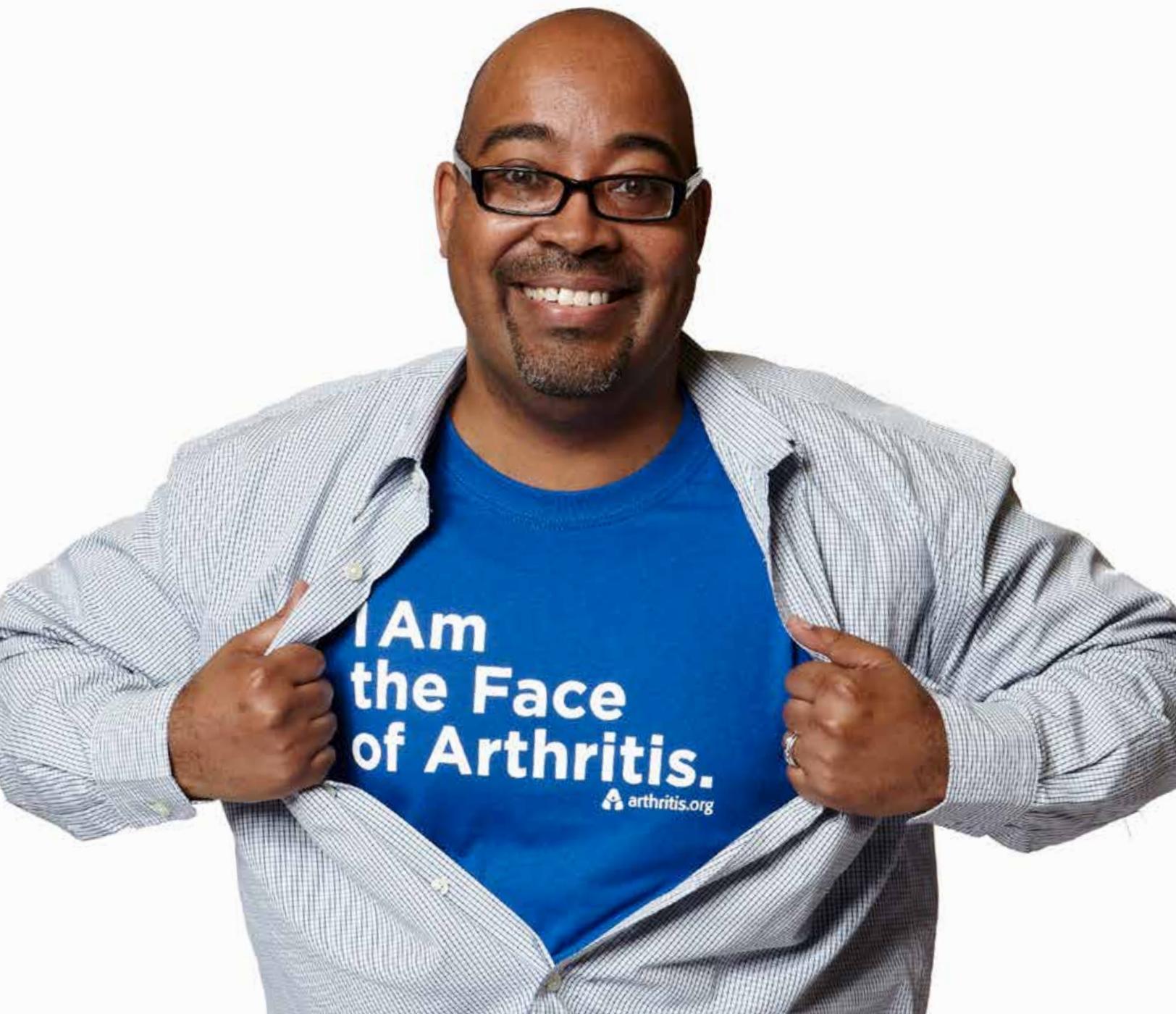


# FACES OF ARTHRITIS



## 2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Arthritis Foundation, Florida Chapter



Florida Chapter

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR AND THE PRESIDENT

Have you seen the faces of arthritis? More than likely someone you know and love is among them....perhaps you are among them as well. Millions of Americans including over 300,000 children are affected by one or more of the over 100 types of arthritis. It is the leading cause of disability in our nation.

In this Annual Report you will see the faces of six courageous Floridians who live daily with the pain, stiffness and other debilitating effects of arthritis....there are over five million more. The Arthritis Foundation/ Florida Chapter is working hard to create a bright future for these individuals and their families through the collaborative efforts of caring volunteers, corporate sponsors, public and private foundations, government entities, advocates and donors. Together we can make a difference.

