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PEOPLE



'OPERATION HOPE'

**GOODWILL OF ORCHID ISLAND CLUB
HITS HOME FOR HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND**

Rob Tench, Bob Baus, Ruthie McNally, Tracy Lampert,
Jesse Zermeño, Ruth Hill and Veronica Ferraro
PHOTOS BY JOSHUA KODIS



'OPERATION HOPE' GOODWILL HITS HOME FOR HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND

BY STEPHANIE LABAFF
Staff Writer

Orchid Island Golf and Beach Club members once again delivered hope and joy this holiday season through their support of Operation Hope, a local nonprofit that supports the Fellsmere community year-round by assisting individuals and families facing economic hardships.

Orchid Island members collected toys at their annual Operation Hope Toy Drive Cocktail Party and Dinner to brighten the holidays and make a meaningful difference in the lives of local children who may otherwise go without.

Orchid Island general manager Rob Tench, resplendent in a Santa Claus-covered suit jacket, and club members helped load the toys and goodies into the Operation Hope truck.

"The members look forward to this event each year. And every year, we seem to get more and more gifts," said Tench.

"They really enjoy giving back to the community, and this is just a small



Rob Tench and Jesse Zermeño.



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made to move the event indoors.

"No matter what the weather does, I'm going to bless the kids big time. That's my mission," said Zermeño.

With the glee of a child on Christmas morning, Zermeño shared that there would be an orchestra, singing, face painting, piñatas, games, food and a visit from the jolly old Papá Noel.

Thanks to the generosity of the community, Operation Hope was able to

distribute clothing, chickens, produce and gift cards for groceries, in addition to the gifts.

"The outpouring of generosity to the families is heartwarming. We're feeding their hearts and their bellies. With all the negativity out there, it's good to see something positive. This is joy," added Zermeño.

For more information, visit OperationHopeFL.org. ■



Veronica Ferraro and Bob Baus.

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