

Calendar of Events

March 21, 2018

2018 Mayor's Sunrise Prayer Breakfast

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Ave.

Bartow, FL 33830

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM EST

Virginia Condello, 863-533-7125

virginia@bartowchamber.com

When the Mayor's Sunrise Prayer Breakfast was first conceived, it was agreed it would be a time of early morning prayer to begin the day.

The City of Bartow Mayor James F. Clements, cordially invites you to the 33rd Annual Mayor's Sunrise Prayer Breakfast, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at the Bartow Civic Center beginning at 7:00 a.m. Doors open at 6:30 a.m.

Guest speaker is 33-year Mayor's Prayer Committee Chairman, Howe Wallace, who will be giving his testimony.

Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 7:00 a.m.

Bartow Civic Center

Tickets are \$12 per person

Reserved table of 8 Sponsorship is also available.

March 27, 2018

Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training

Women's Resource Center

165 Avenue A NW

Winter Haven, FL 33881

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

Please consider becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister and help change the life of a child facing adversity for the better, forever. It doesn't take a lot of time (between 4-8 hours a month, depending on the program). The real focus is on being consistent, and spending one-to-one quality time with your Little. Being a Big often means just including your Little in things you already like to do — going to a ball game, or a museum, or the beach, or a bike ride.

The first step is to attend one of our Big Orientation & Training sessions.

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April 7, 2018

Bowl For Kids' Sake

Orange Bowl

4318 US Highway 98

Lakeland, FL 33809

02:00 PM - 04:00 PM EST

Josh Hagg, 813-997-3048

joshh@bbbstampabay.org

Bowl for Kids' Sake is Big Brothers Big Sisters largest national fundraiser, raising over \$20 million annually for children in need across the country. Because of Bowl for Kids' Sake, more Bigs and Littles can be paired up, more friendships can be created and improved outlooks on life can be started.

Register today » <http://www.bbbstampabay.org/bowl>

Bowl for Kids' Sake is a fun and easy way to positively impact a child's life. Just follow the simple steps below

1) Start a team - Teams are formed with five or six members. Consider creating a team with family, friends, fraternity brothers, sorority sisters, or co-workers.

2) Start securing sponsorship -

Most bowlers raise about \$170, but many people raise over \$1,000. What impact do you want to have? The best part is that all of the event expenses are underwritten by our corporate sponsors. That means 100% of the money raised by bowlers goes directly towards supporting children served by Big Brothers Big Sisters in your community.

3) Start bowling - After you have secured your sponsorships, it's time to have fun! You'll receive two free games of bowling (shoe and ball rental included!), a Bowl for Kids' Sake t-shirt, food, drinks, chances to win door prizes!

So what are you waiting for? Start your team today! Partnering with Big Brothers Big Sisters through Bowl for Kids' Sake makes a positive, long-lasting impact on children in your community. Our mentoring works. It works to help broaden children's perspectives and help them learn how to make good choices. It starts a child on the path to fulfilling their potential and succeeding in school and life.

April 11, 2018

2018 Professional Development Academy
Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo
310 Technology Dr.
Bartow, FL 33830

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace

AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

NEW CLASSES FOR 2018. More than 100 have earned a Professional Development Academy certificate since it began in 2016!

As a member, you and your employees are eligible to participate in a professional development series: LEADERSHIP IN THE WORKPLACE. Successful professionals continually strive to learn. Expanding skill sets and knowledge enables individuals to transcend their careers. The Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with Polk State College, announces the launch of the 2018 Greater Bartow Chamber Professional Development Academy (PDA). This program provides skills for business, organization, and personal growth and improvement through a variety of educational and training opportunities. Receive your PDA certificate by attending a minimum of four of the seven classes. Cost for the academy classes are covered in your Chamber membership investment. If you are an employee of a Chamber member business, you are entitled to attend any of the classes at no cost. If you are not employed by a Chamber member business, the classes are \$29 per class.

Choose What's Right For You

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Polk State College Corporate College
310 Technology Drive
Bartow, Florida 33830*

What Time Are Classes?

Classes begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m.

Do I Have To Attend Every Class?

Absolutely not. You are allowed to pick and choose the classes that are right for you.

Do I Need To Pre-Register?

Yes - pre-registration is necessary. Simply go online to www.bartowchamber.com and click on the Professional Development Academy icon.

