

November 2016
Volume 7, Issue 1

TUSCANY HEIGHTS GROWLIN' GOOD NEWS

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Save the Date...
Run For The Heights



Tuscany Heights Elementary
(210)407-8200

25001 Wilderness Oak
San Antonio, TX 78260

It may have been raining on the first day of school, but it couldn't dampen the excitement THE students, staff and families brought with them that morning. Tuscany Heights leaders welcomed our community leaders Representative Hurd, Superintendent Gottardy and Board of Trustees Mr. Jaso and Mrs. Grona. As we made them a part THE community, we were honored to have them speak on our announcements and at THE First Time Tigers! Breakfast. It was a fantastic start to another great year here at Tuscany Heights.

In the first nine weeks, we saw our *Tigers Earning Their Stripes One Habit At A Time* in education and in leadership roles! Thank you for commitment to your children that help make Tuscany Heights a family involved campus. We see it in the safety patrols, choir, library helpers, student tutors, Lighthouse Team, Planet heroes, Top Dog presenters and so many more. We know that there are always parents behind these young leaders and that you are encouraging them. Way to synergize and make Tuscany Heights Elementary an outstanding environment for all students.

As your tiger is earning their stripes, THE *PTA Is Funding Our Programs One Greenback At A Time!* Your donations and involvement are helping us chart the course for the students of Tuscany Heights by helping provide PTA-sponsored events and programs such as Bike Rodeo, Red Ribbon Week, author visits, and Field Day, just to start the year! We are \$80 away from our first goal of Pajama Day, and \$3,080 away from our \$8,000 goal! Can you help us meet this goal so Mrs. Bailey and Mrs. Campos can go through THE car wash? All Greenback donations are 100% tax deductible.

We've got a great year planned for all of our students and I hope that you will find a way to connect with the campus and the community of Tuscany Heights. We need help in the lunchroom, library, classrooms and special events. Please consider giving your time in any of these areas. With so many great things planned, we will need your help!

THE volunteers are an important part of our PTA. We hope that you will join our team in volunteering at home or on campus and see all of our Tigers lead, honor, and excel.

Please feel free to contact me to help you get connected with the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA and be a part of our crew.

Mandy Howland
T.H.E. PTA President

president@ tuscanyheightspta.org



www.tuscanyheightspta.org

STATE OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

SUBMITTED BY HEIDI STAPLES

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a great start at T.H.E. 168th Lighthouse school in the world! Leadership applications went out at the end of September and many of our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders were chosen for a school-wide leadership role. T.H.E. had several leadership opportunities this year, including Tiger PALS, Morning Reading and Math Leaders, Top Dawg Presenters, Student Lighthouse Team Members, Library Life Savers, and Planet Heroes. All of these leadership groups met during the month of October and have started serving our campus!

Planet Heroes have lead the recycling program and has made two school wide pickups. Tiger PALS have been trained in peer mediation and have begun meeting with younger students here at Tuscany. Tiger PALS have also started collecting plastic bags to use for a community service project. They will be using the bags to make sleeping mats for the homeless. Our student Lighthouse team has met and set their goals and mission statement for the school year. Our morning math and reading leaders are assisting younger students. We hosted a lunch and learn on November 15 at 11:30. Alyson Moyer, our school counseling intern, spoke on service learning and different ways our students and their families can benefit from community service!

Thank you for your continued support in our Lighthouse Journey! Contact Heidi Staples at hstapl@neisd.net with questions or for more information.



**Tuscany Heights is
proud to be a
Leader in Me School**





TUSCANY TIGERS RETURN FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

T.H.E. Tigers received a welcoming video message from their new teacher at home before getting to meet them in person at Meet the Teacher Night the week before school. This is a great way for students to see their new teacher prior to the first day of school, and maybe help put nervous butterflies at ease for those new to Tuscany Heights!

Meet the Teacher Nights were held August 16th for Kinder, 1st and 2nd grade, and August 18th for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. Students were able to greet their teacher, drop off school supplies, and meet fellow classmates as they began the new school year. There were also opportunities for parents to meet T.H.E. PTA members, purchase spirit wear and agendas, pick up car rider tags, and sign up for Watch D.O.G.S. PTA volunteers signed up an amazing LONG list of new Watch D.O.G. dads. Win-win for our students and school!

