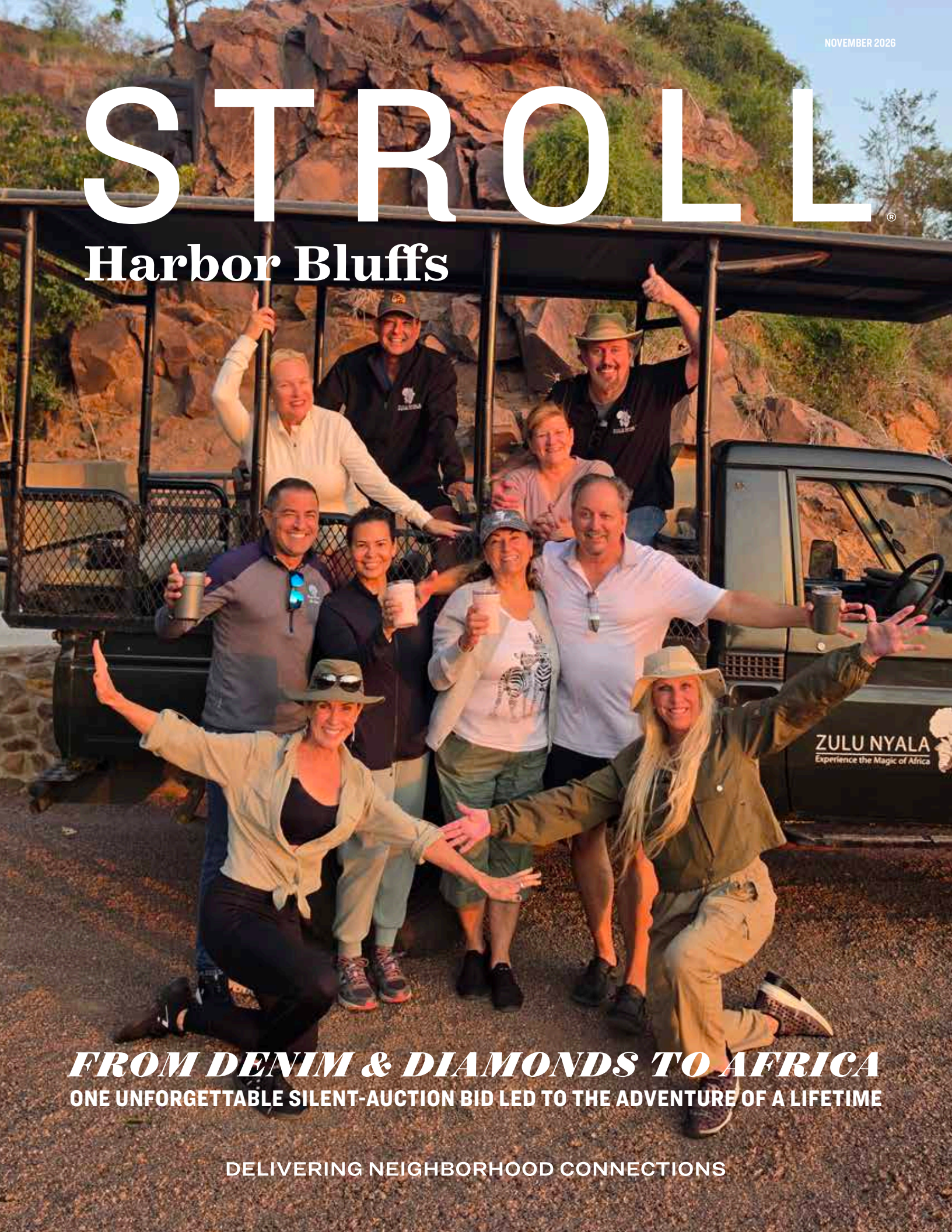
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From Harbor Bluffs to the far reaches of the world, we're always ready for the next adventure.

At *Stroll Harbor Bluffs* **Magazine**, we love to travel. Whether we're exploring somewhere just around the corner or venturing halfway around the world, there's nothing better than seeing new places, meeting new people, and collecting a few unforgettable stories along the way.

That's why we have a little challenge for our readers: **the next time you head out on vacation, pack Stroll with you!** Snap a photo with your magazine wherever your travels take you, post it on social media, and share it with us. We want to see where in the world *Stroll Harbor Bluffs* turns up next!

And what better issue to kick off our travel adventures than one featuring an incredible **safari in Africa**? This month, we're going along for the ride as our cover story takes us across the breathtaking landscapes of South Africa.

So grab your passport, pack your bags, and don't forget your Stroll!

Here is *Stroll Harbor Bluffs* in South Africa!





Fall Finds at Coastal Market 607 Nov. 14 from 10 AM - 4 PM

Shop local, soak up the fall weather, and discover something special at this one-day outdoor market!

Mark your calendar for **November 14** and head to **Coastal Market 607** in Largo from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** for a fun day filled with local shopping, live entertainment, food, and plenty of fall fun.

Browse the work of **40 local artists and makers**, making it the perfect place to find unique gifts, home décor, art, and one-of-a-kind treasures. When you need a break from shopping, grab a bite from the **food truck**, enjoy **live music**, and take in the relaxed outdoor atmosphere.