How Do I Earn My Certificate?

You can earn your Professional Development Academy Certificate by attending a minimum of four of the classes.

April 11, 2018

Life Expo 2018

RP Funding Center

700 W Lime Street

Lakeland, FL 33815

09:00 AM - 04:00 PM EST

Nanci Marsh, 8638027438

nanci.marsh@theledger.com

Ledger Media Group presents the Life Expo for boomers and seniors on Wednesday, April 11th from 9AM to 4PM at the RP Funding Center in Lakeland. Sponsored by Watson Clinic and Simply Healthcare.

April 14, 2018

Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training

BBBS Office

1231 E. Orange Street

Lakeland, FL 33801

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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April 14, 2018

Strummin' & Drummin' 5K to benefit foster children

Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

2701 Berkley Road

Auburndale, FL 33823

08:00 AM - 10:00 AM EST

Cathy Carver, 8639842443

cathy.carver@ppcacademy.net

Strummin' & Drummin' 5K Run/Walk - Banding Together for Foster Children to benefit Heartland for Children

4/14/2018

8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM

Lake Myrtle Sports Complex

Join us for a scenic 3-mile music-filled run/walk around beautiful Lake Myrtle Sports Complex in Auburndale, Florida as we "band together" to support the needs of children entering the local foster care system. A variety of musical genres will greet you as you make your way around manicured soccer and baseball fields overlooking tranquil Lake Myrtle.

The mission of Polk Pre-Collegiate Academy's (PPCA) Strummin' & Drummin' - Banding Together for Foster Children 5K Run/Walk is twofold. Proceeds from the 5K will provide foster children, served through Polk, Highlands and Hardee counties' Heartland for Children non-profit organization, with essential personal items to support their transition into foster care. Often these children's personal belongings are placed in a garbage bag as they are transitioned into the foster care system. It is our desire to bring dignity to these children and to give them the feeling that people care about their emotional and physical well-being in their time of need.

Currently, Heartland for Children serves over 2,000 children of all ages, from newborn to teenagers, that are in the foster care system. In March 2003, Heartland for Children was selected as the lead agency for Community Based Care in Polk, Hardee and Highlands counties.

As the lead agency, Heartland for Children assumed the responsibilities for System Administration of a comprehensive child service provider network that included protective services, foster care, adoptions, independent living, prevention, family preservation, family support services and other related services. It is the mission of Heartland for Children to provide quality foster families to serve as temporary homes for children in need.

A small portion of the proceeds from the Strummin' & Drummin' 5K will also sponsor the PPCA Culinary Cares Project (CCP) which provides meals for families touched by life changing events. The Culinary Cares Project was created in August of 2017 and the high school culinary team, under the direction of Stacie Helms, has already brought comfort and joy to a number of families. PPCA's motto, "Be the One" is being exemplified by the culinary students each time they perform their Culinary Cares Outreach Project. Funds will be used to continue the purchase of menu items and kitchen equipment needed for the meal preparation.

April 18, 2018

Boy Scouts of America Soaring Eagle Award

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Ave.

Bartow, FL 33830

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM EST

Hector Centeno, 863-499-7294

hector.centeno@scouting.org

The Boy Scouts of America gives a community member award to a former Boy Scout who exemplifies the Boy Scout tradition. The awards ceremony is Wednesday, April 18, at 7:00 a.m. in the Bartow Civic Center.

Soaring Eagle Award

Many Scouters make a significant impact to Scouting, but their service may not be well known throughout the district. Their work is important and directly affects the quality of scouting at all levels. The Soaring Eagle Award recognizes Scouters who have excelled in service to Scouting. Although consideration for the Soaring Eagle Award is primarily given to a Scouter's service within a unit, service at the district level is also taken under consideration.

Past recipients from the Bartow area have been Rob Kincart, A-C-T Environmental and Infrastructure; Brian Hinton, Bartow Community Healthcare Foundation; Don Wilson, Boswell & Dunlap; Ken Riley, former NFL Star; and Ernie Cooper, former Educator; among others.

April 19, 2018

United Way of Central FL Cocktails & Conversation

Private Residence

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Tara Young, 863-648-1500

tara.young@uwcf.org

Join United Way of Central Florida for Cocktails & Conversation!

