If you didn’t take the ice bucket challenge, dumping frozen water over your head and posting it on social media to raise awareness and money for ALS research, you certainly know someone who did. After shivering a bit, the person challenged three people to do the same within 24 hours or they had to donate money to charity.

ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, for the Hall of Fame baseball player who died from it in 1941, and athletes are helping to raise awareness of the disease, which affects about 30,000 Americans, including about 1,500 in Florida.

It began when former Boston College baseball player Pete Frates, 29, and fellow ALS sufferer Pat Quinn liked the idea and posted their challenges online. It’s raised more than $88 million for the charity this summer.

Our world has gone digital, and social media tools such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram can be used by businesses, corporations and non-profits for a variety of constructive purposes.

We use social media all the time, both personally, and for the DeBartolo Family Foundation. You can follow us on Twitter at @DeBartoloFndtn or Like us on Facebook (DeBartolo Family Foundation).

But while technology is altering the way we connect, date and even break up, it can’t begin to replace the power of the spoken word, the handshake or a smile.

As we rely more on texts, e-mails and even phone messages, real communication is lost or at least compromised. Nothing can replace sitting down face-to-face with someone and looking them straight in the eyes. It’s still the best way to minimize misunderstandings and maximize effectiveness.

It’s important to us to reconnect and re-establish relationships with our many wonderful sponsors and supporters of the DeBartolo Family Foundation, which is why we still enjoy sending out our annual newsletter.

A little about what our Foundation has been up to over the last year … For the first time, our Gala was held at the Hangar at Peter O’Knight Airport. Seven hundred and thirty guests enjoyed entertainment by Jay Mohr and our afterparty with Samantha Ronson. We gave a record amount of grants — $150,000 — to 24 organizations, and we received more scholarship applications from seniors than ever before (300). Our newest program, the Back-to-School Giveaway increased from 44 teachers in 2013 to 150 this year. You can read more about our year in this newsletter.

And one last challenge in honor of the ice bucket challenge. It was a cool — some may say the coldest — way to raise awareness about a devastating disease, but we hope you all take the challenge of personally reconnecting over the next year, whether it’s just meeting for coffee, supporting your favorite charity or at the very least sharing a warm smile with a neighbor.

Happy reading! 🍹
More guests than ever before packed our new location, The Hangar at Peter O’Knight Airport, on March 1st for the DeBartolo Family Foundation’s 11th All Star Charity Gala presented by Bright House Networks. More than 700 people mingled among celebrities, including 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Hall of Famers Jerry Rice and Derrick Brooks, coaches Joe Maddon, Lovie Smith and Derek Shelton along with Rays players Matt Joyce and Jake McGee. The highlight of the night was comedian, actor, radio host and bestselling author, Jay Mohr who performed an entertaining standup comic routine.

It was a perfect night for glamour, entertainment and of course, giving back to our community! With the generous donations of our sponsors, we brought in more than $750,000 for the Foundation.

Before Mohr’s performance, he assisted the auctioneer in raising over $75,000 on items including a trip to the 2015 Super Bowl, a trip to France, a Tiffany & Co. shopping excursion in Beverly Hills and the ever-popular Fourth of July extravaganza to the DelBartolo family’s ranch in Kalispell, MT.

To conclude the evening, the cocktail hour tent was transformed into an after-party where guests danced to DJ Samantha Ronson while snacking on chicken fingers, french fries and the delectable milk shakes provided by PDQ.

The DeBartolo Family Foundation teamed up with the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office and Dee Solomon to host the 13th annual Christmas luncheon in December to benefit the Family Enrichment Center, a non-profit, minority-owned social services agency that provides the community with a family-centered alternative to public and traditional social services.

Fifteen families, which included 34 children that were treated to a traditional holiday meal and surprised with all the gifts from their Christmas wish lists. Like we did the year prior, we paid tribute to Freddie Solomon, who lost his battle with cancer in 2012. Freddie held this event and the Family Enrichment Center very close to his heart, along with Dee, who will continue to host the event with our family and the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office.

Our 2014 Christmas Luncheon will be held on December 13th at Higgins Hall at St. Lawrence Church. If you would like to support this event, please contact Melissa Johnson at 813.964.8302 or e-mail her at mjohnson@debartoloholdings.com.

2014 ALL STAR CHARITY GALA RECAP

Mark your calendars for our 2015 All Star Charity Gala!

This year’s Gala will be held at The Hangar at Peter O’Knight Airport on Saturday, February 28th. If you would like to attend or learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Melissa Johnson at 813.964.8302 or mjohnson@debartoloholdings.com.

Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Annual Christmas Luncheon

IMPORTANT DATES:

NOVEMBER 7
Frankie’s Friends Unleashed for Hope Event

DECEMBER 13
Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Office Annual Christmas Luncheon

DECEMBER 31
The Rooftop Eve

FEBRUARY 28
12th All Star Charity Gala

APRIL 3
Scholarship Applications Deadline

JULY 17
Teacher School Supply Request Deadline

OCTOBER 1
Grant Application Deadline
Frankie’s Friends is named after the DeBartolo family’s beloved greyhound Frankie and funds treatments provided at one of the BluePearl Veterinary Partners hospitals in Tampa, Brandon, Clearwater and Sarasota.

Frankie’s Friends’ Unleashed for Hope fundraiser held at the Centro Asturiano de Tampa in Ybor City on Oct. 18 brought in more than $92,500 to help Tampa Bay area pets. Funds will be used to help provide life-saving treatment for pets whose families cannot afford the full cost of emergency or specialty care.

For the third year in a row, Frankie’s Friends was able to exceed the amount raised the previous year, which means more families will receive the financial help they need to save their furry companions. Additionally, BluePearl Veterinary Partners matched 25% of the amount Frankie’s Friends grants pets treated at their hospitals.

Candy and Eddie DeBartolo and the DeBartolo Family Foundation were the presenting sponsors of the event, which was attended by more than 200 guests. The speakeasy-themed soirée, emceed by Russell Rhodes from FOX 13, required guests to provide passwords to gain entry to the event whose doors were guarded by gangsters. The Vodkanaughts provided live music and dancers from Fred Astaire Dance Studio turned up the heat on the dance floor.

Early in the evening, guests paid to have their friends arrested and put in jail by prohibition-style law enforcement agents. Guests could then bribe their way out of jail or be bailed out by buddies on the outside, with all money going to the charity. The gangsters and prohibition agents were played by actors from Wiseguys InterACTive Entertainment.

Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School continues to “soar to new heights” with academics, expansion of facilities and enrollment. The school earned its fourth straight A from the Florida Department of Education, and student achievement scores far exceeded district and state scores in writing, reading, algebra, geometry, biology and U.S. history. The Class of 2014 included 68 seniors, who were awarded over $1.6 million in scholarships, not including Bright Futures.

Welcome one hundred additional students for the 2014-15 academic year, we added ten additional classrooms and an outdoor amphitheater. The new wing includes a dance studio and a Science-Technology-Engineering-Mathematics (STEM) lab. With nearly 530 students, the additional spacious classrooms accommodate the students well.

Brooks DeBartolo held the first Champions’ Breakfast in April, and it was a huge success. Over 340 people packed the Downtown Hilton Hotel for a Q&A with NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who helped launch the school’s Athletic Facility Capital Campaign. Now that Brooks DeBartolo is on solid ground academically, it’s time to focus on the athletic program. The school needs a home to bring the community together under the “Friday Night Lights.” For more information on the campaign, please contact Principal Kristine Bennett at 813-971-5600 or kbennett@bdchs.org.

To learn more about the school, please visit www.bdchs.org or stop by at one of the monthly open houses. Brooks DeBartolo is still accepting applications for students in grades 11 and 12 where there are some openings.

During the breakfast, the school also honored seven community champions in their field:
- Jeremy Chwat, Chief Program Officer, Wounded Warrior Project – Military Champion
- Doretha Edgecomb, Hillsborough County School Board – Education Champion
- Monsignor Higgins, Founder and Former Pastor, St. Lawrence Catholic Church – Faith Champion
- Joe Maddon, Manager, Tampa Bay Rays – Sports Champion
- Honorable Judge EJ Salcines, Appellate Judge, Florida Second District Court of Appeals – Social Justice Champion
- Shimberg Family, Philanthropists – Community Service Champion
- Jeff Vinik, Owner, Tampa Bay Lightning – Entrepreneurship Champion
Redefining Refuge

Recognizing the local need to develop advocacy on behalf of children without a voice became a catalyst for Natasha Nascimento to tackle what has evolved into a modern version of slavery head-on. The launch of the foundation, Redefining Refuge, in 2010, has since sparked a contagious willingness from participants around the world who contribute to confronting and ultimately preventing Human Trafficking. Natasha’s dream of opening a local Safe House for trafficked youth became a reality in 2013, and is the first home of its kind in the Tampa Bay area that provides a therapeutic safe haven for girls that have been rescued from this depravity.

Redefining Refuge is dedicated to fighting for women and children who have been victims of the depraved injustice of sexual abuse, with a prevailing emphasis on the abolition of the domestic sex trafficking of minors. Through strong community alliances and public awareness education, they will strive to replace devastation with restoration, oppression with freedom, and despair with hopefulness. For them, this means far more than assisting with the provision of fundamental needs, but rather equipping and empowering these individuals to build strong foundations for their futures by creating real and lasting change.

