



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Greg Giordano (727) 847-8179

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Pasco County Tax Collector Mike Fasano Sponsors “AFIRE of Pasco” Charitable Giving Month in March

During the month of March *AFIRE of Pasco* will be the featured charitable giving organization at the Pasco County Tax Collector’s Office. *AFIRE of Pasco* is a day-training program for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. It is geared specifically for people 22 years of age and older who have completed all school district programs for individuals with disabilities. *AFIRE of Pasco* provides service five days per week to enrolled adults. Services include basic academics, one-on-one computer instruction, training in daily living skills and recreation and social outings/ activities. The overall purpose of the program is to help promote independence for individuals with disabilities with a focus on improving their ability to fully function in the community.

"Money raised during this campaign will help with keeping costs down for our consumers who have been on the Medicaid Waiver Wait List and who pay privately," states **Denise Haystrand**, executive director of *AFIRE of Pasco*. "After a devastating flood during Memorial Day weekend 2015, all of our fundraising money was depleted to repair damages, add extra drains and add larger gutters. The money we receive from this campaign will also help to defray our out-of-pocket costs associated with repairs and updating our facility."

"Dating back to my earliest days in the Florida Legislature I and my staff have worked with *AFIRE of Pasco* to help them serve as many individuals as possible," states **Tax Collector Mike Fasano**. "The work the dedicated staff and volunteers of *AFIRE of Pasco* do to provide unique services and opportunities to their students is the perfect example of what a community organization is all about. I am amazed to see how the program has grown over the years. The unfortunate damage caused by the flooding was something that *AFIRE*, let alone any other small non-profit organization, could not have planned for. I am hopeful that the funds we raise will help replenish program funds so that even more people can receive services. I encourage anyone who is interested in helping adults with disabilities reach their fullest potential to stop by our office and make a donation."

For more information regarding *AFIRE of Pasco* please visit the website www.afirepasco.com or contact **Denise Haystrand, Executive Director** at 727 -849-8982. For more information about the charitable giving programs and other services at the Pasco Tax Collector's Office please visit www.pascotaxes.com or call **Greg Giordano, Director of Customer Relations** at 727-847-8179.