

NOVEMBER 3, 2020

# THE Connector

**Rotary**   
Club of Holiday

## Rotary's Impact



Rotary 

DONATE: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**Disease Prevention and Treatment**  
Polio has been reduced by 99% in the last 30 years, but children everywhere remain at risk until we eliminate the final 1%.



**Funding: \$14.2m**  
**Number of grants: 265**



**Water and Sanitation**  
Rotary members carry out service projects that enhance water access, sanitation, and hygiene in communities around the world. Get involved with Rotary to improve health through clean water.

**Funding: \$11.2m**  
**Number of grants: 198**

**Basic Education and Literacy**  
Rotary members provide technology, teacher training, vocational training teams, student meal programs, and low-cost textbooks to communities. Get involved with Rotary to provide access to a bright future.



**Funding: \$6.8m**  
**Number of grants: 121**

**Economic and Community Development**  
Rotary invests in people to create economic improvement in their lives and their communities. Get involved with Rotary to develop communities around the globe.



**Funding: \$7.8m**  
**Number of grants: 148**



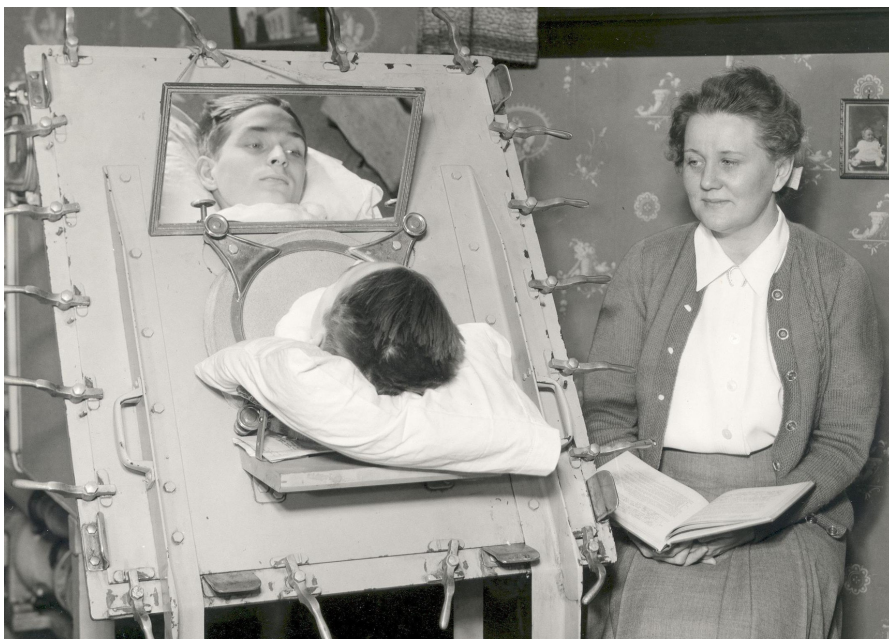
**Funding: \$5.1m**  
**Number of grants: 69**

**Maternal and Child Health**  
Rotary members around the world improve access to essential medical services and support trained health care providers for mothers and children. Get involved with Rotary to improve health in developing communities.



**Funding: \$2.5m**  
**Number of grants: 67**

**Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution**  
Up to 100 fellows a year train at six Rotary peace centers around the world to become the next generation of peacemakers. Get involved with Rotary to promote peace.



Stay Connected

[www.holidayrotary.com](http://www.holidayrotary.com)

[www.rotaryinternational.org](http://www.rotaryinternational.org)

[www.facebook.com/holidayrotary](https://www.facebook.com/holidayrotary)

[dacdb.com](http://dacdb.com)

**NO MEETINGS:**

**Nov 24th**

**Dec 22nd**

**Dec 29th**

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

**NOV 3**

**TINA LEVENE CEO/DIRECTOR FLORIDA RECOVERY SCHOOLS**

**NOV 10**

**JULIE HATSFELL WALES – BOOK AUTHOR “WHO YOU ARE”**

**NOV 17**

**ATTORNEY DINEEN WASYLIK, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW**

**NOV 24**

**NO MEETING - HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

# Note from the President

"THE GREATEST GLORY IN  
LIVING LIES NOT IN NEVER  
FALLING, BUT IN RISING EVERY  
TIME WE FALL" – NELSON  
MANDELA



## Holiday Club

### 2020/2021 Officers

President Gary Burden  
Past President Angela DiMattei  
President Elect Angel Cook  
Vice President Kelly Mothershead  
Secretary Jana Paulk  
Treasurer John Butler  
Co Treasurer Nick Manns  
Sergeant at Arms Jim Lovell  
International Service Michael Cox  
Voactional Jennifer Andrews  
Public Relations Kelly Mothershead  
Club Service Ed Hancock  
Community Service Melissa Fahy  
Youth Services Mary "Beth" Hittel



