



CHAMPIONS CHATTER

Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.
PO Box 1755, Plant City FL 33564-1755
Web: www.pcchampionsforyouth.org
Email: pcchampionsforyouth@outlook.com

Early July, 2024

NO MEETING JULY 1—NEXT MEETING IS ON MONDAY JULY 15

Welcome to the new Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.! While our name has changed, the mission is the same - serve our youths in the Plant City area. Due to the holiday week, we will not meet on Monday July 1. Our next meeting is **Monday, July 15, 2024—Steak Night—grill time 6:15 pm, meeting at 6:30 pm on the Parks & Rec admin office patio**. Items on the agenda are Football Punt-Pass-Kick, Golf Classic (tentatively Friday October 25), and our Youth Excellence Awards program. ***Be sure to check page 3 for a fun event!***

WHY THE CHANGE?

The mission for Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc. reads: ***“The Club will promote activities and opportunities that help all Plant City, Florida area young people build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders through service, personal development, and recreational opportunities.”***

Sound familiar? In different words, it is the same mission that we have been doing for decades. Our focus is the youth of the Plant City area, and stepping back from the umbrella of Optimist International (OI) will allow us to be hyper-focused on what we do best... support our local youth. We make our own decisions based on what our local youths want and need, developing our programming to accomplish the mission.

Under OI, we were a 501-c-4 organization, defined by the IRS as *organizations that promote social welfare through civic, political, or other activities* and 501-c-4s are not able to collect funds as tax-deductible contributions. Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc. is a Florida not-for-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501-c-3 organization to which tax-deductible donations may be made. All monies collected stay in Plant City!

Our commitment to OI ended on May 21, 2024. While we no longer report to OI, we will continue the tradition of our old club and do our best to offer varied programs as well as financial support of our Parks & Recreation Department and other local non-profits to help them enhance their youth programming.

Page two of this inaugural edition of ***Champions Chatter*** is the media release that was issued in June to our local media. We will also get this word out to our area businesses.

Our web site is www.pcchampionsforyouth.org and our email address is pcchampionsforyouth@outlook.com

We thank each of you for your past support and encourage you to get involved with Plant City Champions for Youth in any way you can so that we can reach as many youths as possible.

LOOKING AHEAD... SAVE THE DATES!

- √ **Monday, July 1:** No meeting – enjoy the July 4th holiday.
- √ **Monday, July 15:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 pm grill time, 6:30 pm meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio.
- √ **Saturday, July 20:** Strawberry Crest High School Football Clay Shoot—see page 3 for info.
- √ **Monday, August 5:** Regular meeting, 6:30 pm, ABC Pizza.
- √ **Monday, August 19:** Steak Night meeting, 6:15 pm grill time, 6:30 pm meeting, Parks & Rec admin patio.
- √ **September:** Football Dribble-Pass-Shoot, date to be announced.
- √ **October:** Golf Classic fundraiser tournament, tentatively Friday October 25.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE

New Plant City Non-Profit Supports Youth

A new Plant City based organization has been established specifically to support the youth of the Plant City area. **Plant City Champions for Youth, Inc.**, an IRS-recognized 501-c-3 non-profit, has begun operations following the closure of the Optimist Club of Plant City which disbanded in May.

The new Plant City Champions for Youth organization will allow its board to focus one hundred percent on Plant City area youth. Its mission statement reads: ***“The Club will promote activities and opportunities that help Plant City, Florida area young people build strong character and realize their full potential as responsible citizens and leaders through service, personal development, and recreational opportunities.”***

Champions for Youth President Robert Olszewski said “The youth of our area are the future of this community, state, and country. Plant City Champions for Youth was formed to equip, enable, and support them in their futures by being their “champions” in these endeavors. Our hope is that this organization will build on the previous club’s history and its successes, but be more focused on local community values”.

Previously, fees were required to be paid to the national Optimist International parent organization and state district in addition to the local operating expenses paid by the club. Now, as a local-based volunteer organization, every penny collected will stay within the Plant City area. Also, charitable donations to the Optimist Club 501-c-4 organization were not tax deductible like donations to Champions for Youth are.

Programs offered by the former club will be continued by the new club. “Plant City Champions for Youth is hyper-focused on Plant City area youth” stated Jack Holland, a long time Optimist Club member and Champions for Youth board member. “Support of the Plant City Parks & Recreation Department, including financial scholarships for youths that cannot afford a registration fee, will be a key part of our efforts” Holland said.

Academic and social growth is recognized through programs such as the Teen Talk speech contest, the Youth Excellence Awards program for outstanding high school students, a Law Appreciation dinner involving area middle school students, participation in the Parks & Recreation Annual Easter Egg Hunt and their “Monster Mash” Trunk or Treat event, financial assistance for the Plant City High School Senior Awards program, and the distribution of at least \$6,000 each year in vocational school or college scholarships to area high school graduates.

Youth athletics is an important part of growing up for many children, and the new club will continue the tradition of involvement with the Parks & Recreation flag football, basketball, and soccer leagues, including sponsorship of the skills competitions in those sports. Financial support for Plant City Little League baseball, Plant City Lancers competitive soccer, and the Plant City High School Booster Club will continue as well.

Other community-wide youth programs such as the out-of-school youth food bag program of the United Food Bank of Plant City and youth programs of the Plant City Family YMCA are supported financially each year. In the past, Youth Care Kits with teddy bears and coloring books have been provided to Plant City Police Department officers to help comfort children involved in traumatic situations.

The former club’s two main fundraisers will continue. Each fall, the Golf Classic fundraiser tournament hosts over 100 players for several hours of fun. Starting the Monday before Thanksgiving, the sale of Christmas trees begins at Plant City High School with over 900 trees sold each year. Volunteer service opportunities are available for teens and adults at all of the club’s activities.

“We encourage our area residents to join us in the effort to lift our youth population to higher achievements in their growth toward adulthood. Every child deserves an environment to be the best they can be, and we look forward to our Plant City area residents and businesses to be involved, both with contributions of time and talent as well as financial support for the programs” Holland stated.

The Plant City Champions for Youth web site, www.pcchampionsforyouth.org, has more information on the programs offered to area youth. The club can be emailed with any information requests at pcchampionsforyouth@outlook.com or through the contact page of their web site.

WANT TO HAVE SOME FUN AND SUPPORT AREA YOUTH?

PC Champions for Youth is sponsoring a team of four to be a part of the 2024 Strawberry Crest Football Clay Shoot on July 20! Spend a fun morning at no registration cost to you and support some folks that support our golf tournament. **WE NEED TO KNOW BY FRIDAY JULY 5**, so please reach out to **Rev. Robert Olszewski at 609-240-3405** or just reply to the email that brought you this *Champions Chatter* newsletter.

2024 STRAWBERRY CREST FOOTBALL CLAY SHOOT

COST PER SHOOTER
\$125

RAFFLES | 50/50 | PRIZES



INCLUDES: BREAKFAST, LUNCH, SHELLS, GOLF CARTS, T-SHIRT



TOURNAMENT DATE:

JULY 20, 2024

CHECK IN @ 9AM

START TIME @ 10AM

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:

JULY 15, 2024



SCAN HERE TO REGISTER OR SPONSOR

SPONSORED BY:



TOURNAMENT LOCATION:

FISHHAWK SPORTING CLAYS

13505 HOBSON SIMMONS RD
LITHIA, FL 33547

**PLEASE CONTACT HEAD COACH PHILLIP PRIOR
WITH ANY QUESTIONS**

PHILLIP.PRIOR@HCPS.NET OR 850-491-8659