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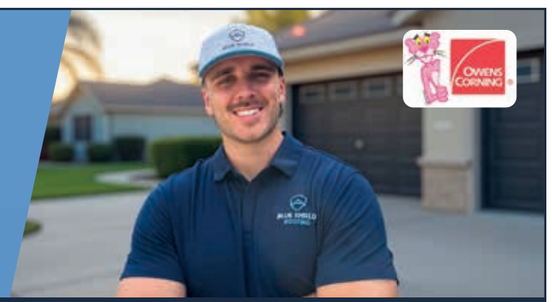
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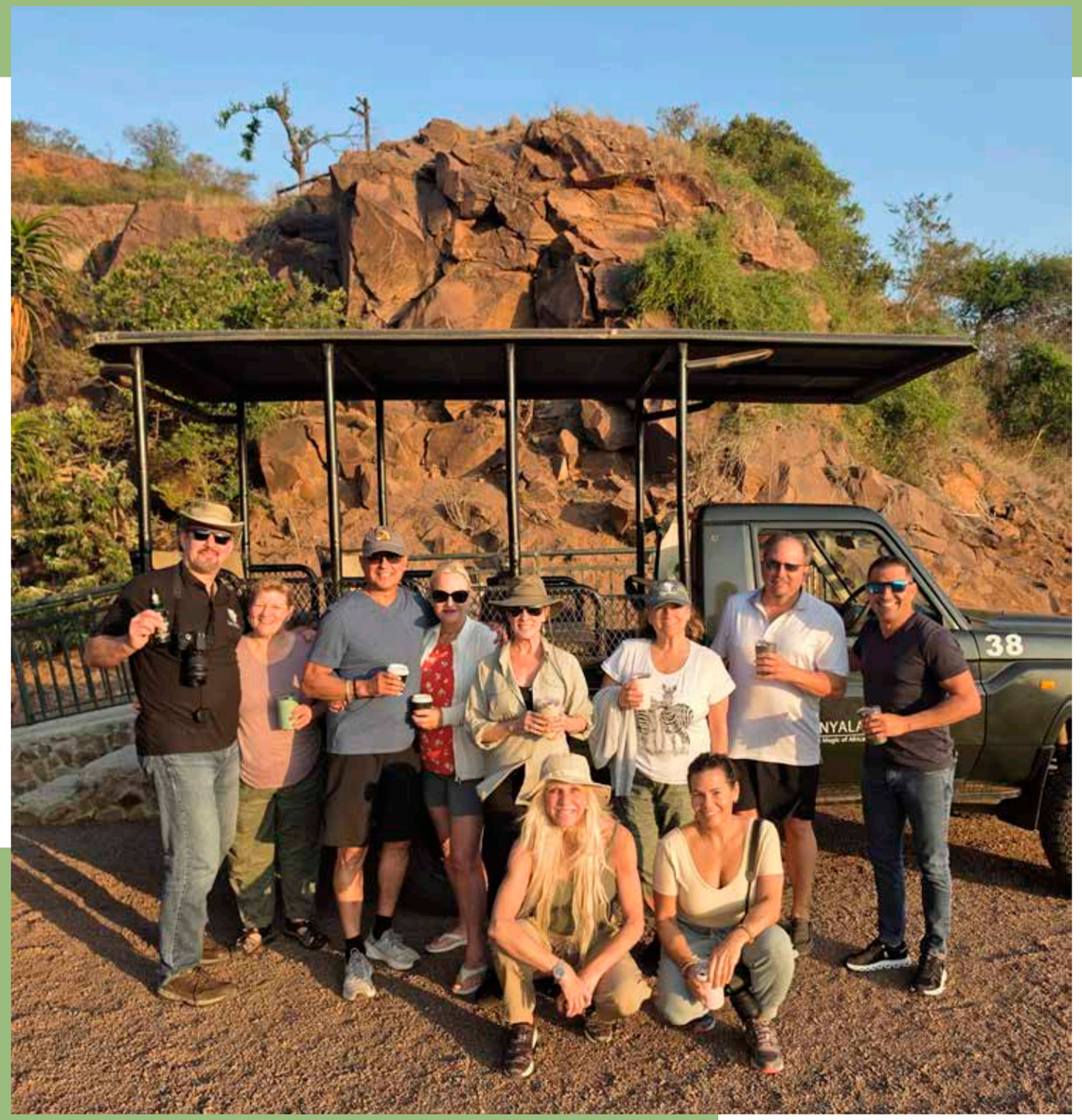
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How a silent-auction bid led to an unforgettable AFRICAN ADVENTURE

BY DEVIN PAPPAS, PUBLISHER AND HARBOR BLUFFS RESIDENT

You know how sometimes you go to a charity event, have a couple of drinks, start bidding on silent auction items and think, “Sure, why not?”

Well, that is pretty much how Denise and I ended up in Africa.

At the Raising Relief Foundation’s Denim & Diamonds Gala, we purchased a South African safari experience in the silent auction. At the time, it sounded amazing. What we didn’t realize was





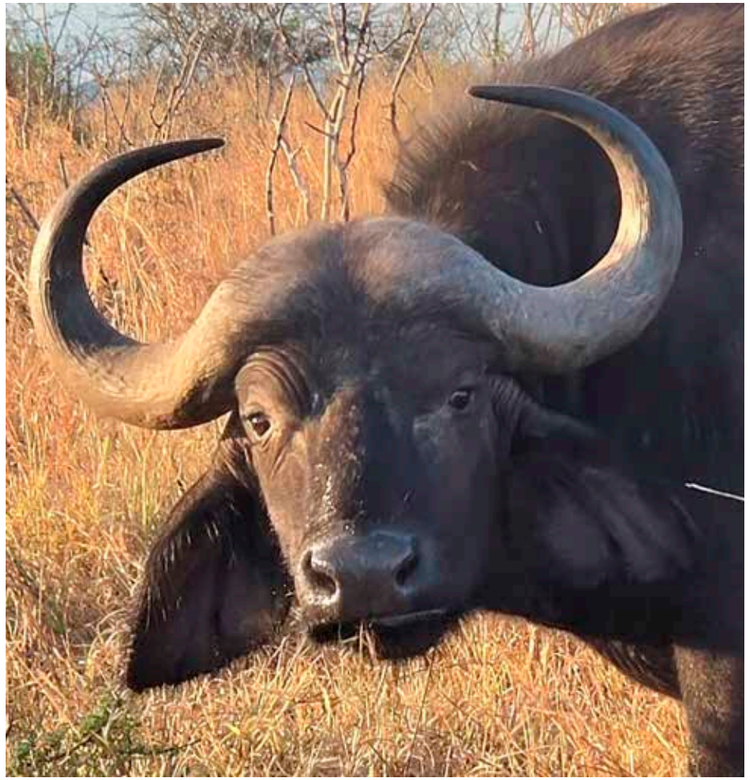












that we had just purchased what would become one of the greatest experiences of our lives.

Our destination was the beautiful Zulu Nyala Safari Resort in Zululand, South Africa. And before this trip, I have to admit something: I had no idea a nyala was an animal!

You learn something new every day—especially when you go to Africa.

The name suddenly made sense. Zulu refers to the Zulu people of the region, while a nyala is a beautiful spiral-horned antelope native to southern Africa that we saw throughout the area. So there we were in Zulu country, surrounded by nyala, staying at Zulu Nyala. Mystery solved!

The resort itself was truly five-star. Our accommodations were beautiful and immaculate, the food was exceptional, and the customer service



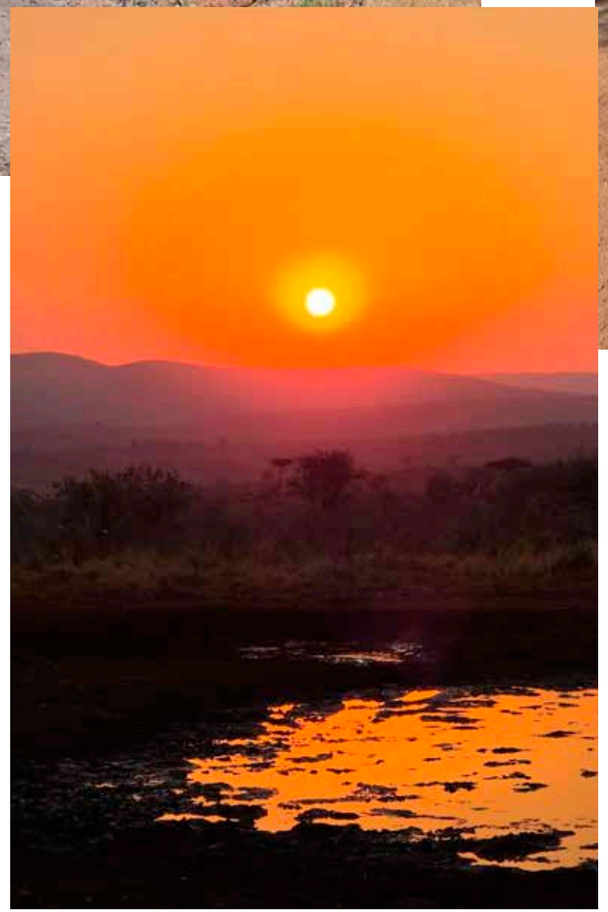














was quite possibly the best we have ever experienced anywhere.

And then there were the safaris!

We could go on two game drives every day, and no two were ever the same. We saw elephants, giraffes, rhinos, zebras, wildebeest, hippos, nyala and so much more. One of my favorite sightings was a mama hippo and her baby actually out of the water.

Trust me, seeing a giraffe on television and having one standing in front of you in Africa are two VERY different things.

We learned about rhinos, discovered how incredibly well zebras can camouflage themselves and even learned more about termite mounds than I ever thought I needed to know. Our guides were phenomenal and seemed to know absolutely everything about everything.

Another great part of the safari package we purchased at the fundraiser is how much is included. Your accommodations, transfers, meals and safaris are all included. You simply purchase your own airline tickets.

Granted, Africa isn't exactly a quick flight from Tampa! You can break up the journey by spending a couple of days in London or Amsterdam. Denise and I decided to pretty much go straight through. It was a long trip, but once we arrived, it was worth every hour of traveling.

But something happened in Africa that neither of us expected.

We went with each other and came home with a family.





Who knew our safari group would include a couple from Sand Key, a couple from Tampa and a couple from Fort Lauderdale? We traveled thousands of miles across the world only to meet people who practically lived in our own backyard!

After days of bouncing around together in safari vehicles, sharing meals, laughing, telling stories and experiencing this incredible adventure, strangers became friends—and not the "we should keep in touch someday" kind of friends. We actually did! Today, we are all great friends.

Apparently, we had to travel all the way to Africa to meet people from our own Florida community.

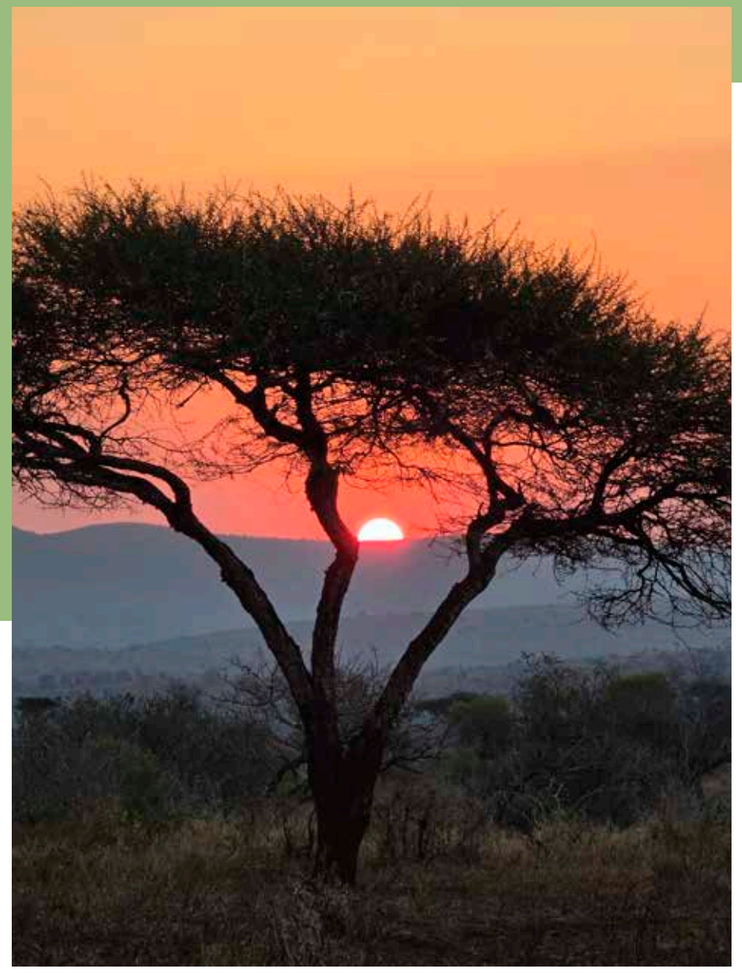
My travel partner Denise is not only a wonderful friend and philanthropist; she is also the wife of Bjorn Brunvand of Brunvand, Wise & Farinella Law Group, a











Stroll Harbor Bluffs Preferred Partner who has been with our magazine since the very beginning.

And that might be my favorite part of this entire story. A Stroll relationship became a friendship. Our community involvement brought us together through Raising Relief Foundation. A silent-auction bid turned into two friends traveling halfway around the world—and Africa introduced us to even more Florida friends.

Talk about bringing a community together!

So, Harbor Bluffs, here's my advice:

If an African safari is on your bucket list, do it.

And if it isn't on your bucket list, put it there.

You may even have the opportunity to cross it off this year at the Raising Relief Foundation's Denim & Diamonds Gone Wild Brunch, January 30 at the Deval Ballroom on Clearwater Beach.

Come have fun, support a 100% volunteer-run local nonprofit and maybe go home with an adventure of your own.

Visit RaisingReliefFoundation.org to secure your tickets, tables or sponsorships.

And if you see that African safari in the auction?

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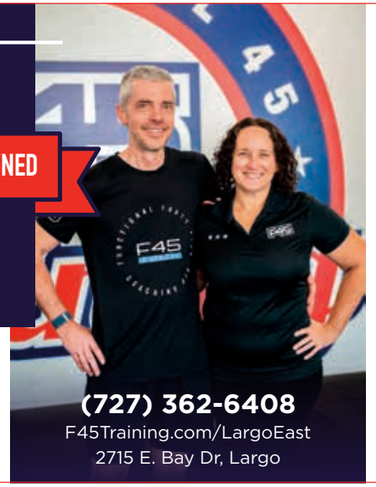
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RISING THROUGH THE RANKS

Nova Berlin Tropf's Wrestling Journey





AT LARGO HIGH SCHOOL, student-athlete Nova Berlin Tropf is proving that dedication and grit can make a big impact—even in a short amount of time. **With a growing passion for wrestling and mixed martial arts, Nova is quickly carving out a name for himself both on and off the mat.**

Nova's journey into wrestling began just last year, sparked by a simple desire to try something new. After practicing on his own, he officially joined the school team this year—and hasn't looked back since. Alongside wrestling, he trains at UFC Gym, where he explores other forms of mixed martial arts and continues to sharpen his skills.

What keeps Nova coming back is the challenge. "It gives me discipline and keeps me in shape," he shares. "I enjoy how hard it is." That mindset has already paid off. Despite joining the team later than many of his peers, Nova has made impressive strides—cutting his weight from 185 to 170 pounds, improving his VO2 max, and becoming one of the team's top fundraisers this season.

Beyond the physical gains, Nova stands out for his leadership and ability to learn quickly. Whether it's mastering new submissions, escapes, or takedowns, he brings focus and determination to every practice—qualities that haven't gone unnoticed by his teammates.

When it comes to inspiration, Nova credits two important figures in his life: his coach and his dad. Their support has been instrumental in his growth, both as an athlete and as a person. In fact, his dad even invested in a full wrestling mat at home, giving Nova the opportunity to train and improve outside of practice.

Looking ahead, Nova has his sights set on attending University of Tampa, where he plans to study business. With his strong work ethic and commitment to improvement, there's no doubt he'll continue to succeed in whatever path he chooses.

As Nova continues to grow in his sport, one thing is clear—this is just the beginning of a promising journey fueled by discipline, determination, and heart.

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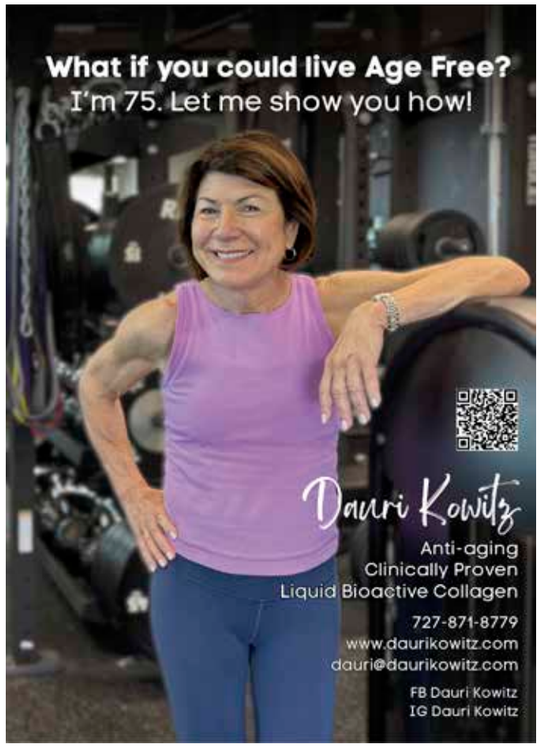


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When They Knock, We Answer

One childhood act of kindness inspired a lifetime of advocacy—and a promise to keep opening the door for foster children in need.



FOR BETH RONZO, helping foster children isn't simply a volunteer role—it's a calling rooted in a childhood experience that she has carried with her for decades.

After eight years volunteering as a Guardian Ad Litem (GAL), Beth has seen firsthand how something as simple as a mattress, a Christmas gift or a chance to play on a soccer team can make an enormous difference in the life of a child in foster care.

Beth has also seen the impact of organizations such as Hero to a Child, which helps make those moments possible.

As a GAL, she has submitted requests for children that have been granted through Hero to a Child, including an orthopedic shoe for a 3-year-old foster child who needed help correcting his gait and the opportunity for another child to participate in a local soccer league. Each year before Christmas, she submits gift ideas for the children in her care—and is grateful to see those wishes fulfilled.

"These are things that you and I may take for granted," Beth says, "such as a mattress to sleep on or a gift to open on Christmas morning."

Beth's husband of 30 years, Dr. Joe Ronzo, has supported her work as a GAL and also sponsors Hero to a Child's annual fundraisers through Biospine Foundation. Together, they have three adult children and two granddaughters.

But her passion for helping others began long before she became a GAL.

A DOOR THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

Growing up, Beth and her brother were primarily raised by their mother, who worked long hours to make ends meet. As a young girl, she spent much of her time outdoors and often found comfort walking to the neighborhood woods to play.

Along the way, she noticed a family who regularly played outside together—a husband, wife and their two young children.

Eventually, she worked up the courage to knock on their door. They welcomed her inside. The couple would give her an icy root beer, and she would sit on their sofa and talk with them. For a child who needed a little extra attention and connection, their kindness meant more than they probably ever realized.

"They could have chosen not to answer the door," she recalls. "But they did." She still treasures those memories. She even has one photograph of herself with the man who opened that door for her. That man was Lee Roy Selmon, the legendary Tampa Bay Buccaneers defensive lineman.

Selmon passed away in 2011 at just 56 years old—the same age she is today—but the impact he and his family had on her life never faded.



PAYING IT FORWARD

Selmon and his family had no obligation to fill a void in a young girl's life. They simply saw a child who needed kindness and chose to answer the door. That experience became a lasting lesson. Today, Beth sees every foster child who enters her life in much the same way.

"Every foster child that enters my life is knocking on the door and I will be answering, because they need us."

Through her work as a GAL and her support of Hero to a Child, she continues to pay forward the kindness she received as a child—one child, one request and one open door at a time.

Beth's greatest hope is that the next generation will do the same. Because sometimes, changing a child's life doesn't require a grand gesture. Sometimes, it simply means **answering the door.**



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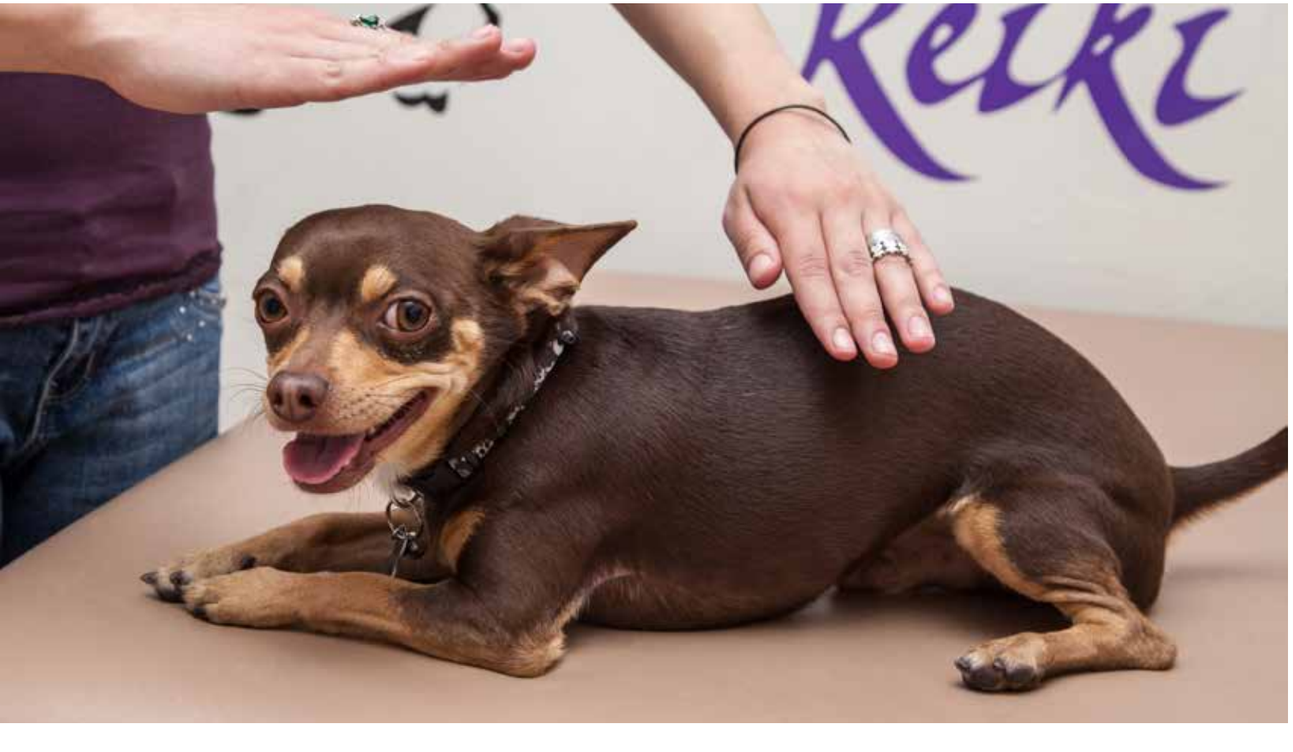
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The Healing Power of Animal Reiki

How Energy Healing Is Transforming the Emotional and Physical Well-Being of Pets and Animals

One of the primary benefits of Animal Reiki is stress reduction. Animals, much like humans, experience anxiety caused by environmental changes, illness, trauma, separation, aging, or past abuse. Reiki sessions create a peaceful and safe environment that allows animals to relax deeply. Many practitioners report that animals often become visibly calmer during sessions, showing signs such as slower breathing, resting, or seeking closer connection.

Animal Reiki can also support physical healing and recovery. While Reiki is not intended to replace veterinary care, it is commonly used as a complementary therapy alongside traditional medicine. Animals recovering from surgery, injury, or chronic illness may benefit from the relaxation and energetic balance Reiki provides. By reducing stress and encouraging a state of calm, Reiki may help support improved circulation, reduced tension, and enhanced comfort during the healing process.

