



presents



UNMASKING AUTISM GALA

The Power of Love

to benefit

Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services



Scan me 

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023

HILTON ST. PETERSBURG BAYFRONT
333 1ST STREET SE • ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701

W

elcome to the third annual Unmasking Autism Gala — The Power of Love.

When we started the Unmasking Autism Gala, we had no idea how successful it would be and how much interest it would create to raise acceptance and treatment for those with autism spectrum disorder. This is truly an honor. Thank you! With us all working together, we can help to make a difference in the lives of children with autism spectrum disorder and to help them overcome some of the challenges they and their families face daily.

Florida Elks Children’s Therapy Services has 30 occupational and physical therapists throughout the state who offer in-home therapy to Florida children in need. These services are provided in the patient’s home without regard to the family’s ability to pay for such services. Our therapists are currently treating more than 600 children per week and more than 50% of their patients are within the spectrum. Early detection with early intervention is the key to helping these children reach their full potential, which is different for each child.

We want to thank each of you for joining us to raise awareness and acceptance of autism spectrum disorder within our communities. We all have family members or friends whose lives have been touched by a child within the spectrum. Together, we are working to help them face and overcome the challenges caused by autism. We can improve the lives of these children by providing them with much-needed therapy.

As you leave this evening, know that your support and donations will make a difference in a child’s life! I hope everyone has a wonderful time, and we will see you next year for the Unmasking Autism Gala hosted by Florida Elks Charities.

Sincerely,



Dan Masi
Development Director
Florida State Elks Association



Program

Cocktail Reception

Sponsored by
Unmasking Autism Gala Committee
& Brian and Elena Artze

Music by *Chris Garner*

Wine Host and Sponsor

Dr. Kunal V. Amin

Silent Auction Opens

Welcome

Carl T. Seibert, PDD, COO/ State Secretary
Florida State Elks Association

Invocation

Russ Smith, PDD 2022-23 State Chaplain

Erica Riggins

City of St. Petersburg Public Information Officer

Colleen Gallant, PDD, FECTS Director

Dr. Fadi Sada

Dinner is served

Guest Speakers

Dr. Erin Brooker Lozott

Humanitarian Awards Winners
announced by Dan Masi

Ernie Els former number 1 rated PGA Golfer
Ernie Els for Autism

Mike Alstott former NFL player
Mike Alstott Family Foundation

Live Auction – Blake Kennedy

Dancing to the Sounds of *Fencewalk*

Pick up Auction items

Checkout

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In Memoriam



Raymond "Ray" Ott was a member of St. Petersburg Elks Lodge #1224 until his passing, April 30, 2021. He loved being an Elk and what the Elks represented. The Unmasking Autism Gala, which benefits the Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services (FECTS), was a favorite of his. FECTS provides in-home physical and occupational therapy to Florida children in need of such

services, at no cost to the families. The gala is something Ott wanted to support each year. Until his passing, he was a Gold Sponsor, and he left a memorial trust to continue his donation each year for the gala.

Ott joined the Air Force as a young man, where he served and specialized as an avionics ground support superintendent until his honorable discharge in 1973. After his military service, he transitioned into his work as a test conductor and later as a field technician for Honeywell in several divisions until his retirement in 1993.

He was also a member of the American Legion Post #273.

As a longtime fellow Elk and friend, Ray Ott will always be remembered as a faithful supporter of the Unmasking Autism Gala.

**Ocala's Local Power of Love,
Pearl & Samantha**



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DR. ERIN BROOKER LOZOTT

2022 Speaker

DR. ERIN BROOKER LOZOTT

Dr. Erin Brooker Lozott, BCBA-D, CCC-SLP is the Els for Autism Foundation Program Director. She has been working with individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and related disabilities across ages and settings for over 25 years. Erin is a doctoral-level board-certified behavior analyst and a licensed and certified Speech-Language Pathologist. Before joining the Els for Autism Foundation staff, Erin worked for Children's Healthcare of Atlanta-Marcus Autism Center as the Community Interventionist Manager, participating in research and educational outreach community-based projects. Erin has co-authored several publications on autism spectrum disorder topics, and she has presented and consulted extensively on a national and international level. She is an appointed member of both a scientific advisory committee and a clinical excellence committee for international autism organizations. Erin has her doctorate in special education, focusing on applied behavior analysis, from Nova Southeastern University, in Davie, Florida.



