

## ‘Skip-A-Lunch, Feed-A-Bunch’


*Temple Terrace Boys and Girls Club*

Temple Terrace Police Chief Rob Staley shared in the holiday spirit at the Boys and Girls Club by helping with the food distributions. Staley said, “Being out here with Tampa East Sertoma, serving these deserving and appreciative families, is the best part of my year. I wouldn’t miss it for the world.”



***Echaniz Halyard, Damarcus Norwood, Justice Hamilton, Andreis Ferguson, Tampa East Sertoma Club member Don Leggett and Temple Terrace Police Chief Rob Staley at Boys and Girls Club.***

The Boys and Girls Club facility, managed by Director Carl Brandon, offers after-school programs and childcare designed to assist children in succeeding in school. It provides a safe & empowering environment, complete with help with homework, STEM, College & Career Prep Programs and much more.



***Don Leggett, Carl Brandon, Andreas Ferguson, Damarcus Norwood, Jaece Hamilton, Sgt. Tandra Mehadopoulos, Chief Rob Staley, Jim Weiss, and Hugh Prince.***

*St. Joseph Catholic School*

The distribution at St. Joseph Catholic School was coordinated by long term Sertoma Club member Laura White, who is Director of Grants and Programs for the Conn Memorial Foundation. St. Joseph's is a past grantee of Conn Memorial Foundation, and White worked with the School Principal Tony Crafa to identify families which would benefit the most from the Tampa East Sertoma holiday meal donations.



**Tampa East Sertoma Club members: Art Whiting, Jim Weiss, Joe Howell and Laura White with others, sorting groceries for distribution.**

### ***Greco Middle School***

The third stop was Greco Middle School in Temple Terrace, where families received the holiday meal grocery delivery. Tampa East Sertoma has given funds to Greco Middle School families in the past. Susan Gessman, Secretary/Treasurer and Monica Chambers, President of the Greco Middle School Parent Teacher Student Association, and Jay McNair, Community Resource Teacher helped in coordinating with Greco selecting families in need of food for the holiday season.

Teacher  
personnel in  
assistance



***Milan Gessman, VP Greco Middle School  
PTSA, Laoney Hall, Monica Dailey  
grocery recipients and Joe Howell,  
Tampa East Sertoma Club member.***

### ***The SALFAB Tradition***

The SALFAB tradition of holiday giving was started by Tampa East Sertoma Club founding member, the Honorable Judge Jack Griffin. Griffin, having lived through times of hunger, wanted younger club members to become aware of the implications of hunger by frequently skipping lunch and donating that ‘lunch money’ to feed families during the holidays. Thus, the tradition of ‘Skip-A-Lunch/Feed-A-Bunch’ became the SALFAB program.

Funds for the program come from several sources these days. Members continue to donate their ‘lunch money’ to support the SALFAB initiative, individual members also make additional donations, and the Club’s fund-raising proceeds add additional support. In these difficult economic times, Tampa East Sertoma Club members saw a need to increase the SALFAB funds and number of recipients from last year, with funds totaling \$7,400, supporting 37 families with holiday food donations.

*“Giving families in need food for Christmas is one of my favorite Sertoma Club activities. The joy of the holiday season expressed in the happy faces of the recipients reminds me of why I joined this club. I get more personal reward from this event than any other.”* said Tampa East Sertoma Club Chairman of the Board Jim Weiss.

### ***Thanks to Publix Super Market***

Publix Super Market Carrollwood again provided in-kind food donations of their own as well as considerable employee time to put the food bags together. Store Manager Jennifer Redmond and Grocery Manager, Jimmie McIlrath along with several of Publix employees worked very hard to organize the groceries based on family sizes and to do “thrifty” shopping to try to select “Buy

One, Get One” (BOGO) products to make the donations go even farther. Redmond has said *“It’s a pleasure to work with Sertoma to deliver meals at this time of year.”*

### *Who We Are*

**Sertoma** stands for **SER**vice **TO MAn**kind, which is a perfect description of the group's mission. Tampa East Sertoma Club was founded in 1965 and is one of the area’s oldest civic organizations, serving the Tampa Bay community for more than 60 years.

Tampa East Sertoma club is a non-profit 501(c)3 charitable organization. This year marked our 60<sup>th</sup> year since it was founded in 1965 and the Club is proud of raising well over \$2.5 million for local organizations and donating more than 800,000 volunteer hours to the community.

### *Our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic*

The Club hosts multiple fundraising events throughout the year, from 5k races and events to its biggest and most successful fundraiser – The Tampa East Sertoma Golf Classic. This year’s 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic drew 76 golfers and numerous event sponsors and was a great success, adding significantly to the Club’s ability to help others.

As in the past, this year’s 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic was held at The Eagles Golf Club in Odessa in October. Plans are already underway for next year’s Golf Classic to be held on October 23, 2026, at the Eagles. If you are interested in participating in next year’s golf classic or supporting us as a Sponsor, please contact golf event coordinator, Bill Smith at (813) 433.6051.

### *Who We Help*

Organizations aided by the Club include: USF Audiology Scholarships, Self Relance, Lopez Exceptional School, Early Childhood Council, Skip-A-Lunch/Feed-A-Bunch, Meals on Wheels, Buddy Baseball, Boys and Girls Club of Temple Terrace, A League of Their Own, Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation, and the John Tragon Foundation.

### *Contact Us*

To learn more about Tampa East Sertoma Club, please visit [www.TampaEastSertomaClub.org](http://www.TampaEastSertomaClub.org), our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TampaEastSertomaClub/>, or contact our Chairman of the Board, Jim Weiss at 813.431.3058. For information about our national organization, Sertoma, Inc., and its community of clubs, call 816.333.8300 or visit: [www.Sertoma.org](http://www.Sertoma.org).