

FLORIDA GULF COAST CHAPTER NEWS—FGC

As if Christmas isn't special by itself, Florida Gulf Coast Chapter member, **Barbara Bodge Bukata** and husband Joe, made our chapter's 2011 Christmas gathering "XMAS" - that's, X=extra M=merry A=and S=special! Their recently redecorated home (actually, it was beautiful before reno, but now it's gorgeous!) glowed from corner to corner, top to bottom! The covered dishes each member contributed provided ample and delicious food, the "Yankee Swap" was a hoot, and the fellowship was warm, fun, fuzzy, and oh-so-Christmasy! Aren't we all lucky??!!

Thanks also to **Janice Wilgus Henry** for delivering to Tampa the toys we collected that evening for the U. S. Marines annual "Toys For Tots" campaign.

On Saturday, November 19, 2011 six FGC members travelled



PRESENTATION OF CHECK, ABOVE, L to R: Helen Kimmel Karpas; Barbara Smith Reed, Adrienne Collier Love, Sharon Prebis Campo, Annie Brown (Southeastern Guide Dog volunteer staff member and tour guide); Shawn Dunleavy Mills, Sally Reece Painter, plus a happy guidedog-in-training smiling about the generous gift just received from the Silverliner FGC Chapter.



Our Holiday Toast to all of you—ABOVE, L to R: Gail Chappellear Keck, Bonnie Augustus Hearn, Janice Wilgus Henry, Carol Kutay Thomas, Barbara Foster Frascella, Shawn Dunleavy Mills, Barbara Bodge Bukata, Trish Littlefield Schwarzkopf, and Sally Reece Painter.THANK YOU Barbara and Joe

south to Palmetto, FL to visit the grounds of our current charity recipient - *Southeastern Guide Dogs*. We toured the facility led by a very capable staffer, met some "guide-dogs-in-training", shared the antics of one of the "puppies-in-training", and marveled at the work this organization performs on a daily basis as they train their talented dogs to become companions for the visually-impaired.



LEFT, L to R: Adrienne Collier Love; Sharon Dunleavy Mills; Helen Kimmel Karpas; Barbara Smith Reed; Sally Reece Painter; Annie Brown (SGD Volunteer) and kneeling Sharon Prebis Campo—FGC Chapter President

Lives are drastically improved upon receipt of a service dog whose presence in their new owner's life makes it possible for the owner

to live independently, confidently, and comfortably. Upon our departure we presented their representative with our check for \$1,000.00--much to their delight. We know it will be spent well.

- Florida Gulf Coast Chapter (FGCC) was newly formed over 20 years ago, but many of our members have known each other since the late 1970s/early 1980s. Its membership encompasses the mid-West Coast of Florida ---- more commonly referred to as the Tampa Bay area. We currently have 18 paid members, meet monthly (except a brief summer hiatus) at a restaurant centrally located to accommodate our members living in a wide radius from the city of Tampa. We have regular fundraisers: Macy's "Shop For A Cause", "Day At The Races" at Tampa Bay Downs, and occasional garage sales to support our charities. Currently, we support not only our local charity, Southeastern Guide Dogs in Palmetto, FL, but also the International Silverliners' "Hole-In-The-Wall-Gang" Camp, as well as their HUGS Fund. We always welcome new members into our chapter, and host a membership drive every Fall.

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