As the Program Director, Erin oversees the development and delivery of all programs and services from birth through adulthood. All Els for Autism therapeutic services are rooted in evidence-based practices and are available to individuals with and without ASD across ages. In addition to overseeing all therapeutic services, Erin is responsible for ensuring the mission of the Foundation in the interaction with the global autism community is maintained through global partnerships, professional observerships, research opportunities, consulting, and training opportunities. Also, Erin oversees the Global Outreach Autism Learning Services (GOALS) program. Els for Autism Foundation organization is committed to global outreach by providing high-quality services to the local community and the state, national, and international communities. GOALS provides families worldwide the opportunity to access a highly qualified transdisciplinary team of professionals that work together to develop unique & individualized programs, using evidence-based practices for their child with autism.

To ensure we continue to grow in understanding the nature of ASD and to ensure we continue to facilitate the development and delivery of treatment therapies, educational programs, and training programs, Erin supports the Teaching Educational Autism Methods (TEAM) program. The TEAM program provides learning opportunities for university students and professionals seeking advanced clinical and skill development opportunities such as internships, externships, practicum experiences, and professional supervision. The TEAM program also encompasses the E-TEAM online learning library of webinars and training series.



MIKE ALSTOTT / THEODORE ERNEST ELS

2023 Humanitarians of the Year



MIKE ALSTOTT

On the field, Mike Alstott was known as a powerful runner who made a career of gaining tough yards between the tackles. He possessed a rare blend of power and agility which provided him with a physical toughness only eclipsed by tremendous work ethic. His bruising style and penchant for finding the end zone helped him place him among the Buccaneers' all-time leaders in total touchdowns (71), the leader in rushing touchdowns (58) and compiling

seven career 100-yard rushing games. He ranks second all-time on the club's rushing list with 5,088 yards, while his 305 career receptions place him third in team history. Alstott also stands third on the Buccaneers' career scoring list with 432 points, becoming the first non-kicker in team history to surpass the 400-point plateau. Tampa Bay owns a 44-14 record in the regular season when he scored a touchdown. Alstott was named to six Pro Bowls, which marks the most appearances for an offensive player in club history. Alstott is a member of both the State of Indiana and Purdue University Halls of Fame and holds numerous records at Purdue and Joliet Catholic (Illinois) High School. In the Fall of 2015, Alstott was inducted as the 6th member of the Buccaneer Ring of Honor.

Off the field, Alstott takes his job as a community servant just as seriously as he knows his responsibility did not end on the field. For the 12 years he spent with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Alstott continually gave significantly of himself, and the Tampa Bay community is more than grateful to know a man with such a benevolent mindset and a compassionate heart. Meeting his civic duty beyond most, Alstott does not need a reason to participate, as putting smiles on other people's faces is all the satisfaction he needs.

In the 2007 off-season, Alstott formed the Mike Alstott Family Foundation. The foundation's mission is to uplift the minds, hearts and spirits of families and children on their way to realizing their full potential through various events, assistance programs and celebrations. The foundation works with multiple agencies and organizations in addition to helping individuals overcome life-altering obstacles.

Since forming the foundation, the Alstott Family has been involved in numerous community events including: Hosting multiple annual events at Johns Hopkins All-Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg; Hosting a Sports Buddies Day for those involved in the Big Brothers / Big Sisters organization; Participating in many events to benefit the Angelus House, Holding back-to-school shopping events for children of the Sallie House, Children's Village, and A Kids' Place; Preparing and serving Thanksgiving dinner to those staying at the Ronald McDonald House; Delivering Thanksgiving meals to local firefighters; Hosting a summer bowling party for athletes from Special Olympics and Camp Redbird; Hosting a Veteran's Day Flag Football Game with members of the Wounded Warriors Ability Ranch community; and hosting a holiday fishing party for children in the foster care system.

To learn more about the Mike Alstott Family Foundation and to stay up to date with what Mike's doing in the community, visit:

www.mikealstottfamilyfoundation.org
or www.facebook.com/MikeAlstottFamilyFoundation

THEODORE ERNEST ELS

Born 17 October 1969) Els is a South African professional golfer. A former World No. 1, he is known as "The Big Easy" due to his imposing physical stature (he stands 6 ft 3 in (1.91 m)) along with his fluid golf swing.



Among his more than 70 career victories are four major championships: the U.S. Open in 1994 at Oakmont and in 1997 at Congressional, and The Open Championship in 2002 at Muirfield and in 2012 at Royal Lytham & St Annes. He is one of six golfers to twice win both the U.S. Open and The Open Championship.

Other highlights in Els's career include topping the 2003 and 2004 European Tour Order of Merit (money list), and winning the World Match Play Championship a record seven times. He was the leading career money winner on the European Tour until overtaken by Lee Westwood in 2011, and was the first member of the tour to earn over €25,000,000 from European Tour events. He has held the number one spot in the Official World Golf Ranking and until 2013 held the record for weeks ranked in the top ten with 788. Els rose to fifteenth in the world rankings after winning the 2012 Open Championship. He was elected to the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2010, on his first time on the ballot, and was inducted in May 2011.

