



# What's New at Chi Chi's

## November & December 2008

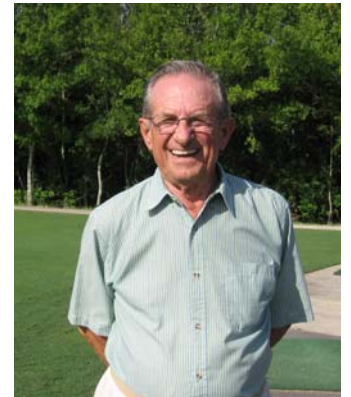


Jody Rotondo, Bruce Hall of REO Speedwagon, Robin Zander of Cheap Trick, and Dave Amato of REO Speedwagon at Rockin' The First Tee 2007

### Donor Spotlight: Jody Rotondo

#### Taking pride in contributing to such a good cause

The past 30 years Chi Chi has helped and encouraged others to build brighter futures for thousands of children. Jody Rotondo got involved with us because he is adopted and because he appreciates the fact that Chi Chi works hard to help underprivileged children. Jody played golf with Chi Chi during a golf outing and four years later they ran into each other once again. Chi Chi remembered his name and that he was adopted even after all that time. With all of the people that Chi Chi meets with on a daily basis, Jody knew that here was a special man and he wanted to help. Jody is from from Wheeling, IL and loves to travel the world. Last year he came straight from an African Safari and brought his friends to participate in the Chi Chi Charity Classic. The past two years, Jody not only continued supporting the Classic but added Rockin' The First Tee to his busy schedule. This year he'll be staying an entire week to support our Academy by attending both November events.



Volunteer of the Year  
Lou Saia

**Congratulations and Thank you to Lou Saia, Volunteer of the Year:** Lou began volunteering for Chi Chi's in 1991 at the original Court Street location because he loved the game of golf. On his volunteer application, Lou wrote that "sharing his enthusiasm for the game with young and old is a real bonus to volunteering." Not much has changed in the past 17 years, you can still find Lou out on the first tee each Sunday morning volunteering as a starter.

"Being a Chi Chi' volunteer is a fulfilling and rewarding part of my retirement years! The Academy students must realize how fortunate they are to be enrolled at this unique school." ~ Lou Saia

**Thanks to the help of Volunteers Don Russell, Bobby Carollo and Gail Flynn,** the IBM Corporation Community Grant has again awarded us \$7,400 worth of computers and printers. These three long time volunteers earn hours to apply for this grant each year to keep the staff and our student computer labs up to date. Thank you Don, Bobby, Gail and IBM for all of your support.



Middle School Honor Roll Students

**Congratulations to the Middle School Honor Roll students:** Eleven students were recognized in late October during a breakfast celebration for their honor roll achievements for the first grading period. Nineteen students were also recognized for perfect attendance during the first grading period.

**Thank you to our two new master gardeners:** Joyce Smith and Joan Robinson, family members of our 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Francisco, have agreed to volunteer to work with elementary students several times a month to refresh the butterfly and courtyard garden.



**Thank you Outback Steakhouse Pro Am:** Last April, our Academy was selected as one of five beneficiaries of the 2008 Outback Steakhouse Pro Am proceeds. On October 29th, a check for \$80,000 was presented by Amy Hawk, Tournament Director to our board members Bob Basham, Fred Whaley and Frank Chivas at a press conference held in the Bob James Education Center. Frank Chivas, Development Chair for the Board of Directors, made opening remarks to students, guests and media members. Those funds will help us expand Academy enrollment to 250 students over the next three years and provide campus renovations.



Amy Hawk, Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am Tournament Director and Board Members Frank Chivas, Bob Basham and Fred Whaley join students at check presentation



Chi Chi Rodriguez

**ESPN.com features Chi Chi:** George J. Tanber of ESPN.com released an article about his past and present accomplishments, his work around the world to help children and his newest project in Puerto Rico called El Legado. "Imagine talking about a \$100 million project in a place where your first job, at age 7, had you running water to sugar cane laborers for \$1 a day. To understand the man, not just the golfer, it's imperative to know where his journey began...Chi Chi had crafted a club out of a guava limb and was hitting balls made from tin cans into holes dug at home plate and second base at a nearby ball field..." He rose to world fame during his Senior Golf Tour years and founded the Chi Chi Rodriguez Youth Foundation in 1979.

To read more of Chi Chi's article go to [sports.espn.go.com](http://sports.espn.go.com) and search for "Chi Chi Rodriguez".



**Chi Chi Golf Club teams up with the Champions Junior Golf Tour:** For the first time the Chi Chi Rodriguez Golf Club hosted two Champions Junior Golf Tour regional tournaments in which our own Academy apprentice team members Brian Kuhles, Connor O'Fallon, Tanner Hogan and Sean Fromme competed. The apprentice team also traveled to Bradenton to compete in the Florida State AAU Champions Tournament at the IMG Golf and Country Club (El Conquistador). This is great experience for these young people to sharpen their golf games as well as practice their life skills in the world of competitive golf.



**Thank you to Clearwater For Youth (CFY):** We received a \$5,000 grant to help purchase new sports equipment. With our programs and student numbers expanding the equipment is an asset to help kids have fun and learn valuable lessons in life-skills and core values. Parents of The First Tee participants observe positive changes in communication skills, social abilities, improved grades, and self confidence.

**Chi Chi Academy After School Program starts Flag Football league:** Our Academy First Tee coaches along with the Safety Harbor Montessori Academy, The Largo Montessori and Palm Harbor Montessori Academy have teamed up to start an intramural flag football league. The teams held their first scrimmage near the end of October and plan to expand the league to include several local Academies. The Chi Chi Cheerleaders will also be an addition to the After School Program. This is a valuable addition to schools that have few organized competitive sports opportunities.



Middle School students huddle during a scrimmage against the Safety Harbor Montessori Academy

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**We offer planning resources through Raymond James.**

**visit us at [www.chichi.org](http://www.chichi.org)**