Our new year began August 22nd with smiling faces and excitement from both the staff and students. For kinder parents and new families, T.H.E. PTA sponsored a "First Time Tigers" get together after dropping off their new Tigers. It was a great way to meet fellow parents and just maybe shed a few tears together!

A special Kindergarten Parent Orientation was also held on August 25th for our new kindergarten parents to have ample opportunity for questions and get to know our wonderful school and teachers.

What a terrific kick-off to the 2016-2017 school year!

SHOW YOUR SPIRIT!

Don't forget that **EVERY FRIDAY** is Tiger Spirit Day for all staff, students, and volunteers!!!

Show your *tiger pride* with our great spirit items for this school year. There are grade level contests for the most classroom participation!

You can visit our online spirit store at www.tuscanyheightspta.org to order spirit items today. Go Tigers!

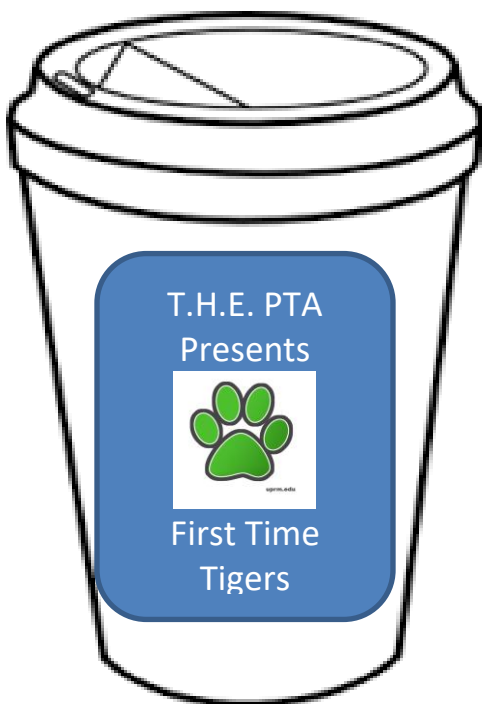


Are you a proud member of T.H.E. PTA? It's not too late to join! By joining T.H.E. PTA, you not only support our school, but it allows you to be more involved and informed in matters concerning your child's education and well being. If you would like more information on becoming a member, visit our website at tuscanheightspta.org, or contact Kara Guerra at membership@tuscanheightspta.org.



First Time Tigers!

As the rain poured outside on the first day of school, T.H.E. PTA was honored to host a social gathering pouring coffee in the library to welcome our new Tiger parents. T.H.E. PTA Hospitality Committee along with other PTA officers and staff welcomed our new Tiger parents. They were encouraged to meet other parents and discuss the excitement for what is to come as well as the sadness that comes from seeing that their little one is really growing up. In addition to meeting our wonderful new Tiger parents we had Congressman Will Hurd, Superintendent Brian Gottardy and Trustee Tony Jaso attend as well. Mrs. Bailey read a wonderful poem called "Thoughts at the Bottom of the Beanstalk," which gave us all a cute perspective for helping to say goodbye and cheering on our little ones.



Lunch With Loved Ones

On Friday, September 9th the halls of Tuscany Heights Elementary were filled with warm hugs and smiling faces as students welcomed almost 700 amazing family members and friends to enjoy our first ever "Lunch with Loved Ones". It was a great day for the little Tigers as they had an opportunity to share their school and stories over lunch with those they love so much.

We are proud to have so many family members supporting our Tuscany Tigers!





Tagging for Tops!

Way to synergize, Tigers!!! The fall collection for Box Tops raised \$2,416.60! That is 24,166 Box Tops THE Tigers collected TOGETHER, great job! Thank you all for your support of Tuscany Heights and kept our volunteers busy counting. Way to go!!!

A B-I-G thank you to our supportive community members:



Students who brought in 50 or more Box Tops enjoyed a treat from Iggy's Italian Ice or Sonic. The class from each grade level that brought in the most Box Tops got to have some laser tag fun, courtesy of San Antonio Laser Tag!