Els now primarily plays on the PGA Tour Champions. When not playing, he has a golf course design business, a charitable foundation that supports golf among underprivileged youth in South Africa, and a winemaking business.

Els for Autism Foundation was established in 2009 by Liezl Els, Ernie Els, and Marvin R. Shanken. The Els' son, Ben, is impacted by autism spectrum disorder, which affects 1 in 44 children in the U.S. The Foundation offers innovative, evidence-based programs for families and individuals across the life-span in six focus areas: Education, Research, Global Support, Recreation Services, Adult Services and Therapy Services. Els for Autism Foundation serves families around the world, and offers in-person programs and services at The Els Center of Excellence® campus in Jupiter, Florida.

Els married his wife Liezl in 1998 in Cape Town, and they have two children, Samantha and Ben. In 2008, after Els started to display an "Autism Speaks" logo on his golf bag it was announced that their then five-year-old son was autistic. Their main residence is at the Wentworth Estate near Wentworth Golf Club in the south of England. However, they also split time between South Africa and their family home in Jupiter, Florida, in order to get better treatment for Ben's autism.

The global mission of Els for Autism is to transform the lives of people with autism and those who care for them through lifetime services and collaborative partnerships.

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OUR CONCIERGE PROGRAM

Our passion for quality healthcare is the driving force behind Amin VIP Concierge Medicine. Our healthcare model allows Dr. Amin to provide enhanced, personalized medical care and services.

Concierge medicine in the St. Petersburg market is fairly new. Our patients had a growing need to spend more time with Dr. Amin during their appointments, requested more healthy screening visits, and wanted same-day or next-day appointments with 24/7 access via phone or a Smartphone App. This level of care and service is available to our AminVIP members.

What is Concierge Medicine?

Concierge medicine, also known as boutique or retainer medicine, is a form of medical practice where patients pay an annual fee or retainer to their doctor in exchange for personalized, proactive, and comprehensive medical care.

Concierge doctors typically limit the number of patients they see, which allows them to spend more time with each patient, offer same-day or next-day appointments, and provide more personalized care.

Meet Dr. Kunal Amin

We are proud to welcome you to AMIN VIP, where Dr. Amin is committed to providing the highest level of personalized care to each and every patient. Board certified with the American Board of Family Medicine and a board member of the Saint Anthony's Hospital Foundation, Dr. Amin has established himself as one of the top primary care physicians in the Tampa Bay Area.

Dr. Amin has achieved outstanding results as a primary care physician, ranking as the top producer for his organization in South Pinellas County, and placing among the top five primary care physicians in terms of production out of a pool of nearly 175 doctors in the Tampa Bay Area.

In addition to attending Wabash College where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity, Dr. Amin completed his basic science training at the Medical University of the Americas on the island of Nevis, and his clinical training at various hospitals in Chicago. He started practicing just nine days after completing a

three-year Family Medicine residency program at the Fort Wayne Medical Education Program in 2012, determined to build a successful practice. As your advocate, Dr. Amin will strive to provide you with the best care for you and your family, drawing on his close relationships with a large network of physicians and other ancillary services should you need a referral.

Born in Anderson, Indiana, Dr. Amin comes from a family of physicians, including his grandfather, a general practitioner in India and Kenya, and his father, an oncologist who immigrated to America. Dr. Amin takes great pride in the fact that there has been a "Dr. Amin" in healthcare for over 75 years. In his spare time, Dr. Amin enjoys golfing, tennis, attending sporting events, and traveling the world. Recent travels include Morocco, Scotland, Ireland, India, Japan, and Egypt.

Whether you're in need of medical care or travel recommendations, Dr. Amin is the one to turn to. At AMIN VIP, you can expect personalized care from a doctor who is committed to your health and well-being.



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To learn more about the Mike Alstott Family Foundation and to stay up to date with what Mike's doing in the community, visit www.mikealstottfamilyfoundation.org or www.facebook.com/MikeAlstottFamilyFoundation.

