

## CHRISTMAS IN APRIL...

*So Much More Than Meets The Eye*

On Saturday, April 29, 2000, over 170 volunteers lent a hand to make a dream come true in the Boulevard Gardens area. Project Manager Kevin Leonard, Atlantic Construction & Development, directed a team of seven house captains, Diana Preston, National Association of Women In Construction, Dan Nolan, Colson Nolan Group, Kendall Flemming, Pierce Architectural Group, Tom Locke and Gary Silverman, JM Family Enterprises, Bob Oluf, AutoNation, and Tom Weaver, Holland Builders who in turn supervised the volunteers. Also, Jennifer Mennuti ( Patsy's (LB XVI) sister) and Bill Reeves from

Botanical Visions shared their landscaping expertise and donated thousands of dollars worth of shrubs and flowers for the homes.

AutoNation, Broward Beautiful, and JM Family Enterprises sponsored homes located on NW 31st Avenue, while Union Bank and Sun Sentinel sponsored homes a couple avenues East. All were within walking distance. North Broward Hospital District provided a nurse and medical supplies in case of an emergency. Fortunately, all went well, even the weather!

Volunteers, wearing a green Christmas in April T-Shirt, painted houses, cleaned up yards, trimmed trees, planted shrubs and flowers, laid sod, built patios, assembled three swingsets and a tool shed, all in ONE day! Homeowners were ecstatic. Approximately 20 adults/ 20 youth from Leadership Broward mixed in with volunteers from sponsoring organizations and the neighborhood

to get the job done! Maria Shelton and Mark Baker from class XVIII deserve an award for staying the latest along with Lois Schmatz, her husband John, Wanda Gozdz, Teresa Feightner, and Judy Austin as they completed the shed assembly.

One of the home owners even sent a card to LBF that read: "In this busy world it is refreshing to find someone who still takes the time to be kind, someone who still has the faith to believe that the more that you give, the more you receive. With Lots of Love." The stories we heard from the homeowners were heartwarming. We certainly hope AutoNation and JM Family will continue to sponsor us in this project next year!

The legacy of Christmas in April is to strengthen existing civic associations and empower them to do for the common good. Thanks to all of you who participated: Roland Benson, Kevin Leonard, Dan Nolan, Kathy Eggleston, Anne-Beth Nemeroff, Gale Butler (you should see her cooking burgers for 200 people! She is amazing!) Lynne Wines, Amy Hoffman,



Carol Wiggin and Jim Sczepaniak, Nancy Tanner, Irv Kiffin, Judy Keiser, Jan Herard, Joy MacDonald, Steve Picha, Phyllis Korab, Ray Lubomski, Roseann Minnet, Wanda Gozdz, and Peter Grady and YLB class XIII, Andrea Fabrikant, Andrea McGee, Barbara Skelton, Cassie

Humphreys, Elizabeth Merchant, Gail Kelley, Jacalynne Becker, James Wagner, Jamie Kertes, Jeffrey Mandelkorn, Kathleen McCarthy, Laura Phan, Lydia Carpenter, Monica Neff, Sarah Shenfeld, Sarah Wall, Serena Austin, Starr Koslow, Stephanie Tavss, and Vincent Manzo. You made a HUGE difference!!! See you next year!



## MORE ABOUT CHRISTMAS IN APRIL...

Excerpt from Lois Howell's letter to LBF:

"Dear Anne, I first want to thank you and your group for the work you did in our area. It truly has made a difference and the people have started to take more interest in their homes. I have been busy developing people to help the aged or disabled clean up from the back to the front. Also am trying to get others to come out and help me. From your efforts out here, it is quite clear to me that "IT TAKES A VILLAGE". I don't have available to me words to express my gratitude to LEADERSHIP BROWARD and YOU for what you did for the residents of Boulevard Gardens. It helped to build some bridges that I had begun to think were impossible. And that was to disspell some of the old ideas of people from all walks of life being able to work side by side to make a difference. I hope you will consider us again next year when you have it again. My association's membership grew by over 16 people and that is GOOD! I have people from all over the areas calling me and asking for help. I have been referring them to their own associations..."