April 19, 2018

Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training

Family Fundamentals

1021 Lakeland Hills Blvd, 2nd Floor

Lakeland, FL 33805

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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April 20, 2018

EXCELERATE - Florida Poly

Florida Polytechnic University

4700 Research Way

Lakeland, FL 33803

06:00 PM - 11:30 PM EST

Lidia Vigil, 863.874.8732

lvigil@floridapoly.edu

Friends of Florida Polytechnic University will come together to celebrate all that has been accomplished in just over three years, to honor the changemakers who make Florida Poly possible and to launch the next chapter of the University.

April 21, 2018

Central Florida Farm Tour

Polk County, FL

56 Fourth Street NW, Suite 100

Winter Haven, FL 33881

09:00 AM - 05:00 PM EST

David Kiessling, 8632487537

david@centralfloridamediagroup.com

Central Florida Farm Tour is a self-guided driving tour featuring some of the most extraordinary farms located throughout Polk County, FL.

April 24, 2018

Big Brothers Big Sisters Orientation & Training

BBBS Office

1231 E. Orange Street

Lakeland, FL 33801

05:30 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Angie Pattison, 863-220-1116

angiep@bbbstampabay.org

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May 7, 2018

Achievement Academy's Top Chef of Polk County

RP Funding Center

701 W. Lime Street

Lakeland, FL 33815

06:30 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Stacy Williams-Myers, CFRE, 863-683-6504

stacy@achievementacademy.com

Achievement Academy's 4th Annual Top Chef of Polk County Event has changed its format this year. There will be a tasting of signature dishes from Polk County's leading chefs while raising much needed funds for children with special needs.

As many as 12 chefs will create and prepare their signature dish (tapas style) accompanied with a wine or libation that complements the flavors of the dish. All guests will have the opportunity to try all of the chef's signature dishes.

Chefs are encouraged to create an ambience at their dining stations as unique as their culinary creations.

Guests are invited to enjoy cocktails from the cash bar with live music while they view and judge the unique table décor at each dining station.

Chefs are asked to donate an item for the auction which takes place that evening. Auction items will range from restaurant gift certificates and gourmet baskets, to dinner cooked at a guest's home by the chef.

Guests will judge each chef on their creation to award the title of "People's Choice Award—Savory" and "People's Choice Award—Sweet." Guests will rate each dining station to award the "Top Table Décor." The chef that raises the most funds for Achievement Academy through their donated auction item/s and online voting will earn the "Top Philanthropic Chef" award. Finally, guests will vote on the overall "Top Chef of Polk County 2018."

May 9, 2018

2018 Just Say No Parade & Rally

09:30 AM - 11:00 AM EST

Ernie Cooper, (863) 533-7125

erniesheryl_cooper@yahoo.com

Dear Friends:

Committee Members are making plans again for "JUST SAY NO" Week, May 7-13, 2018.

This special week will be highlighted by Bartow's 28th Annual March and Rally. Planned activities will begin on Wednesday, May 9, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. with a parade in Downtown Bartow that ends with a rally at the Bartow High School Gymnasium. ALL MAIN STREET BUSINESS PEOPLE and BARTOW COMMUNITY PEOPLE - PLEASE COME OUT TO CHEER ON THE 5th GRADERS TO JUST SAY NO!

The City of Bartow along with the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce, City of Fort Meade, City of Eagle Lake, and area schools, which include Alturas, Anna Woodbury, Bartow Elementary Academy, Eagle Lake, First Methodist School, Floral Avenue, Gibbons Street, Highland City, Spessard Holland Elementary, Stephens, and Wahneta will participate in the event.

THIS IS A COMMUNITY-BASED PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO SAY NO TO DRUGS.

We welcome your involvement. Donations are needed to fund our programs. Funds are used toward the guest speaker at the rally, specialty items, awards, trophies, refreshments and to help offset the expense of providing T-shirts bearing the "JUST SAY NO" message to all 5th graders.

*To make a donation, please send a check to:
(Make checks payable to "Just Say No")*

*CenterState Bank
ATTN: Anita Stasiak
1375 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, Florida 33830*

*Thank you for your consideration to help support this struggle against drugs.
Sincerely,
W. Ernest Cooper
"Just Say No" Chairman*

May 9, 2018

2018 Professional Development Academy
Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo
310 Technology Dr.
Bartow, FL 33830

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace

AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

NEW CLASSES FOR 2018. More than 100 have earned a Professional Development Academy certificate since it began in 2016!

