, will be collected at the meeting. Please relay your desire to attend by replying to this email before February 3 or at the February 3 meeting - our head count is due on February 3!

### **EASTER EGG HUNT—SAVE THE DATE**

The annual Parks & Rec [Easter Egg Hunt](#) is set for the morning of **Saturday, April 19!** We will not be cooking hotdogs... we will be sponsor and hand out the eight prize basket awards for those finding the special Golden Eggs. We need representation at a tent to tell the world about our club!

### **PLANNING FOR THE SOCCER SKILLS CHALLENGE AND THE MAY LAW APPRECIATION DINNER EVENT**

Time flies and we need to start the process of organizing our volunteers for the [Soccer Skills Challenge](#) on **Saturday, April 26**. We need around 8-10 people to judge the contest. We also need to start planning for the [Law Appreciation Dinner](#). This is traditionally held in May to coincide with National Police Week. If you would like to assist in the planning of these events, please let us know by the club email above.

### **LOOKING AHEAD... MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

- ✓ **Monday, February 3:** Regular meeting, 6:30 pm, new venue: Hungry Howie's Pizza, 208 N Alexander St
- ✓ **Wednesday, February 12:** Citizen of the Year Luncheon, 11:30 am, Festival Grounds TECO Hall
- ✓ **Monday, February 17:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 grill time, 6:30 meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio
- ✓ **Monday, March 3:** Strawberry Festival Grand Parade—will we meet? Stay tuned....
- ✓ **Monday, March 17:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 grill time, 6:30 meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio

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#### **2024-2025 OFFICERS**

Robert Olszewski, President  
Jack Holland, Secretary/Treasurer  
Walt Arnold, Sergeant at Arms



#### **2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS**

Pat Stottlemeyer - Jeff Arnold - David Kinghorn

## **2025 Basketball Skills Challenge**

**award winners  
on site at  
the awards  
presentation**



## **2025 Basketball Skills Challenge**

**Thank you to  
PCHS SkillsUSA  
Electrical Class  
for your help!**

## **2025 Basketball Skills Challenge**

**Team Attendance  
Award winner:  
Liberty**





**In case you missed it, pick up a copy of the January FOCUS MAGAZINE and see the article on our contribution of toys for the Hurricane Milton affected children.**

**<https://focusplantcity.com/focus-plant-city-24-01/>**



# Two Organizations Give Gifts to Kids Impacted by Hurricane Milton

By Cierra Craft

**H**urricane Milton dealt a severe blow to our community as it passed through on October 9 and 10, 2024. The most seriously affected residents were those in low-lying areas that had to deal with flooding into their homes.

Working together, the four Plant City Police Department Community Redevelopment Agency officers and the Plant City Parks & Recreation Department identified over 50 youths in flooded areas who lost virtually everything, including games, toys, bedding, and furniture.

To help these families, two local youth-oriented non-profits, Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc. (PCCFY) and Friends of Recreation & Parks Corporation (FORP), partnered to purchase over \$2,500 worth of toys for the families to help brighten their Christmases. Seven shopping carts containing over 350 items were divided up and bagged for each child who

received them the week before Christmas.

"Whenever there is a need in Plant City, our community steps up to make things happen," stated Jack Holland, a board member with both organizations. "It broke our hearts to think these families would not be able to have a joyful Christmas due to their losses from the flooding, and this was one way we could help make it a better holiday for them. The CRA officers, Parks & Rec staff, and Plant City Walmart associates were outstanding in helping make this activity possible."

Funds raised during the PCCFY Golf Classic in October and Christmas tree sales in December were used for the purchases, and additional funds will be used for a future event planned for February. FORP received the funds and purchased the gifts for distribution.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST NAME\*: \_\_\_\_\_ LAST NAME\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING CITY AND STATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\*: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH MONTH\*: \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTH DATE\*: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE\*: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME\*: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\*: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER TELEPHONE - MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE / SIGNIFICANT OTHER EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT / FORMER OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_

PLANT CITY CHAMPIONS' MEMBER SPONSOR: \_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU LEARN ABOUT PC CHAMPIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR HOBBIES: \_\_\_\_\_

AREAS OF INTEREST (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)\*:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH PROGRAMS   | <input type="checkbox"/> YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MEMBERSHIP   | <input type="checkbox"/> FUNDRAISING             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MARKETING  | <input type="checkbox"/> WEB SITE / SOCIAL MEDIA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CLUB LEADERSHIP (PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY/TREASURER) |  |

\* = *REQUIRED*

## MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

- ⇒ APPROVAL OF APPLICATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- ⇒ \$100 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (JULY 1 TO JUNE 30)
- ⇒ VOTING RIGHTS AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN GOOD STANDING
- ⇒ MEETING ATTENDANCE IS PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED
- ⇒ FOCUS IS ON ASSISTANCE AT ACTIVITIES AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS