



Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund

"Honoring Michael's Magic"

BULLETIN

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Our Mission:

The Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund was established in the spring of 2003 to celebrate the passion for the outdoors displayed by Michael Scholz during his lifetime. In Michael's memory and honor, the Fund exposes youth from diverse backgrounds to the natural beauty of places such as Key Biscayne and teaches them about South Florida's fragile environment through enriching hands-on experiences. The Fund is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit, tax exempt organization.



Michael Scholz October 27, 1972 to January 9, 2003



Campers arrive at Biscayne Nature Center

Michael's Magic Camp 2004

The Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund held its second annual Magic Camp in July, 2004. Forty inner-city youth ages 8 through 12 participated in this educational, life-enhancing adventure at Crandon Park's Biscayne Nature Center.

As in 2003, the days were filled with Michael's Magic. Under the guidance of trained counselors and naturalists, the children learned about sea creatures and plants, marine mammals, and birds of South Florida. They participated in sea-grass adventures, hammock hikes, mangrove slogs, nature scavenger hunts, sea turtle sightings, arts and crafts and even their own talent show. In addition to a Biscayne Bay Boat tour and trip to the Key Biscayne Cape Florida Lighthouse, the youngsters were stimulated by lecturers and story tellers. Bruce Blitman, a certified court mediator, generously donated his time to introduce the children to conflict resolution techniques. *The camp will be held again in 2005* and provide an expanded program including workshops on honesty, integrity, and character building.

The Fund graciously thanks Key Biscayne's Chicken Kitchen, Subway, and Sir Pizza, as well as Lovable Caterers and Linda's Subs for donating lunches for the campers. Thanks also to Paula and Jack Levine for having t-shirts and hats made.

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Many Thanks to our Supportive Community!

The Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund wishes to thank all friends, family members, neighbors and business colleagues who have donated so generously to keep Michael's memory and dreams alive. Special thanks go to Treasurer John Devaney, who issued a fundraising challenge in 2004 which was eagerly accepted and met by the Fund's Board of Directors. The Fund is deeply touched by John's efforts and his generous donation. The programs in this newsletter are an example of these contributions at work.

Contributions and Information

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Project Cradle

Through a partnership with Project Cradle, a pediatric AIDS organization with the University of Miami School of Medicine, the Fund enabled 100 HIV positive children to spend a day of recreation and fun at the beaches of Cape Florida State Park. The outing included swimming, sand castles, games and lunch from Shorty's BarBQ for these youngsters who live at or below the federal poverty line.



Fun in the sun at Cape Florida State Park

Shake-A-Leg

The Fund made a financial contribution to the John E. Pearson Launch Boat being built by Shake-A-Leg Miami. The boat will provide disabled and underserved youngsters with access to Biscayne Bay and its beautiful eco-islands. It is also a legacy honoring John Pearson, a lover of nature who met an untimely death in 2004.

Goulds Baseball Team

In the winter of 2004, the Michael Scholz Memorial Fund sponsored the "Gould's Rams," a youth-league baseball team located in a disadvantaged area of Miami Dade County. In Michael's memory, new baseball uniforms were purchased for the entire team.

Lighthouse Run Awards

The Fund thanks the Lighthouse Run & Walk committee for its financial contributions in 2003 and 2004. Eager to show its appreciation and reciprocate, the Fund's Board members volunteered for the 2004 event, held in beautiful Cape Florida State Park.

New Executive Director

Jill Stephens of Key Biscayne has been hired to help the Fund grow and fulfill its mission. She brings a wealth of experience in philanthropy to the Fund, from both corporate and non-profit perspectives. At America Online, Inc., Jill helped establish the AOL Foundation and directed all aspects of its founding national grants initiatives affecting education, community building and volunteerism. She previously served as Director of Policy Development with the US Chamber of Commerce. Jill has been a resident of Key Biscayne for four years and is an active volunteer in this community. We warmly welcome Jill and know she will work hard to advance the mission of the Michael Scholz Memorial Charitable Fund.