This report illustrates how the Florida Chapter and our partners fight arthritis through research, advocacy, outreach, communication and fundraising. We are inspired by the faces of people who are challenged by this disease and we respond with action. With arthritis prevalence at an all-time high and surging, we need your support now more than ever. As the only nonprofit health organization dedicated solely to fighting arthritis, we cannot do it alone.

Every person, every face, every dollar makes a difference. We sincerely thank you for supporting the Arthritis Foundation/ Florida Chapter.



**Dennis Olden**  
Chair



**Anne Fair Forrest**  
President/CEO

# FACES OF ARTHRITIS

## Meet Sierra 2013 Arthritis Walk Jacksonville Child Honoree



**My name is Sierra. I may look like your average seven year old but what you don't see is the pain that I deal with from Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis.** I was two years old when I experienced my first flare up from arthritis. I went to bed one night having some pain in my left knee and when I woke up the next morning my knee still was hurting and it was also swollen, stiff and had fever in it. My mom and stepdad took me to the emergency room right away. When we got there the doctors ran several tests on me and let us go home with a conclusion that I had pulled something in my knee. After a few days my mom took me to see my doctor because my knee was not getting any better. Due to the pain and stiffness in my knee I was not able to walk so I had to be carried just about everywhere I went. I went through eight months of seeing doctor after doctor and having several different types of tests run on me before I saw Dr. Moran. Dr. Moran was able to finally tell my family

what was causing the pain, stiffness and swelling in my knee. We found out a few months after I turned three that I had Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis. Now, when I have flare ups I go see Dr. Tolaymat at his office. While I am there they drain the fluid that has built up on my knee and then I get a steroid shot to help with my pain and flare ups. After each shot I have to stay off my feet for about 24 hours to let the steroid do its job. When Sierra is asked what it's like to have arthritis as a kid, she says, "It's all I know and pray that one day there will be a cure for all of us that have arthritis!"

## Meet Alex

### 2013 Arthritis Walk Broward Child Honoree



**Alex was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis in March 2009 at the age of five and a half. While the diagnosis was a shock, it answered so many questions and corrected so many previous diagnosis's that Alex had received.** Alex had always struggled with what was thought to be sensory issues and developmental delays, when in reality it had been the JRA all along. When you have JRA in your toes, knees, hips, elbows and shoulders, etc, it is so easy to see why it was thought

to be developmental delays. Thanks to his great doctor and aggressive treatment beginning at his very first rheumatology appointment; Alex was able to achieve drug induced remission in November 2011. Sadly he came out of it a few months later but he is doing so well now and is back on the road to drug induced remission.

Today he is 9 years old and continues weekly treatment and therapy sessions. He hates getting his injections but he knows that those two shots make him able to run, swim, golf, and just be a kid who can play catch with his dad. He is thriving in school and is quite the little comedian....after all he's been through he knows the value of laughing and smiling! He still wishes there was a cure and we all hope and pray that one day soon, his wish will be a reality.

## Meet Noah

### 2013 Arthritis Walk Orlando Child Honoree



**Since, my son Noah (now 11 years old), was diagnosed with Juvenile Arthritis in August 2010, I have spent days and nights searching for the right doctors and medication to help ease his pain and suffering.** The Arthritis Foundation enables families to connect and support one another through special JA camps, family connect days, a JA family Facebook site, and the annual JA conference. But, most importantly is the vital funding for research to give JA

families Hope That One Day There Will Be A Cure.

Noah was on hospital homebound for the entire 4th grade school year (last year). He was on his 4th arthritis medication (monthly IV infusions and injections at home) to try and put his arthritis into a medical remission as well as antiinflammatory, and pain medications. Noah did not bring home the Christian Witness award, Science Fair award, or Choir Award as he did the previous year. But, Noah and his team "On Eagles Wings" brought home three awards from the Orlando Arthritis Walk for raising money to help find a cure for this chronic, painful disease. The smile on his face when he received the awards was priceless-for this award wasn't just about him-it was helping all who are suffering daily with arthritis.

### Stacie and Chris Pohlman

Parents of Noah Pohlman

*"Those who hope in the Lord will soar on wings like eagles." Isaiah 40:31*

# FACES OF ARTHRITIS

## Meet Parker

### 2013 Arthritis Walk Tampa Child Honoree

#### Who is P-A-R-K-E-R?



**P** - Parker is a Powerful Positive "Purple Playa" with a Passionate hope for a CURE!

**A** - An Arthritis Foundation Advocate...Anyone can help by walking and donating!

**R** - Rays #1 baseball fan who likes to have fun!

**K** - Kid just trying to be a normal kid!

**E** - Excited child honoree who wants Everyone to join him in his battle to win against JA!

**R** - Really really strong and really wants YOUR support!

Parker is a child who believes "You are never fully dressed without a SMILE!" Everyone in this world, especially our children, deserves to smile each and every day. We want to share Parker's amazing smile with you, because despite all he endures...he has a way of not only finding his contagious smile but sharing with others, so that smiles spread. All children deserve pain-free fun! Please take a moment to support Parker and all children with JA. It only takes a click of a button to donate, a moment in time, to contribute to finding a cure ...for restoring HOPE...and for sharing smiles with many children and their families.

## Meet Niki

### 2013 Arthritis Walk Tampa Adult Honoree



**After being diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis and Fibromyalgia, on top of several other medical conditions, Niki went in search of online support.**

Despite becoming disabled, she continues to have a positive outlook and is always available to help others. Instead of dwelling on the negative aspects of her medical issues, she reached out and created an online community of support. Niki strives to raise awareness for Autoimmune Arthritis, raise money for the cure, and educate patients diagnosed with Rheumatoid Arthritis or related conditions. Niki lives in Clearwater, Florida with her fiancé, Murphy, Little Niki, five dogs, four cats and some fish. She's currently 32 years old and even though she was born in Ohio she could never think of anywhere but Florida as her home.

On top of her tireless efforts with the RA Chicks, Niki keeps herself busy with many projects in the works. She is the founding member of "I Love Someone with Rheumatoid Arthritis", "I hate taking methotrexate", "The Cane Brigade", "The Rheumatoid Arthritis Insomniacs Club", and "eReaderLove.com" Facebook groups. In addition, she also runs the website ereaderlove.com as well as rachicks.com. Recently she was awarded Best in Show on Facebook Health Activist award by Wego.

## Meet Angela 2013 Arthritis Walk Pensacola Adult Honoree



**I was born August 1963. I was very fortunate to have a caring mother who had the hardest job as the caregiver. My younger brother also played an important part in my life, he was always there to challenge and help me.**

I was four years old when I was diagnosed with Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) at The University of Florida, Shands Hospital. Medication in the 1960's to treat JRA was adult Bayer aspirins. Taking strong medicine required a routine of three meals a day to protect my stomach. One challenge of the disease is stiffness. Physical therapy was important moving all the joints, arms and legs, through range of motion every day. Believe me, this was not easy. I can still hear in my head "Use It or Lose It." My father was in the Navy and we moved every 3 to 4 years. By the 1970's I was taking gold injections weekly then monthly. I stayed on gold for 25 years. Did the injections keep JRA from completely destroying my joints? I want to believe the injections helped. Along with gold I took anti-inflammatory pills and prednisone for short periods of time. By the 1980's joint replacement surgery was available to fix the deformities with my arms and legs that had occurred over 16 years. I can say I really benefited from the technology developed with joint replacements. For the next 22 years I had over 25 surgeries fixing and repairing my arms and legs so I could continue to function. Each surgery we faced we believed that the outcome was going to be great. At the age of 16, I got my driver's license. May 1981, I graduated from Pine Forest High School and then I went to college. I attended Pensacola Junior College and University of West Florida, graduating in 1991 with a Bachelor Degree in Accounting. It took me 10 years to finish, but I had a real feeling of accomplishment. May 1984 I got a civil service job at Naval Air Station and worked 23 years. Each day I went to work I approached the day as a challenge. By the year 2000, I had stopped taking gold injection. I was 37 years old and the JRA was considered burned out. However, a big problem started, my left elbow joint replacement was infected. After several years and many antibiotics, we decided it was time for another opinion. April 2003 I went for an appointment in New York City. May 2003 I had surgery at The Hospital for Special Surgery, removing the infected metal elbow joint. Four surgeries later, my left elbow is infection free. June 2007 I retired from work at Saufley Field Base. November 2007 I returned to NYC for a right knee revision. Since retiring, I can take time to choose what I do each day. I definitely work hard at keeping my independence. I have a great family, great friends and a great church that keeps me going. At the age of 49, I can see that perseverance pays off. Luckily, my family has a sense of humor and faith that gets us through tough times. My outlook on life is that every day that I am not in the emergency room or in the hospital is a great day. But most importantly, I want to express again it was not easy and that my mother and brother had the hardest jobs, being my cheerleaders. Presently, my medications are a few pills each day and I work hard at preserving my many joint replacements. I am involved with the Arthritis Foundation in raising money for research and finding a cure for arthritis.