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Do I Have To Attend Every Class?

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Do I Need To Pre-Register?

Yes - pre-registration is necessary. Simply go online to www.bartowchamber.com and click on the Professional Development Academy icon.

How Do I Earn My Certificate?

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May 12, 2018

Central Florida Health Expo

20 N Market Street

09:00 AM - 12:30 PM EST

David Kiessling, 8632487587

david@centralfloridamediagroup.com

The Central Florida Health Expo is the area's premier event for health-conscious adults. This outdoor event will be held on North Market Street in Lake Wales. The market comes alive on Saturdays as shoppers stroll through the Downtown Lake Wales Farmers Market featuring over 35 produce, craft, and food vendors. The downtown Lake Wales Farmers Market is a very popular shopping destination for local residents making it an ideal location for the Central Florida Health Expo.

This is a rain or shine event.

[Click Here to Reserve Exhibitor Booth Space](#)

May 15, 2018

United Way of Central Florida 2018 Annual Meeting

RP Funding Center

701 West Lime Street

Lakeland, FL 33812

06:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST

Tara Young, 863-648-1500

tbyoungfl@gmail.com

UWCF 2018 Annual Meeting and award presentation.

\$50/pp - Dinner Served

August 8, 2018

2018 Professional Development Academy
Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo
310 Technology Dr.
Bartow, FL 33830

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace

AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

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August 16, 2018

2018 Polk Politics Candidate Rally

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Avenue

, FL 33830

05:00 PM - 08:00 PM EST

Virginia Condello, 863-533-7125

virginia@bartowchamber.com

Held in even numbered years at the Bartow Civic Center, this event features candidates running for local, state and national elections. The spirit of the event is that of an old-fashioned political rally, where those attending have an opportunity to get up-front and personal with each candidate. Approved political groups and organizations lobbying for and against local issues before the Legislature are also welcome to attend. The atmosphere is fun, festive and patriotic! This event is free to the public and usually features a straw ballot.

August 30, 2018

Emerging Leaders Awards

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

This evening awards the best of the best in young Leadership. Held at the Bartow Civic Center, 6:00 p.m. on August 30, 2018.

September 12, 2018

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Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo
310 Technology Dr.
Bartow, FL 33830

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Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

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September 19, 2018

2018 Community Relations Committee's Diversity Luncheon

Bartow Civic Center

1250 S. Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

12:00 PM - 01:00 PM EST

Gloria Washington, 863-205-1173

glo930@aol.com

To reaffirm its commitment to racial and ethnic equality, the City of Bartow's Community Relations Committee (CRC) will hold a Diversity Luncheon on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at noon.

"There are daily reminders to us all of how important this issue still is in America, and that promoting racial and ethnic equality and ending racism and discrimination requires awareness, commitment, and action," said Gloria Washington, Chairman of the CRC. "This is an opportunity for Bartow to stand up and be counted in an ongoing effort to make sure our community fosters racial and ethnic equality and harmony."

Special speaker for the luncheon to be announced.

The annual Diversity Award will be presented to a business or organization and an individual at the luncheon. Nominations are being accepted for the award.

Tickets for the Diversity Luncheon are \$12 each and may be purchased at the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce. NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR. For more information, please call the Chamber at (863) 533-7125.

Location: Bartow Civic Center, 2250 S. Floral Ave., Bartow, FL 33830

October 5, 2018

2018 Bartow Chamber Golf Scramble

01:00 PM - 07:00 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

What's more fun than a golf tournament? A Chamber Scramble Golf Tournament!! The scramble, presented by BARTOW FORD, is one of the most fun events we offer, so sign up today and come spend a day out on the course with your Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce.

4 person scramble

shotgun start

Bartow golf course

1:00 p.m.

Awards Barbecue

Door prizes and Beverages

You'll have a blast!

Title Sponsor - Bartow Ford

Platinum Sponsor - Evolve Contracting

Awards Dinner Giveaway Sponsor - ASHLAND

On-Course Food Sponsor - CenterState Bank

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (Register at link below)

GOLD - \$1,000

SILVER - \$750

BRONZE - \$500

Prize Contributor - \$200

Courtesy Tent - \$150

October 10, 2018

2018 Professional Development Academy
Polk State College Clear Springs Advanced Technolo
310 Technology Dr.
Bartow, FL 33830

07:30 AM - 09:30 AM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES: Leadership In The Workplace

AT POLK STATE COLLEGE - CLEAR SPRINGS ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTER

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PDA allows you to choose the classes that are right for you.

