



October 6, 2020

Updated Communication from Kathleen Sipio, Executive Director of the Celebration Foundation

The Celebration Foundation has been transitioning all programs to virtual platforms, positively impacting our community with “Operation Uplift” and working remotely since March. As COVID challenged our community and way of life, our Foundation team, Board, Advisory Council, Committee Chairs, program members and volunteers did a pandemic pivot. While remaining apart, our Foundation family stood together virtually while staff worked remotely to provide support to our community partners, quality programming to our members, music to our Concert Series supporters and food to children and families during this time.

As a result of the above directives, the Celebration Foundation’s programs and events are modified as follows:

- Operation Uplift – A community wide initiative that was comprised of safe and socially-distanced support to essential workers that started with inspirational signs surrounding our hospital and firehouse, almost 2,000 heart signs in lawns, drive-thru “Teacher Appreciation” event, random sweet treats to essential workers, community videos by Town Hall to Windsor Senior Living Residence, car parades, Mother’s Day flowers to Windsor and Advent Care Center residents, lunches to healthcare workers and first responders, concert videos to Windsor, Celebration Sanitation wrapping a truck in the biggest red heart, gift cards to essential workers and the community heart sign challenge to surround the schools with hearts signs to show our support on the first day of the 2020-2021 school year.
- Thriving In Place – All programming is virtual with a monthly calendar of events. Lunch is doormat delivery every Friday. Our transportation service line is available to schedule rides to appointments and pick up prescriptions. Becky can be reached Monday thru Friday from 9am to 3pm.
- Celebration Lifelong – Session #2 of the Fall semester started this week! Celebration Lifelong has successfully gone virtual using Zoom as our distance learning platform. Even reluctant “Zoomers” have embraced this new technology that brings the fun of Celebration Lifelong into your home wherever WIFI and you are. Virtual seats are still available and classes are held via Zoom. Become a Lifelong member today and register at <https://celebrationfoundation.org/what-we-do/celebration-lifelong/celebration-lifelong-online-registration-instructions/>
- New Urbanism – Limited space for walking tours are available for Founder’s Day weekend on Saturday, November 14th, 2020. Our annual community conversation will be held via Zoom on November 14th at 6pm. Details will be coming soon on our website: www.celebrationfoundation.org.
- Learning without Hunger - 17 schools in Osceola County are being helped with weekend meal packs for students with food insecurity this school year.

610 Sycamore Street, Suite 110 • Celebration, FL 34747 • 407-566-1234

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- WINGS and SAS (Serious about Science): SAS continues with video science challenges that all ages can do in their own home and then send the video our way to post on social media.
- Concert Series: The planning process has begun for a Concert Series to be scheduled in 2021. Limited tickets sales are available and events will have safety protocols such as, but not limited to, socially distanced seating, face coverings, digital programs. Events are subject to artist, venue, and vendor availability, plus, CDC guidelines at time of scheduled event. Subject to change due to status of COVID.
- Holiday Home Tour & Winter Wonderland 2020: These events will not be held this year as Buddy the Bear will continue to hibernate until 2021. This well attended event is a unique, annual tradition that spreads sparkle and holiday cheer throughout our town year after year. Our traditional tour and festive Winter Wonderland dream team believe that 2021 will be worth the wait for the first weekend in December 2021. And so do I!

We will continue to communicate how we are staying connected. The Celebration Foundation staff office hours have resumed Monday thru Friday from 9am to 3pm. We encourage you to call, email, LIKE our Facebook page or FOLLOW our Instagram page.

Our sincere gratitude for your patience, understanding and continued support.

Warm regards,

Kathleen Sipio

Executive Director

Celebration Foundation

Kathleen.Sipio@celebrationfoundation.org

610 Sycamore Street, Suite 110

Celebration, FL 34747

O: 407-566-1234

M: 407-569-7291

F: 407-566-1264

www.celebrationfoundation.org