### Dear President Barack Obama,



appropriate interventions, the number of Americans with arthritis is expected to increase to 67 million Americans within the next 20 years.

#### Sincerely,

Florida Arthritis Ambassadors and E-Advocates

**Join us;** sign up today to be an E-advocate at [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org). Tell them what the Face of Arthritis in Florida looks like.

### Take Control. We Can Help

The Arthritis Foundation's Programs for Better Living are empowering people with arthritis through movement. Exercise programs and educational events are offered throughout Florida in collaboration with our wonderful Community Partners, Program Instructors and Volunteers. Information is available on our website [www.arthritis.org/florida](http://www.arthritis.org/florida), on our Arthritis Foundation Florida Chapter Face Book page or by calling our program office 800-850-9455. No matter what your diagnosis we can help you discover ways to cope with arthritis pain, fatigue and inflammation, while keeping up-to-date on the latest breakthroughs in arthritis diagnosis and treatments.

### In Florida 16,100 children are the Face of Arthritis

Juvenile Arthritis is one of the most common childhood diseases in the United States, yet a family dealing with JA often feels confused and alone. The Arthritis Foundation, Florida Chapter is helping these children and their families through our sponsorship of:

- Three special summer camps, Camp Boggy Creek near Orlando, Camp FunRise, Miami and Camp Miracle in Pensacola offer programs designed especially for children with arthritis.
- The Family Retreat Weekends at Camp Boggy Creek
- Florida Family Scholarships to the National Arthritis Foundation JA Conference
- JA Connect, JA Family Fun Days and JA Family Facebook Group for Parents

## SPECIAL EVENTS



### The Florida Chapter had many outstanding special events in 2012. Here are some of our Highlights!

Our **Joints In Motion** team started off our banner year by participating in the Walt Disney World Marathon weekend. Eighteen members participated in either the marathon, half marathon or Goofy Challenge and together they raised over \$35,000 in our fight against arthritis. Back for their tenth year was “Team Exactech” (Gainesville), through the hard work and dedication of their employees, over the last five years the team has raised over \$200,000 towards our mission of prevention, control and cure of arthritis and related diseases.

Springtime brings our **“Magic of Caring”** fashion show featuring children, young adults and their families who live daily with some form of arthritis. This wonderful event not only heightened the awareness of juvenile arthritis but also raised over \$50,000. Sincere gratitude to all the kids, parents, volunteers and sponsors whose hard work and dedication make this event possible.

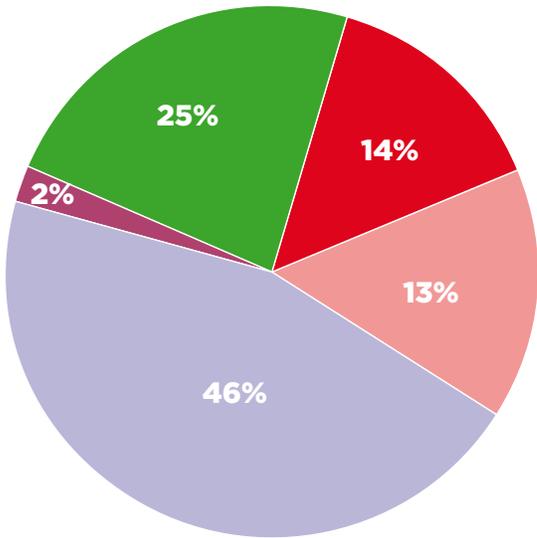
One of our national signature events, **Arthritis Walk** had us moving together around the state in a huge way! We hosted seven events for over three thousand registered participants. Implemented by an army of enthusiastic volunteers and supported by faithful sponsors we were able to raise over \$467,000 a 19% increase over 2011! Walks were held in Jacksonville, Lake Worth, Miami-Dade, Orlando, Pensacola and Tampa.

2012 ended with everybody’s favorite holiday happening, the Arthritis Foundation’s **Jingle Bell Run/Walks**. Always a fun and festive way to kick off the holiday season Jingle Bell R/W’s were held in Fort Myers, Fort Walton Beach, Jacksonville, Orlando, Pensacola Beach, Punta Gorda, Tampa and our largest event in Bradenton broke the \$100,000 peak! Statewide this signature event generated close to \$370,000 moving us closer in our quest for a cure.