Here are the winning classes:

- Kinder- Mrs. Cervenka (611 Box Tops)
- 1st- Mrs. Andermatt (1,591 Box Tops)
- 2nd- Mrs. Jackson (892 Box Tops)
- 3rd- Mrs. Herrera (1,378 Box Tops)
- 4th- Mrs. Luna (1,049 Box Tops)
- 5th- Mrs. Morrow (1,150 Box Tops)

We truly appreciate every person who donated! Thank you all for your dedication and support of our incredible school! Remember to keep saving your box tops. In February, we will have our Box Top Shop again. Let's see if we can synergize and beat our fall total!



STAFF APPRECIATION

Submitted by Kelly Evans

The Staff Appreciation Committee has been hard at work getting our 2016-17 school year off to a great start for our awesome Tuscany Heights teachers and staff. In August, we held our annual "Welcome Back Breakfast" the Friday before school started. We provided a breakfast buffet with tacos, pastries, fruit and yogurt and even threw in a few school supplies for good measure!

We held a Nacho Bar Luncheon with all the fixings in September and in October a Spooky Luncheon on Halloween day with sandwiches, chips, fruit and a candy buffet! We celebrated our amazing custodial staff on National Custodian Day with bags full of snacks, treats and a drink. Our custodians work so hard every day to keep our school safe and looking great..Be sure to let them know how much they are appreciated!

In November, we asked for Holiday Dessert Donations for our awesome staff and we were not disappointed! Our amazing Tuscany Heights community donated enough desserts to treat our entire staff including teachers, custodians, cafeteria staff and bus drivers! We even had 10 pies left over so we took them to our local fire station and donated them to all of the fire fighters to enjoy while they were hard at work over the holiday. We would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all the families who donated desserts. What an amazing way to show our Tuscany Heights staff how "Thankful" we truly are for all their hard work and dedication throughout the year!

Coming up on December 16th we will hold our annual "Gift Wrapping Event." Be on the lookout for a volunteer opportunity to help us wrap gifts for our staff before the Christmas holiday.

Would you like to learn more about your teacher/s? Maybe...birthday, favorite colors, candy, or restaurants?! Well, just go to tuscanyheightspta.org, click on the "Faculty Favorites" box, find your grade/s, then just click on your teacher's name and it will take you to his/her "Faculty Favorites" page!



www.tuscanyheightspta.org/faculty-favorites.html

Don't forget to let your teachers and all of our wonderful Tuscany Heights Elementary staff know how much you appreciate them...kind words, thank you notes and time spent volunteering all go a long way!



Bike Rodeo!

Another successful Bike Rodeo is in the books! Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA held the annual Bike Rodeo, a fun bicycle safety and agility competition, on Friday, October 28th, 2016. Officer Gordon Keogh, SAPD, was on hand to guide our participants through bike skills tests such as maneuvering, steering, balance and figure 8. Each student who completed the test received a spirit stick.



Tusky gives his biking skills a try!



Officer Keogh poses with Marcus Block

Trophies were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place girl and boy winners of each grade level. The top scoring students will receive an official invitation to the city-wide Bike Rodeo in the Spring.



Volunteers make Bike Rodeo possible



Mrs. Forsyth & Mrs. Morris join Tusky!

Congratulations to the 300+ participants for their hard work and performance. A HUGE thank you to all the volunteers (parents, Watch Dogs, safety patrols, teachers and students) that made this year's Bike Rodeo a success. Great job TIGERS!!!!





Watch D.O.G.S.



What is WatchDOGS?

Watch D.O.G.S. is a program that gets kids' dads or father figures in to their kid's school at least one full school day a year. During the day, Watch D.O.G.S may read and work with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, high five as much as possible, give stickers and other goodies for good behavior, patrol the hallways, assist with traffic flow and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with not only their own students, but other students as well. Studies show a child who has a positive adult male role model who actively engages on his/her life is twice as likely to graduate high school as a child who doesn't and will develop more fully socially, physically, academically.

How do I Become a WatchDOG dad?

1) **DPS clearance (takes 1 to 2 weeks):** NEISD requires all volunteers to submit a Volunteer Criminal History Record Check form. You can fill out the form at the NEISD web site here:

<https://portal.neisd.net/vchrc/Default.aspx?SOURCE=V>. The district will email you as soon as you are clear. If you applied to volunteer during previous school years and were approved, you do not need to re-apply to volunteer for the current school year. The volunteer program will automatically resubmit your background check every 2 years. You can check the status of your application by calling the school's front desk (Ask for Stacy Light) at 210-407-8201.

2) **WatchDOGS t-shirts:** You must wear an official WATCH D.O.G.S. t-shirt. Additionally, your children can wear "My Hero is a Watch DOG" t-shirts (optional). Access the online store here: For adult WD shirts:

<http://dogstore2.fathers.com/test-category.html> and for children "my hero" shirts: <http://dogstore2.fathers.com/my-hero-youth-t-shirt.html>

3) **Signup for a date to volunteer online:** After you have completed steps 1 and 2, follow this link to RSVP online: <http://signup.com/go/DTBSEG>. You will be prompted for your email to begin and then you can select the day(s) you will be available to volunteer.

Suggested dates to sign up for: your children's birthdays, Winter Parties (Dec. 21), Valentine's Parties, Run for the Heights (March 4, 2017), Kinder Roundup (April 5), last day of school year (June 1).

Need to learn more about the program and how we encourage Dads to provide security and support? Take a look at our updated PTA page to learn more: <http://www.tuscanyheightspta.org/watch-dogs.html>.

Like the Tuscany Heights PTA Facebook Page to see photos we will post: <https://www.facebook.com/Tuscany-Heights-Elementary-PTA-833932970053713/>

You are an awesome dad for stepping up. Come be a superhero for a day!

Manuel Oblitas, Watch D.O.G.S. Chair, Tuscany Heights PTA
watchdogs@tuscanyheightspta.org (210) 326-0451 cell



Watch D.O.G.S.- Heroes of the Hallway!





Eat For a Cause!

Tuscany Tigers had two opportunities to eat out and benefit our school.

On 9/27, students enjoyed Chick Fil A

served by teachers and PTA members!

Beefy's Backyard was our next fun event which

coincided with our Run For the Heights kickoff

on 11/17. Tigers were treated to a fashion

show by staff & were able to register early

for a RFTH drawing!

TIGER BOOK CLUB is a great way to share your child's birthday, teacher appreciation or birthday, and other special occasions at Tuscany Heights. Donation forms will go home around your child's birthday to purchase a book for the library. You may include a picture and special message that will be placed in the front cover of the book. Your child will be the first to check out the book and once returned it can be shared with all Tuscany Tiger Readers!!!





Lunch-N-Learn!

The PTA General Meeting was held on October 4th at 11:15 AM, featuring Neil Shelby, Elementary Teacher of the Year for 2013 Texas PTA! The topic was Maximizing Parent-Teacher Conferences to Support Your Child. Lunch was available to purchase from Jason's Deli. The meeting proved to be interesting and educational!



Neil Shelby presents at the meeting.



5th grader writing contest winner Shreya Fifadara

Virgil T. Blossom Scholarship... for the Future of Our Children

Each year the North East Council of PTAs awards scholarships to recipients from each of the seven high schools in our district. The Virgil T. Blossom Scholarship is intended for graduation seniors who plan to study education as a profession.

Recipients receive \$325 per semester for up to eight semesters, for a total of \$2,600. Many fine young people have been honored over the years, several of whom have returned to North East Independent School District (NEISD) as teachers and administrators in our schools.

Please consider making a contribution to this worthy fund. Your tax-deductible donation can be used to honor or remember someone who values education and support NEISD. What better way to honor a teacher, family member, or friend?

Visit the [Blossom Scholarship webpage](#) for more information including a [Blossom Scholarship Donation Form](#).



5th grade Class T-shirt- Time to order! Dec 1st - Dec 12th (online ordering closes at noon on 12/12)

Celebrate your 5th grader's final year at Tuscany with a special 5th Grade Class T-shirt! Every student's name will be included on the back of the T-shirt! These shirts will be worn every Wednesday starting in January for WILD WEDNESDAY! The cost of the shirt is \$15 and can be ordered online (pay with credit card/PayPal) or through paper form (cash/check). Parents of 5th graders are encouraged to purchase a shirt as well! T-shirts will be delivered to your child's classroom after Winter Break.



Support T.H.E. While You Shop!

Want to support your school while you shop for the holidays? T.H.E. earns referral fees of 4% - 15% from purchases you normally make from Amazon! How does this work? Instead of logging onto your usual Amazon link, log on to smile.amazon.com. On your first visit to AmazonSmile, you will need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Type "Tuscany Heights PTA" into the search bar to select, and Amazon will remember your selection with each login. Every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. What an easy way to earn extra money for our PTA!





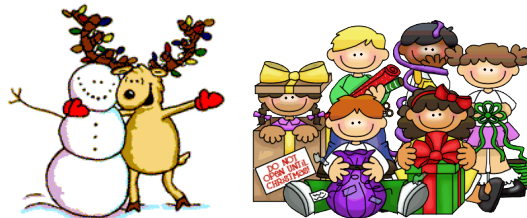
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Toy Drive!

We have begun collecting for our toy drive for Olmos Elementary. This will run until December 9th. This is a great way for all of us to synergize and help the kids at our Partners in PTA school. Please turn in new, unwrapped toys to our collection box in the entryway foyer. Appropriate gifts should be for the elementary school age, for boys or girls. Some examples- Barbies, hot wheels, dolls, trucks, Barbie/doll clothes, sports balls, stuffed animals and board games. We know that anything from the heart will be a wonderful treat for these sweet kids. Thanks so much for helping us with this fun drive!

Winter Class Parties!

It's time to celebrate! Below is a list of the party times for each grade level. Winter parties will take place on **Wednesday, December 21st**. Be sure to get with your class room rep to see if items or volunteers are needed!



9:05am - 9:50am ~ Kinder

9:45am - 10:30am ~ Fifth Grade

10:00am - 10:45am ~ Fourth Grade

10:35am - 11:20am ~ Third Grade

11:35am - 12:20pm ~ First Grade

12:55pm - 1:40pm ~ Second Grade





BE THE LIGHT THAT LEADS!

Tuscany Heights' Annual **GREENBACK** Fundraiser

A *Greenback Donation* is a tax deductible contribution to the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA. 100% of your donation will fund many beneficial and educational PTA programs planned for your children during the 2016-2017 school year. Your company may also have a matching gift program. Some of the programs funded by your donation this year will include:

- *Field Trips*
- *Red Ribbon Week*
- *Grandparents Day*
- *Field Day*
- *Staff Appreciation*
- *Watch D.O.G.S.*
- *Bike Rodeo*
- *Student Enrichment*
- *Arts in Education*
- *Author Visits*
- *5th Grade End of Year Celebration*
- *Veteran's Day*

And much, much more!

Without the generous support from you, our donors, through Greenback Donations, many of the key non-budgeted items that enrich our students and school curriculum would not be possible. Donations may be made online at tuscanyheightspta.org with a credit card, cash or check payable to *Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA*.

Double your Greenback donation with a donation from your company's Matching Gift Program! Contact your Human Resources Department for a Matching Gift form and program details.

<i>Donation Levels</i>	
\$200 and above	Tiger
\$150 - \$199	Platinum
\$100 - \$149	Gold
\$50 - \$99	Silver
\$25 - \$49	Bronze

Greenback Donations have been well underway since Welcome Back Night. A huge thank you to everyone who "Began With the End In Mind" and generously donated. Our ultimate goal is \$10,000 in Greenback Donations. If you have not made your 100% tax deductible Greenback Donation yet, Put First Things First and do it today! Let's Synergize and work together to support our school and our children with the programs, resources, and opportunities that we know and love!





Field Day – November 4, 2016

Field Day 2016 was a tremendous success due to the wonderful parent volunteers and Specials teachers that helped out our students. We had great weather and were able to hold Field Day on the originally scheduled day (which hasn't happened in several years). A special thank you goes to Mrs. Fields and Mrs. Burges for their help in planning the activities and getting the equipment set up. The students were able to enjoy four inflatables this year including an Obstacle course with a 60 foot slide, a basketball court, a combo jump that included a bouncy and a slide, and a bouncy. These were all rented with funds provided by PTA. We also had Birdie Ball golf, which we borrowed from the district. The PE teachers set up potato sack races, tug of war, a laundry day relay, bean bag toss, a guessing game, a maze, and several more stations. We also had a parent set up a fitness area where the students lifted medicine balls, ran through cones, and worked on their fitness level while competing against their friends.

Thank you again to all of our parent volunteers. The students love the extra chance to be outside and try new things while being physically active and we couldn't do it without our volunteers.