The DeBartolo Family Foundation recognized Redefining Refuge’s commitment to women, children and this community and awarded a $150,000 grant to support the building of a therapeutic safe house for their residents.

The DeBartolo Family Foundation awarded a record $150,000 to 24 organizations through the Foundation’s Community Grant Program. Established in 2003, the program provides financial support annually to non-profit, grass roots organizations, and has given more than $700,000 to over 125 organizations.

The 2013 DeBartolo Family Foundation Grant recipients were:

- Adoption Related Services
- Davin Joseph Events for Cause Foundatino
- Emergency Care Help Organization
- Family Resources, Inc.
- Feeding America Tampa Bay
- Foundation for Dreams
- Humane Society of Tampa Bay
- Lost Angels Animal Rescue
- Make-A-Wish Foundation
- Nurturing Center
- Pediatric Cancer Foundation
- PlaySmart
- Racing Dog Rescue
- RVR Horse Rescue
- Seniors in Service
- Starting Right, Now
- Suncoast Kids Place
- Sylvia Thomas Center
- Tampa Jewish Family Services
- The Children’s Home
- University Area Community Development Center
- Vincent House
- Voices for Children
- We Care Food Pantry

To request a grant application, please email Melissa Johnson at mjohnson@debartoloholdings.com. In your email, please include the organization’s mission and a brief overview.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY for a 2014-15 scholarship application is April 1. Please visit our website at www.debartolofamilyfoundation.com to download the application. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Johnson at 813.964.8302 or email her at mjohnson@debartoloholdings.com.

2014 Scholarships

A record 300 scholarship applications were received and reviewed this past year. It was difficult to narrow down the 42 winners from all the impressive applications that were submitted. These admirable graduating seniors each received a $2,500 college scholarship. Since 2001, we have awarded over $600,000 through our Scholarship Program which awards high school seniors who’ve achieved academic excellence despite certain financial or personal obstacles.

Congratulations to all of our recipients! We are thrilled to reward them for their hard work, dedication and commitment to their future success.

Raven Adams, Lakewood High School
Desiree Astorquiza, Steinbrenner High School
Marques Beckles, Plant High School
Greg Bell, Jr., River Ridge High School
Ashley Bishop, Plant City High School
Ariel Blackwood, Strawberry Crest High School
Klearra Bryant, King High School
Wildens Cajuste, Steinbrenner High School
Zachary Callaway, Tampa Catholic
Aejona Chambers, Hillsborough High School
Jordan Channell, Pinellas Park High School
Seirra Coffman, George Jenkins High School
Destiny Coleman, Sr. Petersburg High School
Alaidean Elmnulae, East Bay High School
Randy Esfahani, Chain of Lakes Collegiate
Rebekah Firmin, Lakewood Christian
Patricio Galvez Guzman, Tampa Bay Technical
Trenton Giddings, Wiregrass Ranch High School
Itzel Guzman, East Bay High School
Nikki-Alexia Hasani-Ferrera, hillsborough High School
Fizza Imran, Ridge Community High School
Itzel Jahuey, Largo High School
Nikole Katleba, Rivay High School
Shannon King, Thomas Jefferson High School
Kaitlin King, River Ridge High School
Kristin Knotts, Strawberry Crest High School
Tammy Lara, Lennard High School
Matthew Lozada, Brooks DeBartolo Collegiate High School
Brooke McCann, Eflers Christian School
Yamilet Mera Leon, Thomas Jefferson High School
Jessica Olaez, Lake Region High School
Kylie Paul, Wharton High School
Anthony Politiano, Wesley Chapel High School
Edward Przybylko, Wharton High School
Cesar Ramirez, Chain of Lakes Collegiate
Cristina Ramirez, Lake Region High School
Kiana Thompson, Newsome High School
Yalisel Vargas, Kathleen High School
Anusha Vazii, Wiregrass Ranch High School
William Watson, Hudson High School
Kyliiana Witherspoon, Ridge Community High School
Bianna Wolkov, Wiregrass Ranch High School
Paige Young, Anclote High School
Get the latest Foundation news on the web: debartolofamilyfoundation.com

The DeBartolo Family Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation created by the members of the Edward J. DeBartolo, Jr. family to benefit local communities. The Foundation annually awards scholarships to high school students, provides school supplies to local teachers, adopts Bay Area families during the holidays, provides grants to organizations with exceptional requirements and presents the Spirit of Humanity Award, honoring local non-profit, grass roots organizations.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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