

Community News

Boca Raton

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Unsung Heroes

Chairman coordinates golf tourney to help charities

BY JENNIFER
SHAPIRO-SACKS
Special Correspondent

Name: Jay DiPietro
Residence: Delray Beach
Birthplace: Boston
Age: 78
Family: Wife, Sharon;
seven sons, one stepson and
one stepdaughter, 24 grand-
children and one great
grandchild

Career: Country club
management, head of Boca
West for 30 years

Organization: Club Man-
agers Association of America
Seminole Region Club Man-
agers' Charity Golf Tourna-
ment and Gala, which raises
money for disadvantaged
children. The charity golf
tournament supports 10 to 12
different charities such as
Special Olympics of Palm
Beach, SOS Children's Vil-
lage, Place of Hope, Unicorn
Children's Foundation and
Toys for Tots.

**How long have you been
volunteering there?**

26 years

Why do you volunteer?

My six brothers and sis-
ters were children of immi-
grants from Italy and were
very poor. We had a real
tough time, but didn't know
it. Life has been good to me.
What I remember the most
was being a kid from the
slums and trying to make
the transition and how hard
we struggled to do it, and I
found out a lot of children
are in the same boat in South
Florida.

**Why did you choose this
organization?**

We wanted to start a pro-
gram to give underprivileged
children a start in life. I gathered
a bunch of guys we liked
and my sons and we strug-
gled, but we got associated
with Special Olympics right
away. We raised over
\$600,000 for the last 10 years



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jay DiPietro volunteers with
the Club Managers Associ-
ation of America Seminole
Region Club Managers'
Charity Golf Tournament
and Gala.

and every dollar goes toward
helping those kids. It's very
important to us.

**Describe your volun-
teer role.**

I'm chairman of the
15-person committee that
coordinates this event. I keep
the committee focused
throughout the year to get
everything done for this
event, which attracts
800-plus people to the gala,
more than 450 people for
golf and 15 to 20 different
marathon golf teams from
clubs throughout Southeast
Florida. The event benefits
10 to 12 Palm Beach County
charities for children in
need.

**What are your goals
when you volunteer?**

We go out and help kids,
that's our main goal - show-
ing kids there is a future for
them and helping them to
achieve it.

**What does your organi-
zation need?**

Donations. Anyone who
wants to help disadvantaged
children can send donations
to me care of of Boca West
Country Club and we'll

make sure it goes to the kids.

**Are any special events
coming up?**

Seminole Region Club
Managers' 26th annual
Charity Gala and Golf Tour-
nament will take place June
12 and 13, 2016 at Boca West
Country Club. We sell it out
every year.

**Is there a specific mem-
orable moment that
stands out to you during
your time volunteering?**

Out of all the wonderful
things, this touched me the
most. A number of years ago,
Richard from the Special
Olympics called and wanted
to do photos at John Prince
Park with the kids. They
were on the slides and
swings, and we were playing
with them and being like be-
ing brothers. I saw a boy and
he couldn't walk or talk. I
saw him staring at the kids
on the slide and I asked him
if he wanted to go on the
slide and asked his mother.
We had some committee
guys on each side and we
handed him down the slide
and he ended up in my arms;
what a wonderful moment
that was, and all the happi-
ness he had that made it
worthwhile. I have a picture
of him in my office; that pic-
ture of him and I said it all. It
means a lot to me.

**Is there anything else
you'd like to add?**

I am very honored to be
part of this group of wonder-
ful people. I've been doing
this for 26 years and we ap-
preciate any help anyone can
give us to help kids in dis-
tress.

Call DiPietro at Boca West
Country Club at
561-488-6990.

*If you know a Palm Beach
County resident who
deserves recognition for
volunteer work, email
tan90210@aol.com.*