A word from the Library



Our Book Fair was a success! I would like to thank Mrs. Naquin and Mrs. Bradley for all of their help preparing the library bulletin boards for our first book fair of the 2016-2017 school year, held October 31st – November 4th. The flag bulletin boards and the voting booth looked amazing! Also, I was overwhelmed by the number of parents that took the time to assist with book fair setup. We couldn't have done it without your help. Thank you!

Friends of North East Libraries (FONEL) is an organization that proudly supports our library programs by promoting literacy, reading and learning. Please consider joining FONEL. Family Membership is only \$10. For more information, click the link below or visit the Tuscany Library.
<http://fonelibraries.weebly.com/>

Goals and Objectives

Advocate for school libraries at all levels

Connect school libraries with the wider community

Engage the community in activities which support school library programs



RUN FOR THE HEIGHTS- IT'S A WIN-WIN FOR OUR TIGERS!



Visit our website- www.runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org

Get ready to lace up those running shoes! The **7th Annual Run For The Heights 5K Kid's Run and Health Fair** is set for March 4, 2017. This is T.H.E.'s largest fundraiser of the year!

When we say large, we mean large. Our goal this year? We would like to see 875 people registered for the 5K and 375 kids registered for the Fun Run! This is about 1 registration per student!

Run For The Heights 5K Run/Walk, Kid's Fun Run & Health Expo has grown into one of the most anticipated family-friendly 5K/Kid's Run/Health Expo in the greater Stone Oak area. Our school has come to count on RFTH to help fund the Tuscany Heights Elementary PTA, which provides so many enrichment opportunities throughout the year for our kids. Last year, over 50 businesses were represented at RFTH. We had nearly 1,500 people in attendance! The morning event is filled with music, exercise tips, fitness demonstrations, vendors, community building opportunities, and, of course, the 5K and Kid's Fun Run.

For our 7th year, our RFTH team knew it had to start the countdown to RFTH off with a bang.

- Enjoy an EARLY-BIRD RFTH registration discount of up to \$15!
- Our RFTH team will award classes with a 2016-17 RFTH school-wide race for registrations!
- A color BLAST for the Fun Run!
- Colored Hair Day for registered students wearing their 2017 RFTH shirt on March 3!

If you would like your business featured or know of a business or organization that would make a strong fit as a RFTH sponsor, please contact us at www.runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org. You can view sponsorship levels at runfortheheights@tuscanheightspta.org.

Please continue to follow all the latest news and information about Run For The Heights by 'liking' the RFTH Facebook Page and visiting our website at www.runfortheheights.tuscanheightspta.org. Our days before the March 4 event will be filled with fun incentives for our kids and several opportunities for our T.H.E. students to demonstrate their leadership skills!

Finally, our RFTH team would like to extend our thanks to you, in advance, for your support of RFTH year after year. With an event this large, there is no way we could do it without the support of our T.H.E. families and staff. The committee is always looking for additional volunteers! For volunteer opportunities or if you have questions, please contact Kelly at runfortheheights@tuscanheightspta.org.





"To all who coordinated today's event - GREAT JOB!!! So glad we made it this year and we will be back!!! Well done. J"
- 2015 Participant

"Fabulous job! Way to go! Run for the Heights was well done from start to finish. What a fun day for families! Thank you Tuscany Heights!
- 2013 5K Award Winner

"We've participated in Run for the Heights every year and it keeps getting better and better. This year, my whole family participated in the 5K. It was great to see so many families out there running and walking together. What a great event to help us stay focused on our health!"
- Participant 2011, 2012, 2013

"Wow, what a fantastic event! I've run in countless races and I promise you I've never done a 5K with this amount of pre and post race activity. I highly recommend supporting this event. It's a great way to support our wonderful Tuscany Heights PTA. Well done to the organizers and all of the volunteers. That was a super challenging course and we loved having all of the support out there cheering us on. And holy smokes, this race is certainly attracting some fast runners! I couldn't believe some of the times announced during awards! Great event, great community."
- T.H.E. Mom & Participant 2016

"Fabulous job Tuscany Heights! Run for the Heights was well done from start to finish! What a fun day for the entire family!"
-2014 5K Awardee



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Silver Sponsors

