



# Helping Hands

Putting a spotlight on philanthropy is important to us here at *Vero Beach Magazine*, and our May issue shines that light on local people and organizations committed to reaching out to those who could use a helping hand. The help we give—whether in the form of time, money, or talent—can be priceless to someone else. As Fred “Mr.” Rogers said, “It’s not so much what we have in this life that matters. It’s what we do with what we have.”

As the executive director of Childcare Resources of Indian River, Shannon McGuire Bowman is one of those helpers. She and her team are partnering with UF’s Lastinger Center to ensure that the childcare and wellness programs they offer, as well as their educator outreach efforts, are ones that will help kids thrive as students and grow into successful adults.

Children aren’t the only ones getting some extra attention. The Vero Beach Museum of Art, through a generous donation from its philanthropic group The Circle, has a new program offering free art classes to veterans. In addition to the therapeutic benefits of creating art, participants experience a sense of camaraderie and accomplishment at the weekly sessions.

Head west a few hundred yards from the museum and you’ll find the footbridge to the beautiful and serene Veterans Memorial Island Sanctuary. Retired Army Colonel Tony Young has made it his mission to tell the stories of the 90 men who are commemorated with cenotaphs on the island. Learn about the dozens of men Young has researched and the few that remain a mystery in “No Stone Unturned.”

And if you travel a few minutes south of Vero Beach, you’ll find a dozen more islands, these created for more than 200 chimpanzees that are living their best lives because of the efforts of Save the Chimps, a nonprofit that rescues these primates that have been used in medical research or entertainment, or kept as pets in private homes. Get to know some of the chimps by name and take a peek inside their well-deserved days of leisure in “Ape Escape.”

I can’t let the lovely lady on our cover go unmentioned here. Marion de Vogel is the great-granddaughter of Arthur McKee. By now, most of us know who he is, but the garden he helped create was just given an award that de Vogel would love to share with our readers. Take a walk down memory lane with her in our Neighbors column, “Like Coming Home.”

See you next month!

A handwritten signature of Kelly Rogers in black ink.

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