

COUNCIL ITEM 13L
DATE 10/22/12

MaryAnn Verillo

From: Greg Oravec [GOravec@cityofpsl.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 2:14 PM
To: Mayor Faiella; Shannon Martin; Linda Bartz; Jack Kelly; Edward Cunningham; MaryAnn Verillo; Reporter
Subject: FW: History 9-12.doc
Attachments: History 9-12.doc

From: LindaB[SMTP:LINDAB@GATE.NET]
Sent: Thursday, October 18, 2012 2:13:25 PM
To: Greg Oravec
Subject: History 9-12.doc
Auto forwarded by a Rule

Greg

Per our discussion, please place on the ^{10/22}~~8/22~~ agenda a discussion item regarding presenting a key to the city to Scott VanDuzer.

I also have a list of the city's residents that he has helped with his fundraisers.

Thank you

Linda Bartz
Vice Mayor

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OCT 18 2012
City Managers Office



www.thevanduzerfoundation.org

2311 S. 35th Street, Fort Pierce, FL 34981

(772) 528-3467

Contact: Scott VanDuzer

August 7, 2012

The Van Duzer Foundation is a local non-profit organization that was created in 2008 to help families and individuals right here in St. Lucie County who had been impacted by tragic or unforeseen circumstances. Since its inception just under four years ago, the Van Duzer Foundation has broken two world records, individually and directly helped over 40 families, brought Tim Tebow, Don Shula, and Bob Griese to Fort Pierce, organized blood drives that have garnered more than 5,100 pints of blood, and raised and donated over \$650,000 to families and individuals in need. Whether it's a dodgeball tournament, a pizza block party with pizzas stretching a world record-breaking city block, an Internationally sanctioned pizza eating contest, or a simple family-style dinner and fun night, our fundraising events are just this side of legendary, and are well-attended by many in the community.

A couple of years ago, our Founder, Scott Van Duzer, learned about two little boys in desperate need of blood to combat cancers. Because of a shortage of blood, one of the boys had to wait nine hours in an emergency room for life-saving blood to arrive. This was more than Scott could bear, and he challenged the Van Duzer Foundation board to host a blood drive, partnering with Florida's Blood Centers. Over 300 pints was collected at the first drive, which was followed up shortly thereafter with the inaugural *Be a Hero Day*, which garnered over 1,000 pints of blood. The Foundation has encouraged and hosted several drives since, and a total of over 5,500 pints of blood has been collected. Since each blood donation is separated into components, such as red blood cells, platelets and plasma, the blood collected through the Van Duzer Foundation has impacted over 15,000 people!

While the Van Duzer Foundation has helped increase donations, there is always a critical need for blood donors, and during the summer of 2012, the Van Duzer Foundation, in collaboration of Florida's Blood Centers, Boys & Girls Clubs, individuals, businesses, and community leaders from Miami, Florida to Washington, DC created the *Be a Hero Bicycle Tour*. The 1,100 mile bicycle ride which ended with a four hour meeting with the United States Surgeon General, helped bring awareness to communities in five states of the critical need for blood donations, and provided an opportunity to celebrate the gift that doesn't cost a cent, and the chance for everyone to become a real life super-hero, simply by donating blood.

On November 14th, the Van Duzer Foundation, with the help of Florida's Blood Centers, will be hosting its fourth annual *Be a Hero Day Blood Drive* at Big Apple Pizza in Fort Pierce. It's an amazing day when over a thousand community heroes come together to share the gift of life by donating blood. We and are delighted to continue to provide unique ways for everyone to positively impact the community through the donation of the most important natural resource – life.