**TINA LEVENE**

CEO Florida Recovery Schools

## Prayers

Vinny Buscetta  
Kim Bogart  
Jackie Basak  
Linda Vance



**MICHELS &  
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FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES

John Butler  
Vice President/General Manager  
jbutler@michels-lundquist.com

727-845-1957  
800-303-1957  
Fax 727-848-0232

5228 Trouble Creek Rd. • New Port Richey, Florida 34652  
www.Michels-Lundquist.com

**GATOR**

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**Erin Meyer**

O: 813-929-1122  
C: 727-656-7573  
F: 813-929-0660

Erin@gatorcleaningsolutions.com  
www.gatorcleaningsolutions.com





**Zoom Continues for Now  
Tuesdays at Noon..check your email  
for weekly invite!!**



## ***Rotary Pack a Sack Volunteer Opportunities***

**November 10th**

**2 Locations**

**6pm**

Refuge Church

5320 Palmetto Rd, Port Richey,  
FL 34652

or

Community Congregational  
6533 Circle Blvd, New Port  
Richey, FL 34652

**<https://signup.com/go/xrdrEP>**

**I**

**2020-21**

**New Rotary Logo**



**Michael Cox, CFP®**  
Assistant Branch Manager  
Direct: (727) 815-3010  
[michael.cox@wellsfargoadvisors.com](mailto:michael.cox@wellsfargoadvisors.com)



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NMLS# 511889  
727.431.7515  
727.445.6239 fax  
[sjackson@achievacu.com](mailto:sjackson@achievacu.com)

**Sherry Jackson**  
Branch Manager  
Certified Financial Counselor

P.O. Box 1500  
Dunedin, FL 34697  
5920 State Road 54  
New Port Richey, FL 34652  
[www.achievacu.com](http://www.achievacu.com)

**Rotary Club of Holiday Members:  
(As of November 1, 2019)**

**Andrews, Jen G.** (Mike) DOB: Aug 9  
Ph: 813-410-9323  
Jen.andrews@k9heroes.us.com

**Basak, Jackie** (John) DOB: Sept 11  
Ph: 727-698-8100  
Wk: 727-807-2251  
jackiebasak@gmail.com  
Banker

**Bogart, Kim** (Trish) DOB: May 16  
Ph: 727-919-1460  
bogartkim@gmail.com  
NPR Chief of Police

**Broome, Paul** (Judy) DOB: Sept 23  
Ph: 816-985-6408  
broome\_p@msn.com  
Retired Auto Dealership

**Burden, Gary** (Jackie) DOB: June 21  
Ph: 727-376-1776  
Wk: 727-410-5254  
[HolidaryRotaryGary@gmail.com](mailto:HolidaryRotaryGary@gmail.com)  
Banking

**Buscetta, Vinny** (Stephanie) DOB: July 24  
Ph: 727-858-0951  
vbuscetta16@gmail.com  
Retired Banker

**Butler, John** (Rebecca) DOB: July 27  
Ph: 727-845-1957  
jbutler@michels-lundquist.com  
Michels & Lundquist Funeral Home

**Carrion, Dennisse** (Jose) DOB: June 17  
Ph: 727-560-1972  
Dennisse.carrion@pureplayfamilyentertainment.com  
Pure Play Family Entertainment

**Cook, Angel** (Larry) DOB: Feb 4  
Ph: 727-457-4849  
angel@leadersinsuranceagency.com  
Insurance

**Cox, Michael** (Abbey) DOB: Jan 29  
Ph: 727-389-3010  
Wk: 727-815-3010  
Michael.Cox@wellsfargoadvisors.com  
Financial Advisor