Animal Reiki is also deeply connected to the emotional and energetic environment surrounding an animal. Animals are naturally intuitive and highly sensitive beings. They often absorb or mirror the emotions, stress, anxiety, grief, and unresolved emotional wounds of their human companions. Many animals energetically attune to the frequency of their home and environment, picking up tension, conflict, sadness, fear, or emotional overwhelm occurring around them. This sensitivity can sometimes manifest physically, emotionally, or behaviorally in the animal through anxiety, nervousness, fatigue, hypervigilance, illness, or changes in behavior.

Because animals live so fully in the present moment, they can become energetic reflectors for their owners, often carrying emotional burdens in an attempt to comfort, protect, or remain connected to the people they love. In holistic healing practices, it is commonly understood that animals may internalize the energetic frequency of a household, including stress patterns, emotional trauma, chaotic environments, or even suppressed emotions. This profound energetic connection is one reason Animal Reiki can be beneficial not only for the animal, but also for the relationship and energetic harmony between pets and their caregivers.

Animal Reiki helps clear, balance, and restore the energetic field of the animal while creating a calm and peaceful frequency within the environment itself. As healing energy flows, many animals release stored emotional tension and return to a more balanced state of relaxation and trust. Reiki sessions often create a shared healing experience, allowing both the animal and the owner to feel calmer, more grounded, and emotionally connected. By raising the energetic frequency of the space and encouraging emotional harmony, Animal Reiki supports healing on physical, emotional, and spiritual levels for the entire human-animal bond.

Jillian Kinsman-Barrett
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MICHELLE RINELLO

CEO | REALTOR®

A NOTE FROM YOUR REALTOR

Home for the Holidays

Thinking of upgrading, or thinking of selling?
A few honest tips before you decide.



THINKING OF UPGRADING?

- **Fresh paint & lighting** often out-earn a big renovation.
- **Get bids first** — a second quote often changes the plan.

THINKING OF SELLING?

- **Holiday buyers are serious** — less traffic, more motivated.
- **Price it right** from day one — the first two weeks get the most eyes.

WHAT UPGRADES ACTUALLY RETURN

Garage Door	268%
Steel Entry Door	216%
Kitchen Remodel	113%

Source: Zonda 2025 Cost vs. Value Report

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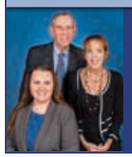
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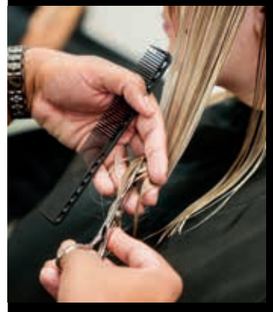
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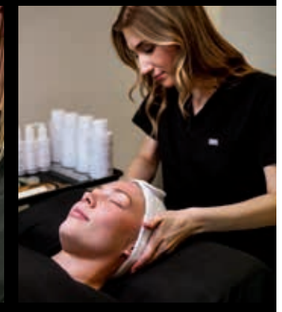
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Our June Mix & Mingle served up delicious bites, generous giveaways, and plenty of reasons to raise a glass to our amazing sponsors.

BY JEWELS CHANDLER



























ON JUNE 16TH, STROLL HELD another fabulous event. Many people attended, and my oh my, the food was incredible. **DeLukas on Cleveland restaurant was a great location, away from the hustle and bustle of downtown Clearwater.** The Ambiance is welcoming, and the owner, Darina, worked in the kitchen preparing amazing dishes for us all to sample. The Bruschetta was the best I have ever tasted! There was a good selection of yummy food, and everyone agreed it was wonderful.

When guests arrived, each was given a discount coupon for their next visit. Thank you, DeLukas! Yes, you know it... We had many fabulous raffles, and Michelle Rinello, Master Realtor, donated her own very generous raffle gift, as well as the one she donated to Stroll. Stroll is blessed to have an unbelievable group of trusted sponsors.

Watch for our next Mix and Mingle. You will find them in your magazine. You will be glad you did.

Thank you, DeLukas Restaurant, for making this Mix and Mingle a huge success.















