



August 2017

Once again we wish to express appreciation to all members and friends who support the programs and activities of JOY, Inc. Thanks to **New Sarasotans** for their devotion and monetary support for the past two years. Scholarships from **Palm Aire Women's Club and Meadows Crafters** are wonderful assets for our ongoing endeavors to assist youth who are at-risk.

Three new enthusiastic individuals have been elected to the Board of Directors. They are: **Kathleen Gibson, Sandy Truman, and Lisa Compton**. More individuals who can work with us on the specific programs are welcome. Please contact us if you are interested in helping us serve the special needs of youth who are aging out of foster care and those whose lives are full of uncertainty.

We are grateful for the opportunity to present who we are and why we are working with at-risk-youth to the Sarasota PEO and the Ruth Circle from the First Congregational Church of Sarasota UCC. Their interest and warm reception are invaluable as we strive to indicate the overwhelming need to serve young people who are working toward establishing a place of their own in our community.

Trendy Threads continues to welcome shoppers on Saturday from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM, or by appointment if at all possible. Fortunately, with an advance request, Trendy Threads provided first-time prom dresses for two excited young ladies. Four young men recently came to Trendy Threads and afterward asked their adult sponsor to send a note expressing their joy in finding clothes. He said, "The boys asked me to thank you once again for the clothing and your help in coordinating their outfits. One in particular was very excited about the suit, shirt, and tie you helped to pick out. He plans on wearing the outfit at a function very soon. Jo and Terry, plus the entire organization, have been very generous with time and contributions over the 12 years that I have been a Guardian ad Litem." Special back to school shopping is planned for this August. Effort is made to make backpacks, jeans, khakis, and shoes available in appropriate sizes for the students heading back to classes.

Keys to Success, our learning to drive program, supports new drivers as they learn and qualify for a license to drive. This young lady has been deemed an excellent driver by her instructor.



Several **Housekeeping Starter Kits** have been requested as individuals move to independent living for the very first time. The kit is well described on our web site. One young woman needed three because she is adopting her two teenage cousins. She wants them to have advantages and direction that she did not have while growing to adulthood.

We became aware of the need for two bicycles and were happy to provide them along with a pump, locks, and helmets. The young women, according to their sponsor, were overjoyed with the ability to get to and from their employment.

With the guidance and encouragement from one of our **devoted tutors**, a young woman passed her math test, an achievement she needed to complete the requirements for a GED. She sent a note saying, "Thank You So Much. Brian IS By Far The Best Tutor I've Ever Had. He Goes Over And Beyond. I Really Do Appreciate It."

Four graduating youth attended a reception at Trendy Threads on June 15, 2017. In addition to having the opportunity to select clothing, they were also pleased to receive a special greeting and gift of seventy-five dollars.

Volunteers are needed:

- To assist at Trendy Threads
- To help to assemble Housekeeping Starter Kits
- To shop for bicycles
- To monitor Keys to Success
- To coordinate students and tutors