**DesRosiers, Suzanne** DOB: May 22  
Ph: 727-224-3525  
jaxson2256@gmail.com  
Health Management—Nurse

**DiMattei, Angela** (Frank) DOB: Oct 13  
Ph: 727-776-7667  
AngelaDiMattei881@gmail.com  
Realtor

**Fahy, Melissa** (Tom) DOB: Sept 15  
Ph: 727-277-7758  
whippetville@msn.com

**Hancock, Edwin** (Gay) DOB: July 14  
Ph: 727-697-0655  
echispapa@yahoo.com  
Ret. Commercial Banker

**Hancock, GayLyn** (Ed) DOB: June 26  
Ph: 727-697-0655  
echispapa@yahoo.com  
Ret. Public Relations

**Hittel, Beth** (Richard) DOB: Mar 28  
Ph: 727-505-8671  
beth@dispartilaw.com  
Attorney

**Hollingshead, Megan** (Bob) DOB: June 22  
Ph: 727-809-0350  
Megan.hollingshead@yahoo.com  
Insurance

**Jackson, Sherry** (Charles) DOB: June 20  
Ph: 727-431-7515  
sjackson@achievacu.com  
Bank Management

**Kerrigan, Helga** DOB: July 1  
Ph: 727-868-1979  
helga34667@gmail.com  
Ret. Business Owner

**Lovell, James** (Kathryn) DOB: July 8  
Ph: 727-845-1957 (w)  
Ph: 727-868-6873 (h)  
lovell97@yahoo.com  
Family Service Counselor

**Manns, Nicholas** DOB: Aug 15  
Ph: 937-572-3588  
Nicholas.manns@wellsfargoadvisors.com  
Financial Advisor

**Mansfield, Declan** DOB: July 2  
Ph: 727-457-1883  
judgedecan@gmail.com  
Circuit Judge

**Meyer, Erin** (Marcus) DOB: May 13  
Ph: 727-656-7573  
erin@gatorcleaningsolutions.com  
Gator Cleaning Services

**Montemayor, Vivian** DOB: Oct 7  
Ph: 727-807-7020  
flvivian@hotmail.com  
Core Chiropractic & Wellness

**Mothershead, Kelly** (Mark) DOB: Sept 28  
Ph: 813-843-2354  
jonesk296@gmail.com  
Realtor

**Paulk, Jana Y** DOB: Jan 27  
Ph: 407-468-6166  
janapaulk@gmail.com  
Administrative Assistant

**Pazourek, Kevin** DOB: July 5  
Ph: 727-480-9772  
jklpaz@aol.com  
ABCO Printing

**Roberts, Debra** DOB: July 31  
Ph: 727-815-7025  
dmma55@verizon.net  
Judge

**Schalles, Lawrence C.** (Kathy) DOB: Mar 26  
Ph: 727-847-2277  
Larry@schallescpa.com  
Schalles & Associates—CPA

**Smith, Marty** DOB: Apr 24  
Ph: 727-514-7525  
Marty.scs@gmail.com  
Smith Collision

**Taylor, Ronald** (Lori) DOB: July 1  
Ph: 727-534-7212  
xrtaylor@msn.com  
In Home Medical & Mobility

**Thomas, Bill** (Elizabeth) DOB: Feb 12  
Ph: 813-477-2036  
thomasfshrmn@msn.com  
Creative Builders

**Vance, Linda S** (Bill) DOB: Feb 4  
Ph: 727-776-3404  
LSVance@tampabay.rr.com  
Realtor

**Wales, Fr. Drew** (Julie) DOB: Aug 5  
Ph: 321-749-2956  
morningstarministrycec@gmail.com  
Ret. Minister

**Walker, Charles F.** (Angie) DOB: July 19  
Ph: 727-375-1112  
cwalker@returnonlife.us  
Financial Advisor

Tina Levene's relocation to Florida is a story we've heard many times before. After yearly vacations in the Sunshine State for nearly a decade, Tina and her husband, Warren, decided on a freezing cold day in January 2009 that they had enough of the Ohio winters. As Tina shared, they were also given four remarkable signs that their decision was the right one.

"What Warren didn't know about our trips to Florida, was that I was secretly applying for jobs down here," Levene shared with a laugh. "On that particular trip back to Ohio in 2009, we were going through the West Virginia Mountains and I said to him, 'What's it going to take for us to move?'. He said we weren't in a position to move because of his job, our dream house, and the fact that our dog had a history of running away from home – he was worried he would try to run back to Ohio. Well, not long after we got home, he lost his job, our dog died, we lost our house and I was notified that I got a job in Tampa. Needless to say, these were all very clear signs."

At the time, Levene was working as a social worker in the fields of drug prevention and education. In fact, ever since graduating from college – ten years prior – she dedicated her life to helping others overcome addiction and get back on their feet. For Levene, the decision to become a social worker in the first place was one influenced by her own experiences.

"My major when I first started college was Interior Design because I wanted to make money," Levene said. "I ended up failing out of college because of physical and emotional childhood trauma that ultimately led to an addiction. It was a very dark time in my life. I was eventually readmitted to school and, while giving a presentation, my professor took me aside and said, 'You need to work with children'. I changed my major right then and there and my life was changed forever."