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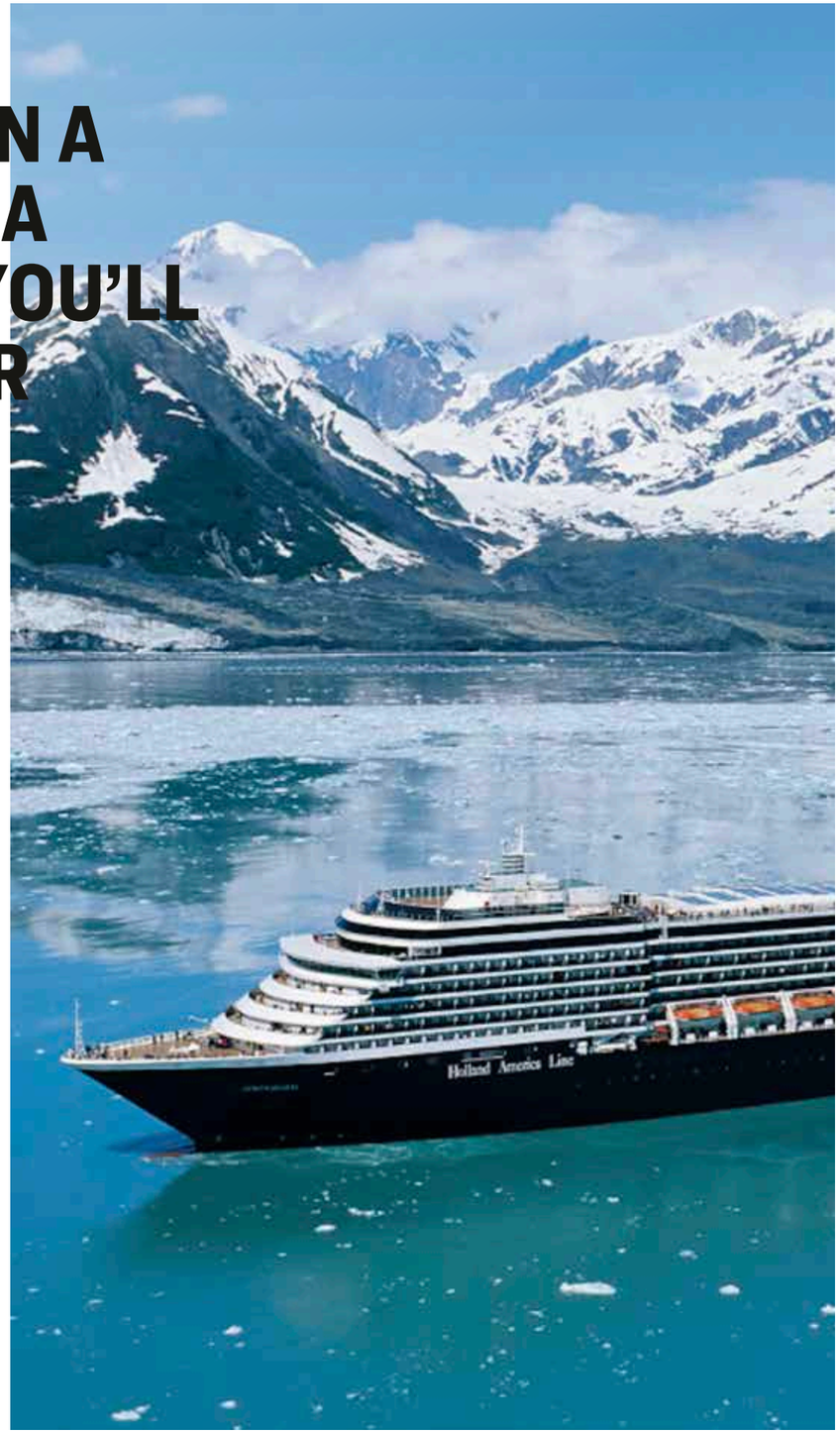
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TRAVEL IS MORE THAN A TRIP—IT'S A MOMENT YOU'LL REMEMBER

BY JENNIFER VANHORN



There is something powerful about having a trip to look forward to. Whether it is watching your children experience something for the first time, celebrating a graduation, reconnecting with family, or simply giving yourself a much-needed break, **travel creates moments that stay with us long after we return home.**

As we begin thinking about the upcoming holiday season, now is the perfect time to start planning what comes next. **Christmas is coming—and instead of another gift that may be forgotten, why not give the gift of an experience?** A cruise, family vacation, weekend getaway, or special adventure can create memories that last a lifetime.

December and January are also wonderful times to consider a cruise. Imagine trading cold weather for sunshine, ocean views, delicious food, entertainment, and a few days where someone else takes care of the details. And if you are already thinking ahead, **2027 graduation cruises and family vacations** are great opportunities to celebrate milestones together.

Travel isn't only for families, either. Senior trips can be an incredible way to explore somewhere new with friends, enjoy a slower pace, and experience the world without having to figure everything out alone. From cruises and international adventures to relaxing resort vacations, there is a trip for almost every traveler and every budget.

The biggest mistake people make is waiting until the last minute. The best options can disappear quickly, especially for popular travel dates, school breaks, holidays, and milestone celebrations. Planning early gives you more choices and more time to create a trip that truly fits what you want.



So, what are you dreaming about? A Christmas surprise? A graduation celebration? A family adventure? A senior getaway? Or maybe it is simply time for you to get away.

That is where I come in.

As a travel advisor, I can help take the stress out of researching, comparing, and planning, while helping you find an experience that fits your vision and budget.

Don't just dream about going. Start planning. Your next unforgettable moment may be closer than you think.

Reach out to **Jen Travels, Your Go-To Travel Girl**, and let's start creating your next adventure!

Or if you think I should focus on just One Vacation Trip Like a Cruise and talk just about Cruises or Alaska, I will re-write it if you feel it would be best. What do you think will catch the reader's Eye?



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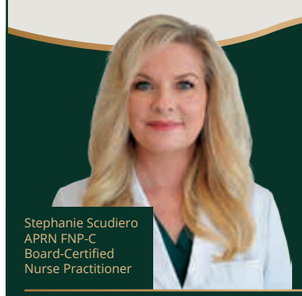
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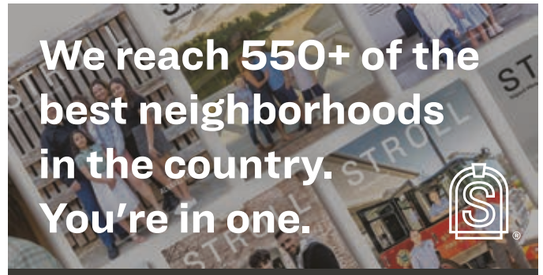
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Built on Trust



After years of hard work, career pivots, and personal sacrifice, Luis Maldonado built Tampa Property Inspections with one simple philosophy: take care of people first, and success will follow.

FOR LUIS, THE PATH TO business ownership wasn't a straight line—it was built through perseverance, adaptability, and a commitment to putting people first.

Originally from New Jersey, Luis met his wife in an unexpected way: through an online video game while they were both in high school. After four years of long-distance dating, the couple married and moved to the Tampa Bay area so Luis could support her through college, medical school, and residency.

Along the way, Luis built a career in HVAC and planned to eventually earn his contractor's license. But after tearing his bicep tendon and dealing with several other injuries, he realized he needed a profession that would provide for his family without taking such a physical toll.

"I've always had an eye for detail and enjoyed working with people," Luis says. "Home inspections felt like the right fit."

While recovering from his injuries, he earned his home inspector's license while driving for Uber and Lyft to help pay the bills. He was soon hired by a local inspection company, where he quickly established himself as one of the area's most dependable inspectors. Over time, he became the sole inspector covering an 80-mile radius throughout the Tampa Bay region, working seven days a week while also building strong relationships with local real estate professionals.

