CONTINUED SUCCESSES:

2018 RAT PACK REUNION

More than 320 individuals attended the seventh annual Rat Pack Reunion on Oct. 19 at Skopelos at New World, in support of Council on Aging of West Florida and its programs. At the event, four local business leaders - Troy Rafferty, Valerie Russenberger, Bob Tyler and Justin Witkin - were honored for their leadership and service to the community.

This year’s Rat Pack Reunion raised over $150,000 for Council on Aging.

COA AMONG “BEST OF THE COAST”

Council on Aging was honored for a fourth year in the 2018 Best of the Coast competition by Independent News.

Runner-Up Best Non-Profit

Runner-Up Best Boss

John B. Clark

Runner-Up Best Charity Event

Rat Pack Reunion

COA HELPS SENIORS CHILL OUT

With the help of Sue Straughn, local media, Lowe’s Home Improvement stores, our wonderful sponsors, and the community, we brought back the Senior Chill Out to provide cooling assistance to seniors in need. Because of our generous community, we were able to collect more than 260 A/C units, 286 fans, and over $14,500 in monetary donations for local seniors in just one day.

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31, 2017

Total Revenues .......................................................... $5,664,252
Program Service Expenses ........................................ $5,236,270
Support Service Expenses
  Administrative Support ........................................ $220,546
  Fundraising Support .............................................. $246,485
Total Expenses .......................................................... $5,703,301
Change in Net Assets ................................................ $-39,049
Net Assets at Beginning of Year ................................ $2,048,562
Net Assets at End of Year ......................................... $2,009,513

Please visit www.coawfla.org to view our most recently audited financial statements and tax returns.
**MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR**

My time as board chair is coming to an end, and as I am preparing to pass the gavel into the very capable hands of our vice chair Kathleen Logan, I look back on my leadership page, we have done more than ever to help elders age in peace with dignity and independence.

Our calling is a unique one. While a thousand people turn 60 each and every day, and those in that age range account for almost a quarter of our nation’s population, less than 5 percent of non-profits and agencies are focused on our seniors. It is easy to fall victim to the misconception that elder adults don’t require our assistance as much as other vulnerable individuals. Perhaps you think, “They have Social Security and Medicare – do they really need help beyond that?” As someone whose own family has benefited from elder services, let me answer your question with a resounding yes.

Many of our friends and neighbors have to choose between paying the electricity bill and paying the grocery bill. They are cutting their pills in half, serving their grandchildren dinner while they go hungry themselves, and are simply incapable of many of the activities of daily living. That’s where Council on Aging comes in. That’s where you intervene if you support our mission.

Of course, not all elders are frail. Just hearing the ways in which many of them spend their days often wears me out! Many are active, engaged, giving back and paying it forward. Council on Aging supports them too, as the organization seeks to dispel the many myths of aging. Getting older is a beautiful, dignified process. Some just need more help with the process than others. And honestly, who doesn’t need a little help every now and then?

And so, we install air conditioners and wheelchair ramps, raise awareness of fun and interesting hobbies our clients partake in, provide advice on everything from paying it forward. Council on Aging supports them too, as the organization seeks to dispel the many myths of aging.

**Adult Day Care**

- **(The Retreat)**
  - A protective, stimulating environment for seniors with physical and cognitive impairments and much needed respite for caregivers. Meals and activities are supervised by specially-trained staff.
  - State of Florida Agency for Health Care Administration License #99051.

**Case Management**

- A link for clients and community resources to make independent living possible for seniors.

**Senior Dining Sites and Recreational Activities**

- Hot, nutritious, balanced lunches are served to seniors 60 and older at numerous locations, which also offer recreational activities and socialization opportunities.

**Foster Grandparent Program**

- In-home, one-on-one senior 55 and older are given the opportunity to earn tax-free stipends and other benefits while working with children in schools and other facilities.

**Meals on Wheels**

- Balanced meals are delivered to homes of seniors requiring nutritional assistance.

**Caregiver Support and Training**

- Training and support groups are designed to reduce stress, increase coping skills and enable caregivers to effectively manage caregiving tasks.

**Senior Center**

- To serve the needs of seniors in rural areas, we operate senior centers that provide recreational, educational and socialization opportunities.

**Senior Companion Program**

- In-home, one-on-one senior 55 and older are given the opportunity to earn tax-free stipends and other benefits while helping their peers remain in their own homes and giving respite to caregivers.

**In Home Services**

- Assist eligible seniors 60 and older with activities of daily living through services such as personal care, homemaker, companionship and respite, which increases their ability to function independently in their own homes.

Sincerely,

Sonya Daniel