The job that allowed Levene to relocate to Florida was a position as the Florida State Prevention Specialist for Mothers Against Drunk Driving. A year later, she took a position with the Hillsborough County Department of Children's Services and also became a licensed Therapeutic Foster Parent. She then spent seven years with the Department of Juvenile Justice – working with victims of human trafficking and runaway youth. It was during this time, when Levene was inspired on several occasions to do even more for our younger generations.

"I realized there needed to be a specialty school for students dealing with addiction and trauma," she said. "I also had another 'sign' type experience three years ago when Warren and I and our son sold everything and briefly moved to a North Carolina mountain top and built a tiny home. We were originally thinking about doing a camp for teens struggling with addiction, abuse and trauma, but it ended up being the worst decision ever. After six weeks without electricity and running water, we came back to Florida with our tails between our legs."

Levene continued, "After that experience, I was more focused than ever. When we got back to Florida, I looked up and connected with a recovery school in Jacksonville – the first of its kind in Florida. I met with the Executive Director and explained my vision for a similar school in the Tampa Bay area. He was very helpful and has been a mentor of mine ever since."

Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Inc. was officially formed in January 2020. By May, a full board of directors was established and Levene assumed the role of Executive Director in August. The first high school– Victory High School – was established earlier this year and is scheduled to start classes in January 2021. The high school will offer mental health support to students and families and recovery support for addictions, trauma and depression. Working with the Pasco County Sheriff's Department, Levene identified a "hot spot" near Holiday – where overdose numbers are higher than normal – as an ideal location for the school.

To date, funding has been one of Levene's biggest challenges. Nevertheless, she's actively applying for grants and foundations and she's utilizing her network to spread the word and find additional funding sources.

"In the one month I've been Executive Director, I've spoken with 561 people about what we're doing," Levene said. "I've met with County Commissioners, the Opioid Task Force and many other coalitions. I'll be speaking to the Rotary club next month and I also joined the Pasco County EDC network to make new connections and find additional resources. We've also had a lot of community support. Bay Care, Advent Health, the Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, the Sheriff's Office, New Port Richey Police and the Drug Treatment Centers are all onboard."

In addition to the work she does with Florida Recovery Schools of Tampa Bay, Levene is also a national speaker and author on the topics of staff development and training, leadership, self-care and wellness for organizations that employ social workers, law enforcement and therapists. She's also been hired by Johnson & Johnson and other private corporations to speak to their employees.

Levene even spent time as a radio show host and a host of her own TV show called Tina Talks Truth. "I just love teaching people a new way of life," she said. "They don't have to just be complacent. It saddens me to see people when they're dragging their feet and they just settle. It could be physical, spiritual or emotional, but they often just settle for their circumstances. We should be empowered by our circumstances. I love to encourage them that there

is hope. They need to understand that they have control over what they've been through."

Levene continued, "When it comes to addiction, 50% is genetic and the other 50% is environmental. Regarding the genetic component, there is such thing as an addictive personality. There are certain things that light up in the brains of people that struggle with addiction. When it comes to environmental, we're usually talking about some kind of trauma. As a result, these kids haven't been taught the right way. They're not bad kids, they just haven't

been taught. I'm a survivor myself and I've been in recovery for 22 years, so I understand what they've been through.

I really want to teach society and the community that these kids need our support." Looking ahead, Levene's ten year goal is to have additional high schools in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties. Her long-term goal is to have recovery high schools in all 67 Florida counties. What advice does Levene have for aspiring entrepreneurs

interested in starting a non-profit? First and foremost, get incredible leaders and experts on your board of directors," she said. "That is a must. My expertise is not accounting. My brain doesn't work that way. I have a CPA that's a Treasurer on our board. We also have an attorney on our board, business minded people, those in the faith community and those in the mental health community. Having these people on our board makes a huge difference. Also, communicate with everyone and think outside the box. Share what you're doing with everyone. By sharing who we are and what we're doing, I've opened so many doors to speak and share about the school.

As far as how to get great board members, asked plugged in friends for referrals. Take advantage of your network."

Levene continued, "Lastly, being successful in business and life is all about building relationships. I love this quote from Zig Ziglar that says, 'The Fortune is in the follow through'. I apply that in all areas of my life. Sometimes the follow-through is a phone call, an email, face-to-face or simply connecting someone with a resource or contacting someone and just saying, 'hey, I was thinking about you'. It's about building and maintaining meaningful connections."