

# Relay with Ralphie Raises \$3200

Story by Rachel R. Pein & photos by Rich Peine

November 3rd marked the third annual Fun-Pub Walk: Relay With Ralphie. The 6.3 mile walk honors the memory of Ralph Smith, a popular bartender at Snook's, who had a heart attack while working and died on June 28, 2005. The money raised by the walk are split between Relay for Life and the Humane Society.

Bob Albright, organizer of the walk, told us, "Ralph's friends wanted to honor his memory, and the event became the Relay With Ralphie, starting from Snook's and ending at the Caribbean Club, where his ashes were scattered. Stops along the way include Sharkey's, the Humane Society Hobo's, Paradise Pub, Senor Frijoles, and Rib Daddy's. It's called a relay because people join at each stop and also meet up at the Caribbean Club."

The walkers gathered at Snook's at 10:30 in the morning. The dogs were particularly pleased with the sponsorships they raised for the Humane Society. We chatted with a Lab/Shepherd named Reef, who along with his canine friend Coral were wearing "Beach Dog" necklaces made by Lynn Ickes-Duffy. The necklaces are made with shells and beads and a percentage of each sale goes to the Humane Society. You'll be seeing "Beach Dog" jewelry in local stores soon. Lynn's mom, Pat Ickes, came all the way from Middletown, Ohio for the walk, proudly saying, "I've done it

since the beginning and wouldn't miss it."

The Grand Marshall this year was Jackie Scripa, who is a breast cancer survivor. She moved here from New York about three years ago. As the walk started off, the Sheriffs stopped traffic and Jackie led the group across US 1, heading for Sharkey's.

First year participant Terrie Brubaker said, "The walk is a win-win situation - I'm with friends and enjoying the good weather, exercise, and I'm giving back."

As the walkers headed up the bike path, the Relay's medic, Shane Marshall, kept circling the group on her bicycle to make sure nobody got lost.

The walkers finally got off their weary feet at the Crib. The finale consisted of music and raffles of donations from our always generous community merchants. The group then went down to the bay to toast Ralph and send memorial flowers floating off.

About 140 people participated. The final count was about \$3200, to be split between the two charities. This once again shows how this community comes together to have fun and benefit those in need.



From left: Terrie Brubaker with dog Coral, Julie Marshall of Rib Daddy's, Shane Marshall, and Lynn Ickes-Duffy with dog Reef.



Grand Marshall Jackie Scipa, a breast cancer survivor, leads the group from Snook's Restaurant across US1 to Sharkey's Pub.

# Andrew Ball Fundraiser Success

Story & photos by Rich Peine

You know there are many places in the world where people help their community, but the Upper Keys give more than their share. Every couple of weeks or so there is someone or some organization that needs help. It seems that there are always volunteers to get the ball rolling. The last group of great folks who helped raised over \$12,000 for Andrew Ball, who had to have a tumor removed from his brain.

The benefit was held at Sharkey's. Andrew's Dad and brother were there, along with at least 200 supporters. There was a silent auction with over 50 items ranging from a Kona Guitar to

jewelry made by Terry Brubaker and Lynn Ickes-Duffy. Local businesses and artists also contributed a host of gifts and services.

Music was coordinated by Grateful Ted. He managed to get some of the best acts in the Keys including Paul Moen, Jimmy Hawkins, and Luke. Ted also played the wooden frog (similar to a wash board) as he waited for his set.

As usual, Adam and Paul were great hosts. They exemplify what the Keys are all about.



# Artist of the Month

## Puerto Rican Mike



Puerto Rican Mike has been coming to the Keys from his home in the Redlands for 40 years and started making his 'Keyzie' wood creations 25 years ago. Locals and tourists both love his art work.

Mike says, "I just love to create things". He also makes drift wood tables as well as tables made out of cypress. His seaside scenes can also be personalized.

You can find him at Gilbert's Resort weekend days and the Fish House on weekend nights, or call him at 305-233-5806 to set up an appointment to order that super special Christmas Gift. His work will also be on display at the Keys Visitor Center at Gilbert's.

# Voices for Children Fundraiser

ANNUAL LUNCHEON and SILENT & LIVE AUCTION and FASHION SHOW by ANGELIKA'S of ISLAMORADA

**VOICES FOR FLORIDA KEYS CHILDREN SATURDAY, DEC. 15TH - AT NOON CHEECA RESORT in ISLAMORADA**

Auction preview items starts at 11am \$ 60.00 per person (Cash bar)

Music by Dave Feder Guest Speaker Mary Cameron Kilgour authoress of Me, May, Mary

All proceeds go directly to Voices for Florida Keys Children

For Reservations Contact ML Singer 305.664.9030



# Benefit for Chris Hocker's Family

Sunday, December 9th • 1 p.m. at Sundowner's MM 104, bayside

Chris was killed in a tragic accident on his way to work at Sundowners on October 30th. He was just 27 years old and leaves behind by his wife LaChell Ann and four children including his one-week old son.

Chris was employed as a bartender at Sudowners. He was a hard worker, a family man, a member of South Dade Baptist Church and he taught computers and coached girls basketball. He is sadly missed by all who knew him.

Chris's family is in desperate need of financial help not only for day to day living but for overdue bills

and medical expenses incurred. To help raise funds his co-workers and friends have planned this fundraiser. Local bands are donating their time for this benefit and there will be food, auctions and raffles. Come out and enjoy a fun afternoon and help this family in their time of need.

For more event information or to make an auction donation contact Sue Finney at (305) 394-3736 or Justin Andrews at (305) 522-4777. Monetary donations can also be made to "The Hocker Family Fund" at the 1st National Bank of South Florida.

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