His dedication earned him the prestigious Certified Master Inspector designation, but as his wife neared the end of her residency and the couple prepared to welcome their first child, Luis realized something had to change.

"I wanted the flexibility to be there for my family while still providing for them," he says.

That decision led him to launch **Tampa Property Inspections**, a company built around exceptional customer service, trusted expertise, and a healthy work-life balance.

Just one year later, the business has grown into one of Clearwater's top five home inspection companies. Luis and his wife are now proud parents to an eight-month-old daughter, while his wife has begun her career as a physician in Tarpon Springs.

Growing a successful business hasn't come without challenges.

"The road hasn't been smooth, but that doesn't mean it wasn't good," Luis says. "Every experience is an opportunity to learn, grow, and do better."

Early on, his focus was finding new clients through constant networking and relationship building. As the business matured, the challenge shifted to maintaining those relationships through consistency, communication, and dependable service. Becoming a new father added another layer, requiring him to balance family life with entrepreneurship.

That's where fellow inspector Casey joined the team.

While Casey serves clients in the field, Luis manages the business and spends valuable time at home with his daughter—a balance he worked years to achieve.

What truly sets Tampa Property Inspections apart isn't just its comprehensive list of services—it's the company's people-first philosophy.





Today, Tampa Property Inspections offers comprehensive residential inspection services, including general home inspections, four-point inspections, wind mitigation reports, mold testing, well water testing, roof certifications, solar panel inspections, and wood-destroying organism inspections through a trusted partner.



Having experienced burnout and poor customer service firsthand while working for others, Luis wanted to create a different kind of workplace.

"My mindset has always been that if you take care of your employees, they'll take care of your clients. Then the clients take care of the company."

That philosophy is already paying off. Casey has shared milestones like paying off long-standing debt, taking vacations, and reaching personal income goals—successes Luis considers just as meaningful as business growth.

At the same time, satisfied homeowners and trusted real estate agents continue referring friends, family, and clients, creating steady growth through relationships built on trust.

Today, Tampa Property Inspections offers comprehensive residential inspection services, including general home inspections, four-point inspections, wind mitigation reports, mold testing, well water testing, roof certifications, solar panel inspections, and wood-destroying organism inspections through a trusted partner. The team is also expanding its expertise with commercial property and pre-drywall inspection certifications, ensuring they can continue meeting the evolving needs of Tampa Bay homeowners and businesses.

Looking ahead, Luis knows the real estate market will continue to evolve, but he's confident that diversifying services and maintaining exceptional customer care will keep the company moving forward.

"Our goal is to be there for our clients no matter what the market looks like," he says. "We're always looking for new ways to serve them better."

For Luis, success isn't measured only by inspections completed—it's measured by happy clients, fulfilled employees, and having the freedom to be present for the moments that matter most.

TAMPA
PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

Client Testimonials

Luis is the home inspector you should hire. He's incredibly friendly, thorough, and honest. This is my fifth house that he's inspected, and I have not had a single minor complaint. Even after the initial inspection and the re-inspection, he still greets you warmly and professionally, as if he's just meeting you for the first time.

His extensive knowledge and experience provide a great safeguard for your investment or your home. Luis and Casey are an excellent team, and I highly recommend them.

Thank you, Luis and Casey!
—-AV HNG

Great price
I highly recommend Tampa Property Inspections. Luis scheduled our inspection right away even though it fell during the holidays, and we had the reports in our hand the same day!

They were very thorough and friendly during the inspection process. This company is a class act!
—MARILYN FIGUEROA

Luis got back to us immediately regarding our home inspection. He was able to accommodate our schedule by doing the inspection on a weekend so we could be there and not take time away from work. The website, payment, and ease of getting the report were so great and easy!

Luis was more than thorough on his inspection of our new home. He took the time to explain everything in question, the best way to amend anything needing fixed, and offered excellent advice.

I highly recommend Luis for any inspection needs due to the thoroughness and attention to detail he puts into each inspection. We felt very comfortable moving forward with the sale of our new house after the inspection with Luis and his advice on items needing fixed to pass insurance. He also took the time to initial the original inspection report and review the completed repairs so we could pass the insurance inspection.
Thank you again, Luis!
—HEATHER BERBERICH





A FORCE FOR GOOD: HOW ONE FOUNDATION TRANSFORMS A COMMUNITY

BY JEWELS CHANDLER

ON APRIL 14TH, Raising Relief Foundation held a Volunteer Awareness Meeting at The Daily News Restaurant. Owners Cellinne and Martin Gunesh provided plenty of delicious, hearty appetizers, which everyone enjoyed. The ambiance is welcoming, and the food is always consistently delicious. They are open for lunch and dinner and welcome you to visit.

Kim Duncan, assisted by Andi VanBaelen, gave a plethora of information to the attendees. All present gave testimonials of why they wanted to become involved with this worthy charity. Kim explained how Raising Relief is the "Stop Gap", a heels-on-the-ground charity, and several of the other charities Raising Relief helps. It is 100% Volunteers...NO government funding. There is no charity you can think of that doesn't reach Raising Relief. Kim mentioned how amazing it is to help people in need... whatever that need is.

A short but impactful slideshow was shown, and Kim applauded all involved and all attendees for their caring nature to get involved. She said, "Whatever time people can give is appreciated. There are many ways to become involved". She also explained how volunteers can be out in the field or behind the scenes. "The need is present, and anything is appreciated". After the meeting, I spoke with Kim about how impressed I was with her speaking skills. She made each attendee feel seen, heard, and most welcome. She mentioned that she is a coach...well, that makes sense!

Raising Relief Foundation's mission is ***"to fill immediate gaps in our community by supporting local non-profits and individuals in need across all societal issues through resources, financial assistance, and essential items. We are heels and boots on the ground."*** There are so many facets of Raising Relief. Scan the QR code below to learn more. You can also go to www.raisingrelieffoundation.org



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