



GOOD DEEDS

Posted Apr 16, 2018 at 2:01 AM

Sarasota Orthopedic Associates again sponsored the **Southeastern Guide Dogs** Walk-A-Thon.

Its team, SOA Woof Pack, participated in the walk March 24 at Benderson Park to boost awareness and money for raising, training and placing the champion dogs with veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and sight-impaired individuals.

SOA also hosted "Smooch A Pooch" with puppies in training at each of SEG D's locations, in Venice, Sarasota and Lakewood Ranch. Donations were encouraged during that fundraising event.

For the second year, **Sprouts Farmers Market**, in the Pelican Plaza in south Sarasota, has provided a light supper for the volunteer doctors, nurses, pharmacists, patient advocates and receptionists at the free **Good Samaritan Pharmacy and Health Services'** walk-in medical clinic at 2502 N. Tamiami Trail, in Nokomis.

The clinic is open every Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. The staff gives up having dinner at home with family to help patients who have no insurance or are underinsured by providing free medical attention and free prescription medicine. For more information or to volunteer, call 445-5687.

The **Florida Center for Early Childhood**, a nonprofit serving children and their families in Sarasota, Charlotte, Manatee and DeSoto/Hardee counties, received a \$5,000 grant from the **Harold C. and Jacqueline F. Bladel Foundation** to help provide developmental therapies to children from birth to 8 years of age.

The grant will be used to provide therapy sessions, as well as purchase equipment and materials that will help children with sensory integration challenges.

The multidisciplinary team of licensed speech-language pathologists and occupational therapists, and certified infant-toddler developmental specialists, work together and alongside mental health and educational colleagues to provide services to children with developmental delays, as well as established diagnoses that include Autism Spectrum Disorder, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Down syndrome, cerebral palsy and Attention Deficit Disorder with Hyperactivity.

The **Florida Center for Early Childhood** has been awarded an Imagination Playground in a Cart, an innovative playground equipment system, thanks to a grant provided by **Target** and national nonprofit **KaBOOM!**

KaBOOM!, which is dedicated to giving all kids the childhood they deserve through great, safe places to play, is working with Target to increase access to play across the country. Grants for Imagination Playgrounds are helping to achieve that goal by bringing active play to more than 430,000 kids across the country.

Imagination Playground in a Cart is an innovative design in play equipment that encourages creativity, communication and collaboration in play. With a collection of custom-designed, oversized blue foam parts, Imagination Playground provides a changing array of elements that allow children to turn their playground into a space constantly built and rebuilt by their imagination.

Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, operating as the Food Bank of Manatee, recently received a donation of \$35,000 from the **Publix** "Food for All" campaign. The money was raised during the holidays, when Publix gives customers and associates the opportunity to contribute \$1, \$3 or \$5.

Boar's Head Brand made a donation to the **Sarasota Police Department** for the purchase of a police dog.

Bobbi, a 2-year-old German shepherd from Slovakia, is a bomb odor detection K-9 trained to find explosive materials and devices. The Boar's Head Brand donation also paid for necessary modifications to a patrol car, training for a

handler and the purchase of needed supplies.

Bobbi will be paired with Sarasota Police Patrol Officer Adam Arena and assigned to the night shift.