



The Stuart News

SCRIPPS TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

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SHOOTING STARS

Aiming High

Place of Hope Sporting Clays Fun Shoot

By **MARYANN KETCHAM**
for Luminaries

Place of Hope recently held its Fourth Annual Sporting Clays Fun Shoot at the South Florida Shooting Center in Palm City.

Event organizers aimed high and hit a bullseye, drawing more than 250 shotgun toting men and women out to the courses despite the threat of downpours.

Two picturesque courses consisting of 15 stands apiece beckoned the many teams of shooters.

"We have a lot of people here with a lot of heart. People came from all over the region, one gentleman even traveled down from D.C.," said Executive Director Charles Bender.

"This event is serious because it's about the kids but it's fun too."

Currently, the nonprofit serves Northern Broward County through Vero Beach, but is looking to expand.

"We've also been ranked No. 1 by Charity Navigator for 2014 and 2015," added Bender.

Faith-based Place of Hope is a state-licensed children's organization that provides family-style foster care, family outreach and



Ray Mallory and Lillian Fennell



Mike Burke, Event Co-Chair, and Dan Shafer, House Parent



Charles Bender, Executive Director POH, and Sponsor Mark Montgomery, Celedinas



Merrill Helms and Gene Schnyder

intervention, safety for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking and many more programs giving hope and healing opportunities to children and families affected by abuse and neglect.

According to Advancement Associate Rachel Gaydosh, more than 150 children per month in Palm Beach and Martin County are removed from their homes and are in need of safe shelter.

"Proceeds from the clay shoot directly benefit over 260 children and teens in our daily care," she said.

If you would like to help please visit PlaceofHope.com.

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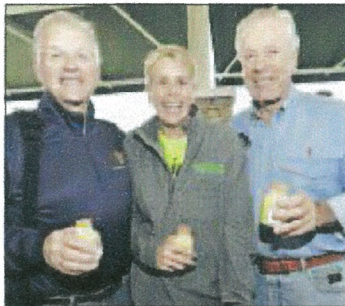
Jennifer Morton and Joanne Keller



Volunteer Ashley Lunsford and Mike Ellis



Amy Leigh Atwater POH and Bob Bell, Sponsor Integrated Data Tech.



Gordon Shaffner with Sponsor Natalie's Orchid Island's Valerie Watson and Allen Halderman



Donnie Herchenroder, Mike Gonzales and Roger Amidon



Rebekah Bentley, Business Manager POH, and Stacy Gutshall, Volunteer



Lauren Bender and Kailey Compton



Sponsor Garden's Dental Care- Amber Achilles, Jessica Reyes, Danielle Rogers and Dr. Yates