**A total of \$967,000 was raised in 2012 as a result of all special events.**

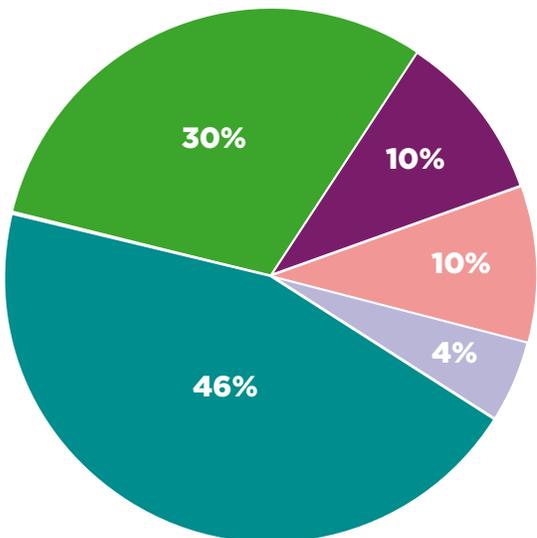
# FINANCIAL REPORT

## FLORIDA CHAPTER REVENUE 2012



Contributions	\$1,810,587
Government Grants and Other Income	\$93,711
Special Events (Net)	\$967,082
Bequests	\$547,419
Investment and Other Non-operating Income	\$505,952
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$3,924,669</b>

## FLORIDA CHAPTER EXPENDITURES 2012



Research	\$148,718
Public Health Education	\$1,703,532
Professional Education	\$6,760
Patient & Community Services	\$1,129,052
Fund Raising	\$389,277
Management & General	\$356,818
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,734,157</b>

# FLORIDA CHAPTER LOCATIONS

## CHAPTER OFFICE

410 12th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34205  
(941) 747-8303 (800) 672-0882 FAX: (941) 748-6767  
**E-mail: [info.fl@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl@arthritis.org)**

## CHAPTER RELATIONS

14870 Tamiami Trail, A-202, North Port, FL 34287  
(941) 423-9997 (877) 425-9997 FAX: (941) 423-3927

## CHAPTER MISSION DELIVERY

3816 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Suite 303, Tampa, FL 33618  
(813) 968-7000 (800) 850-9455 FAX: (813) 968-1119

## SOUTHWEST (BRADENTON)

410 12th Street West, Bradenton, FL 34205  
(941) 708-3901 (800) 741-4008 FAX: (941) 748-2226  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b5@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b5@arthritis.org)**

## NORTHWEST (PENSACOLA)

8383 North Davis Highway, Pensacola, FL 32514  
(850) 471-1541 (800) 578-7183 FAX: (850) 471-1483  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b1@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b1@arthritis.org)**

## NORTHEAST (JACKSONVILLE)

Jacksonville, FL  
(800) 672-0882 and (904) 644-7317  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b2@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b2@arthritis.org)**

## CENTRAL (ORLANDO)

13000 Avalon Lake Drive, Suite 302, Orlando, FL 32828  
(407) 208-1766 FAX: (407) 208-1765  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b3@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b3@arthritis.org)**

## GULFCOAST (TAMPA)

3816 W. Linebaugh Avenue, Suite 303, Tampa, FL 33618-8900  
(813) 968-7000 (800) 850-9455 FAX: (813) 968-1119  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b4@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b4@arthritis.org)**

## MIDEAST(WEST PALM BEACH)

400 Hibiscus Street, Suite 100, West Palm Beach, FL 33401  
(561) 833-1133 (800) 654-1046 FAX: (561) 833-0311  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b6@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b6@arthritis.org)**

## BROWARD (FORT LAUDERDALE)

3405 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 1206, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(954) 616-1233 FAX: (954) 616-1232  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b7@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b7@arthritis.org)**

## SOUTHEAST (MIAMI)

3405 NW 9th Avenue, Suite 1206, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309  
(305) 873-6323 FAX: (954) 616-1232  
**E-mail: [info.fl.b8@arthritis.org](mailto:info.fl.b8@arthritis.org)**

## PLANNED GIVING DEPARTMENT

897 Cutler Road, Longwood, FL 32779  
(407) 788-2182 FAX: (407) 788-0820  
**E-mail: [pwalters@arthritis.org](mailto:pwalters@arthritis.org)**

## NATIONAL OFFICE - ATLANTA, GA

1330 West Peachtree St. N.W., Suite 100, Atlanta, GA 30309-2904  
(404) 872-7100 (800) 283-7800 MEMBERSHIP: (800) 933-0032

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Joyce McLendon, Sr. Vice Chair  
Tom Hagan, Treasurer  
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