What Is The Cost For The Classes?

Cost for the Greater Bartow Chamber of Commerce Professional Development Academy classes are covered in your Chamber membership investment. If you are an employee of a Chamber member business, you are entitled to attend any of the classes at no cost. However, if you do register for a class, and cannot attend, you must notify the Chamber 24 hours prior to the class. If you fail to notify the Chamber and do not show up, your business will be charged an administration fee of \$15 for the missed class. If you are not employed by a Chamber member business, the classes are \$29.00 per class.

Where Are The Classes Held?

*All classes are held at the Clear Springs Advanced Technology Center
Polk State College Corporate College
310 Technology Drive
Bartow, Florida 33830*

What Time Are Classes?

Classes begin at 7:30 a.m. and end at 9:30 a.m.

Do I Have To Attend Every Class?

Absolutely not. You are allowed to pick and choose the classes that are right for you.

Do I Need To Pre-Register?

Yes - pre-registration is necessary. Simply go online to www.bartowchamber.com and click on the Professional Development Academy icon.

How Do I Earn My Certificate?

You can earn your Professional Development Academy Certificate by attending a minimum of four of the classes.

October 18, 2018

Champions Cup - Business, Industry & Spirit of Bartow Awards

06:00 PM - 09:00 PM EST

Jeff Clark, 863-533-7125

jeff@bartowchamber.com

Champions Cup recognizes and honors businesses/organizations that have championed exemplary best practices and have had a positive influence on the economic well being of the Bartow area business community. CHAMPIONS CUP AND SPIRIT OF BARTOW NOMINATION FORM [HERE](#). Nominated businesses/organizations are judged by an anonymous random panel of more than 20 community leaders who review the applicants based upon strict criteria regarding community and economic impact. The prestigious awards are presented at the evening event held at the Bartow Civic Center featuring a prominent keynote speaker.

Spirit of Bartow Awards: The evening is also a time of recognizing those who give back to the community. The Spirit of Bartow award is presented to area citizens who have contributed to the community in a significant way.

All awards will be judged by a blue-ribbon committee of Chamber members based upon the following criteria:

Business & Industry Awards

The mission of the Champions Cup Business & Industry Awards is to recognize businesses/organizations that have championed exemplary best practices in the areas of customer service, sustainability, employee retention and opportunity, reputation and positive influence on the economic well-being of the Bartow area business community.

Spirit of Bartow Awards

Nominees for this award should be individuals or groups that have significantly contributed to the Bartow community and their individual accomplishments/contributions made a positive impact on the area's quality of life.

November 9, 2018

2018 Veterans' Hometown Heroes Luncheon

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Avenue

Bartow, FL 33830

11:00 AM - 01:00 PM EST

Kathryn Bevilacqua-Ely, 863-533-7125

kathryn@bartowchamber.com

Hometown Heroes honors Bartow area Veterans on Veterans Day. This event is a luncheon that involves the local American Legion organization. Sponsor funds are used to pay for Veterans and a guest.

November 14, 2018

STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Bartow Civic Center

2250 S. Floral Ave.

Bartow, FL 33830

11:30 AM - 01:00 PM EST

George Long gives you a chance to hear how the City of Bartow is doing. This is a free event, open to the community. If you'd like, lunch is available for \$10. You may purchase your ticket online, or pick up at the Chamber. Doors open at 11:30; program begins at noon.

February 2, 2019

VISTEBall 2019

TBD

06:00 PM - 10:00 PM EST

Steve Bissonnette, 863-284-0828

steve@viste.org

Please join us for the 14th Annual VISTEBall on Saturday, February 2, 2019! VISTEBall is an indoor golf blowout where you can chip, putt, and play your way to great prizes. Attendees may participate in silent, live, and ticket auctions as well. Event tickets include a buffet dinner, open bar (stocked with beer, wine & margaritas), and dessert. It's a fun time for the hacker, or the person who has never held a club a day in their life! You'll have a blast and all proceeds help VISTE continue to serve the elderly.