

Black Diamond Foundation, Inc
Special Meeting
Monday, November 17, 2008, 2:00 pm
Board Room, Black Diamond Country Club
Lecanto, Florida

Present: Jim Briley, Dave Burns, Bill Joens, Nancy Manafort, Sue Pratt, Anil Ram, Sharron Rosenberg, Art Thomas, Bill Williams, Jim Wood, Linda Youell

Jay Joines, on behalf of Foundation's 6th Annual Pro-Am and Transitions Championship for Healthy Sight

1. The special meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, Monday, November 17, 2008

The purpose of the special meeting was to review the Foundation's grants for the balance of 2008, and to develop priorities for grants in 2009.

2. Grants for balance of 2008

Linda Youell listed the Foundation's recent support, and potential recipients for 2008 and 2009, and Bill Joens circulated a projection of available funds to the end of May 2009, including revenue from the Foundation's 6th Annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament, and donations to the annual appeal. He estimated \$127,600 would be available to support the Citrus County community, in addition to the \$30,000 reserve that the Foundation had approved at its regular meeting on November 3, 2008.

This year, the Foundation has granted \$156,000 and raised \$95,000. The largest grant categories have been \$54,000 for food, and \$42,000 for education. Donors to the Foundation have conveyed that education is a priority.

Discussion included:

- Feeding hungry residents of Citrus County is important, and the Foundation provides an equally important community service through its education grants, especially for adult literacy, skills upgrading, retraining.
- Encouraging students to stay in school, and keeping good teachers in County schools are vital.
- Approximately 17 agencies in Citrus County operate food banks. Can the Foundation encourage coordination of those efforts?
- County has limited public transit, which hinders adult students' ability to get to school, and workers' ability to travel to jobs.

ACTION: SUE PRATT will report on education programs in Citrus County, including job skills training, child care expenses for parents who return to school.

ACTION: DAVE BURNS will report on food banks and other programs, including counselling, assistance to the work force. Dave asked that Foundation members give him information from the agencies with which they are familiar.

ACTION: Members agreed the Foundation would award grants only upon receipt and review of a formal request for assistance.

3. Priorities for grants in 2009

The Foundation is holding \$30,000 in reserve, and is cautious in its forecast of funds available in 2009 because of the increased demands on social service agencies in the county, and because of the unpredictability of fundraising, in both the golf tournament and the annual appeal.

Salvation Army is experiencing a 40% increase in requests for help with rent, mortgage or utilities.

Requests for services from the Family Resource Center have almost doubled, year-over-year: 736 persons in October 2007, 1358 persons in October 2008.

Members agreed that education at all levels is important: parenting skills, early childhood, grades 1 to 12, post-secondary, adult education, job training, adult literacy.

4. New Business

Salvation Army - Citrus Corps uses an aged van to transport Citrus County residents to jobs, to health services, and to transport children to after-school programs, etc.

A 15-passenger mini-bus would be more efficient and less costly to insure. A new bus would cost \$45,000, of which the Salvation Army can pay half. They requested a grant from Black Diamond Foundation toward acquiring a new or newer vehicle.

Members discussed a "challenge grant", similar to the challenge grant to NAMI, that spurred its successful fundraising effort for the clubhouse, "Lighthouse".

NO DECISION AT THIS TIME.

Very soon, the Foundation will have distributed more than \$500,000 in grants to maintain and strengthen the community. Foundation members favor holding a "no-host" event in the first quarter of 2009 to acknowledge this accomplishment of Black Diamond members and residents, in the 7 years of the Foundation's incorporation.

ACTION: BILL JOENS, JAY JOINES, SHARRON ROSENBERG and LINDA YOUELL will develop a proposal.

5. Old Business

Bill Joens and Jay Joines reported that the Pro-Am has 20 teams of the 30 spots available.

Nancy Manafort reported that the new Citrus Abuse Shelter (CASA) will be opening, and will need furniture, since the state grant covered building costs only.

ACTION: NANCY MANAFORT, with Diana McIntosh, Director of CASA, will prepare an article for the Foundation's column in Black Diamond Club's member newsletter, "Happenings", and a notice for Channel 19.

6. Next meeting and adjournment

The Foundation's next regular meeting is Monday, December 1, 2008, at 1:00 pm in the Clubhouse Boardroom.

Guests and presenters will include Ms Brenda Miley-Kelley, Withlacoochee Technical Institute (Art Thomas), and Ms Charlene Guthas, Seven Rivers Medical & Educational Foundation (Anil Ram). The purpose of Seven Rivers M&EF is to provide educational assistance through scholarships and assistance for scientific purposes to deserving individuals who are working towards careers in the healthcare field.

The special meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm, Monday, November 17, 2008.

Linda M Youell
18 November 2008

corrected
01 December 2008

Action: Feeling charitable? Find a worthy cause

By [Suzanne Palmer](#), © *St Petersburg Times*, Tuesday, November 25, 2008

With so many folks in need this holiday season, you may be thinking of spending part (or all) of your holiday gift budget on charitable giving. In fact, more than 80 percent of the money raised by charities in the United States comes from individuals like you and me, according to the Wise Giving Alliance. But which charity is right for your gift? How do you choose?

Put together a list of the causes you care about. Look around in the community, ask at your church or civic group, talk to family members. Think locally, nationally and globally.

A donation is a financial investment just like buying a car or an appliance, so it's important to do your research.

It may seem obvious, but the first thing to do when considering a public organization for a donation is to make sure it is granted tax-exempt status under section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and that it files a Form 990, or financial disclosure. Many religious organizations, like the Salvation Army, are exempt from filing the Form 990. They're legally allowed to do so, but that makes it harder for the individual giver to determine how his or her money is being used.

Large national charities can be checked out at places like the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, www.give.org, www.guidestar.org, www.justgive.org or www.charitynavigator.org. These sites validate a charity's status and evaluate its financial health and how it distributes its funds.

Charities operating in Florida must register with the Solicitation of Contributions Section of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Call toll-free 1-800-435-7352 or visit <http://app1.800helpfla.com/giftgiversguide>.

The next thing to determine is how much money actually goes to those in need. It's called the "program ratio." It should be the biggest expense listed.

Charities have to spend money to raise funds and they must pay fair salaries to their employees. Every organization will have some administrative and fundraising costs, but those costs should come in at or near the bottom of the expenses.

Always donate with a check and write it to the charity itself, not an individual who may be soliciting.

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services offers these additional suggestions:

- Be aware that when you receive a telephone solicitation from a charity, the person making the call is often a paid solicitor. The solicitors work for a for-profit firm hired by the organization. Telemarketing is expensive and may entail substantial fundraising costs.
- Know who is asking you for money. Many organizations have names similar to well-known charities and organizations, but are not affiliated.
- Ask questions. Why is the charity or organization asking for donations? What purpose will be served? Florida law gives you the right to request and receive a copy of a charity's financial report before donating. Make sure you get one.
- Most donations are tax-deductible. Keep track of how much you give and to whom. Always ask for a receipt, but if you forget, a copy of your check should suffice.

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