



# PREMIER IN THE COMMUNITY

APRIL 2016



## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

National Volunteer Appreciation Month is a time to celebrate those who dedicate their time to be stewards and leaders of our community through volunteerism. National Volunteer Appreciation Month also encompasses National Volunteer Week, **April 10 - 16, 2016**. [www.volunteermatch.org](http://www.volunteermatch.org), [www.volunteer.org](http://www.volunteer.org), and [www.unitedway.pbc](http://www.unitedway.pbc) are good starting points.

## LATEST PREMIER EVENTS

Premier's Share the Love initiative in February raised 39 pairs of glasses in partnership with Prevent Blindness Florida. As a reminder, you can drop off any unused glasses and Randy's desk.

Project Linus was a great success. Turnout was greater than expected. Bridget and Marta are sewing the panels together for the blankets and will bring them in to see the amazing job. Twelve beautiful blankets were made! Kim (Kim's sister and fiancé), Crissia, Jen H, Dulce (and children), Kerri made a family affair with her children and grandchildren, Hallie, Liz Jackson, Widline, Carl, Elizabeth Henriquez, Chastity, Ron (and his daughter), Brandy, Jennifer, Annais (and daughters), Patrick R. (and daughter), Jackée, Nikki, Mari, Duy, Kisha, Lucy, Nishat, Melaunda, Elizabeth Colon, Lee, Marie, and Maria all donated their hidden talents to this great cause of giving a sense of security to children who are seriously ill or traumatized.

Abundant interest continues in our next Beach Cleanup on April 30th, which is always a great event that helps the community. We are allowed a maximum of 30 people. Please email the Community Service Committee if you're interested. Volunteers are also encouraged to meet afterwards for breakfast or lunch at your own cost. Some of us met at the Original House of Pancakes last time.

## AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

Nearly a quarter century ago, the Autism Society launched a nationwide effort to promote autism awareness, inclusion and self-determination for all, and assure that each person with ASD is provided the opportunity to achieve the highest possible quality of life. The Autism Awareness Puzzle Ribbon is the most recognized symbol of the autism community in the world. Autism prevalence is now one in every 68 children in America and one percent of the world's population.

Autism is known as a complex developmental disability. Experts believe that Autism presents itself during the first three years of a person's life. The condition is the result of a neurological disorder that has an effect on normal brain function, affecting development of the person's communication and social interaction skills. People with autism have issues with non-verbal communication, a wide range of social interactions, and activities that include an element of play and/or banter.

ASD stands for **Autism Spectrum Disorder** and can sometimes be referred to as **Autistic Spectrum Disorder**. A person with ASD will typically prefer to stick to a set of behaviors and will resist any major (and many minor) changes to daily activities. Autism (or ASD) is a wide-spectrum disorder. This means that no two people with autism will have exactly the same symptoms.

Go to <https://www.autismspeaks.org/resource-guide/state/fl> and the Dan Marino Foundation to find ways to get involved and for resources in Florida.



## ABOUT PREMIER EYE CARE

Premier's People, Planet, Profit triple bottom line means we are dedicated to helping the community. Contributions to 501(3)(c) charities since 2012 have topped \$600,000 and include diverse groups like the American Heart Assoc., the Drug Abuse Treatment Assoc., the Girl Scouts, Kenya Rescue, Tampa Crisis Center, Prevent Blindness, and more. Stay tuned for company-wide opportunities.



PREMIER EXPERTISE. PREMIER SERVICE.