In the Know Palm Beach: Oct. 20, 2012

Your guide to noteworthy appointments, nominations and donations taking place within our community of nonprofit organizations

October 12, 2012

On Sept. 15 United Way of Palm Beach County kicked off its 2012-13 campaign with the "Food Truck/Food Drive." The evening of fun and food-raising hosted more than 450 guests of all ages who enjoyed gourmet cuisine from several of South Florida's popular food trucks while donating nonperishable food items in place of admission. Nearly one ton of food was donated to and will be distributed by Palm Beach County Food Bank, United Way's partner organization.

The event also featured face painting, a bounce house, music and art projects guided by ActivistArtistA Gallery and sponsored by Jerry's Artarama of West Palm Beach. Macaroni Kid offered games and prizes while representatives from United Way's partner nonprofits attended to meet guests and discuss the beneficial work they do in Palm Beach County.

For more information, visit http://www.UnitedWayPBC.org.

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) recently received the personal papers of Virginia Artrip Snyder, a graduate of FAU's inaugural class who went on to become an award-winning investigative reporter, a nationally known private investigator, and an advocate for justice and equality. The 91-year-old Delray Beach resident gifted her documents to the Wimberly Library, which established the Virginia Snyder Collection.

"It is an honor to house the papers of such a distinguished and interesting alumna of FAU," said FAU Dean of University Libraries, William Miller.

After graduating from FAU in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in government and politics, Snyder worked as an investigative journalist with the Fort Lauderdale News, and later, the Boca Raton News, where she won seven national, state and local awards. She opened a detective agency in Delray Beach in 1976 and gained prominence as she investigated cold cases and cases of convicted or imprisoned inmates whom she thought were innocent. As a community activist and volunteer, Snyder founded and directed (for three years) the South County Neighborhood Center at Boca Raton, which was later renamed the Mae Volen Senior Center.

The Virginia Snyder Collection is housed in Special Collections at FAU's Wimberly Library. To review a guide to the collection, visit http://www.library.fau.edu/units/spc/spc/snyder.htm.

II Circolo, the Italian Cultural Society of the Palm Beaches, partnered with the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF) based in Washington, D.C., awarding scholarships to two local students. Every year NIAF determines contestants according to II Circolo's criteria that they be local, of Italian heritage and academically proficient with ambition to pursue a career that will encourage them to uphold and advance Italian culture. Madison Marie McIntosh from West Palm Beach and Michael Olson from Boca Raton are this year's winners.

McIntosh is a student at The New School of Music of Mannes College in New York. She has given performances at New York Lyric Opera Theatre and Carnegie Hall. Locally, she has been invited several times to perform at the Kravis Center and has sung in Vero Beach Opera's concert "Broadway, Operetta and Zarzuela."

Olson is enrolled in the University of Florida's pre-med program. A second generation Italian American, he was raised with a strong foundation in the Italian culture. "My grandfather always stressed to us the importance of keeping our heritage alive and I hope to do the same with my family," said Olson.

For more information, visit http://www.IICircoloPalmBeach.org.

The Milagro Center in Delray Beach recently hosted a "Thank You" celebration honoring their volunteers, mentors, donors and community stakeholders who have helped support the center's afterschool care, cultural arts, academics and mentoring programs to local at-risk children and youth living at or below the federal poverty level.

Art Works 4 Food received the Milagro STAR plaque for their participation in the "Fresh Fruit" program. The group delivered fresh healthy fruit to the 70 children at the Milagro Center for 10 weeks this summer, as well as to the C.R.O.S. Ministries Summer Camp program at St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the Boys & Girls Club of Delray Beach for a total of 5,000 pieces of fresh nutrition.

Art Works 4 Food works to raise funds to purchase the needed foods for healthy food for homeless and hungry children in Palm Beach County. For more information visit http://www.ArtWorks4Food.org.

The Milagro Center is an arts and education program that nurtures creativity, builds a sense of self worth and inspires youth to reach their potential. Milagro serves disadvantaged, undervalued children, teens and families throughout South Florida.

For more information, visit http://www.MilagroCenter.org.