

For Immediate Release

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Fresh Jersey Tomatoes Receive Pandemic Hero Award

PUNTA GORDA, FL. (03/10/2021) – Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) presented a Pandemic Hero award to the Fresh Jersey Tomatoes.

For five years, the Fresh Jersey Tomatoes (FJT), a group of women originally from New Jersey who now reside in Charlotte County, have held a toy drive over the holidays for kids in care at CBHC. Despite concerns that the pandemic would hinder donations, the FJTs and their founder, Nannette Leonard, decided to go forward with the annual event.

“2020 was an extremely challenging year on so many levels for our country and our community. It was important that we hold our 5th annual FJT toy drive,” said Leonard. “These children need and deserve the toys we collect this year more than ever.”

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of the FJTs and the giving hearts of those in our community, 2020’s toy drive was a huge success, even bypassing the number of children helped in previous years. In fact, so many toys were donated that they helped children in need not only at CBHC, but also children through the Center for Abuse & Rape Emergencies, Valerie’s House, and Big Brothers Big Sisters.

In operation for over 50 years, CBHC is our area’s largest not-for-profit provider of community-based behavioral health care, offering a full range of mental health services and substance abuse treatment. Last year, they served over 13,000 individuals and families. Their mission is to partner with patients to instill hope, inspire growth, and embrace life; they deliver care that changes people’s lives. For more information, visit www.CBHCfl.org.

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CBHC CEO Victoria Scanlon awards the FJTs a Pandemic Hero award

