

# Bringing *Thankfulness* and *Gratitude* to **Our Communities**

The Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce reminds us what is most important during the holiday season.



By Don Long, Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce

**A**s the annual holiday season arrives, Central Florida is blessed this and every year by community organizations, caring businesses and leaders who believe in the spirit of giving while spreading a spirit of *thankfulness*. A primary focus of this season is *thankfulness* for the blessings and opportunities enjoyed by those who are fortunate to live in the United States and the Central Florida community.

Every November, U.S. citizens give thanks based on an occasion in the year 1621 when Pilgrims and members of a local native nation joined to give thanks for a bountiful harvest. Therefore, in anticipation of the happy gatherings centered around Thanksgiving and the holiday season, this quote from **President John F. Kennedy** will help set the stage. “As we express our *gratitude*, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

The Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce (LNRCC) will express *gratitude* for a job well done with a contribution to the chamber’s

2021 Charity of Choice, Ronald McDonald House of Central Florida, with proceeds from the 2021 Chamber Swing golf tournament this month. LNRCC is also thankful for the continuing support of its membership, partners and the community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Almost every chamber of commerce in Orange County is instrumental in sharing the needs and programs offered through the local nonprofit community. In addition, according to [www.countyoffice.org/orange](http://www.countyoffice.org/orange) (not a government agency) there are 61 nonprofits registered at their website and operating in Orange County. People interested in researching nonprofits deserving of help and expressions of *gratitude* can visit this website to find out more.

Many generous community efforts are led, managed and planned by the regional nonprofits, businesses and civic organizations including chambers of commerce. The LNRCC specifically includes a Nonprofit Committee. Its chair is **Angie Amate** of EXP Realty and a member

of the board of directors. According to Amate the LNRCC Nonprofit Committee focuses on providing, “a source of information about community nonprofit organizations while also providing our members volunteer opportunities that will include both manpower and financial support to deserving local charities.” Amate’s committee actively surveys the regional nonprofits (almost 40 are members of LNRCC) to compile lists of contributions needed within their area of influence. Find the LNRCC nonprofit list at <https://www.lakenonacc.org/charities/>. Those who want to know more about opportunities to give or volunteer are welcome to call LNRCC at (407) 796-2230.

The Lake Nona Regional Chamber of Commerce is a membership not-for-profit organization with offices located in Lake Nona at 6555 Sanger Rd, Orlando, FL 32827 not affiliated with, or sponsored by, Lake Nona Property Holdings, LLC, or its affiliated entities. Please email [Administration@LakeNonaCC.org](mailto:Administration@LakeNonaCC.org) for any comments or requests for more information. ■