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FLORIDA ELK CHILDREN'S THERAPY SERVICES



The Florida State Elks Association has a long history of providing rehabilitation services to Florida children in need. It has been our heritage since 1933 and has been the one constant that has bound our association together for nearly 90 years. In April 1933, the Harry-Anna Home for Crippled Children was dedicated. In the late 1960s, the Harry-Anna Hospital took on the status of a special pediatric orthopedic hospital and became known as the Florida Elks Harry-Anna Crippled Children's Hospital. The 1970s brought many changes to the hospital, and many state and federal assistance programs came into existence. In 1977, a new hospital was built. The new facility was a modern, sprawling, one-story Spanish villa of 60,000 square feet. The cost of this beautiful facility was \$2,146,000 and it was raised entirely by the generous Elks of Florida, and there was not one penny of debt on the first day of patient care.

As care for orthopedic patients evolved, the hospital patient count fell as well. During the midyear convention of 1998, the Florida State Elks Association Board of Directors voted to make a major change in the way it delivered health care services to Florida children. After 65 years of providing health care services to thousands of children in a hospital setting, the board of directors, after a great deal of deliberation, made the decision to close the hospital early in 1999.

On March 1, 1999, a new program — Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services — began. The program was modeled after the California-Hawaii Elks Association's mobile therapy program and offered in-home physical and occupational therapy for children in need. Therapists throughout the state were hired. We started with 14 therapists and vans, and we are now up to 30 therapists and vans on the road. Additionally, we have 23 contract therapists working with us. We are currently treating

nearly 600 children per week. Compare that to the 30 children we were treating when the hospital closed in 1999.

As our program evolved, it became apparent that the needs of the children were not only physical in nature but neurological as well, so our therapists take a neurodevelopmental approach when treating a child on the spectrum.

In a clinical setting, a child is treated based on diagnosis and what Medicaid will pay. At Florida Elk Children's Therapy Services, our therapists provide the treatment that will give the child the tools needed to reach their greatest potential. We answer to our members and board of directors rather than to a government agency, and we treat patients based on need, not numbers.

The services received by patients who meet eligibility requirements are provided at no cost to the families. The program does not receive financial assistance from any government agency. Instead, it receives funding from the Harry-Anna Investment Fund Inc., Elks lodges, Florida Elks Ladies organizations, the Elks National Foundation, and, more importantly, from generous public donations.

Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services is so important as we continue to help the children in Florida who would ordinarily not have access to high-quality therapy in their homes. We are grateful to have 23 occupational therapists and seven physical therapists working for us.

On behalf of all of us at Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services, thank you for your incredible support.



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THE POWER OF AUTISM

THE POWER OF LOVE

The Power of Autism is a curious thing
Makes one child weep
Makes another one sing
Change and face the realism

More than a feeling, that's the Power of Autism
They're tough like diamonds, smarter then they seem
Stronger and wiser than most human beings

Make a sad one happy, always trying to do right
Power of Autism can keep you up at night
It's not about money, it's not about fame

It takes loving parents to ride this train

It's strong and it's sudden and it's cruel sometimes, but we will fight to save their lives
That's the Power of love, that's the power of Autism

First time you see it, it might make you sad, next time you see it, it might make you mad
But do be glad Elks that we've found with our power, we'll spread the word around

It's not about money, it's not about fame
It takes loving parents to ride this train

It's strong and its sudden and its cruel sometimes, but we will fight to save lives
They say that all in love is fair yeah we Elks really care

but you know what to do when the feeling gets hold of you
With help from our visions

you feel the Power of Love, can you feel it
It's not about money, it's not about fame

It takes loving parents to ride this train

Tougher than diamonds and stronger than steel

You won't feel nothing till you feel, you feel the power, just the power of love

That's the power

Just feel the power of love

That's the power

That's the power of Autism

You feel the power of Autism, you feel the power of love

You feel the power of love

You feel the power of Autism

Featured Artist (Back by Popular Demand)

AL BLACK



This year, we are very honored to have Al Black, one of the 26 We are honored to have Mr. Al Black, one of the 26 original Florida Highwaymen artists, return this year by popular demand as a featured guest to the Unmasking Autism Gala! He will be doing another original painting during the gala, which he will donate to be auctioned at the end of the evening, with all proceeds going to the Unmasking Autism Gala. Last year's winning bid was \$9,700 from Nick Pusta. I'm sure he will be there to lay the challenge out again this year! If you are not lucky enough to be the winning bidder, Mr. Black will have other paintings for sale at the end of the gala. He will then donate 10% of the sales to Unmasking Autism. He is a great supporter of the gala, and we are happy to have him back! His paintings range in price from \$600 to more than \$10,000.

The following biography of Al Black comes from floridahighwaymenartist.com/al-black and was written by Matt Samuel, spokesperson for the Florida Highwaymen. Al "Blood" Black is one of the most elusive Highwaymen artists: almost no biographical data is publicly available about him, including his date and place of birth. In his early years of painting, he seldom gave interviews, although he was well known for his productive sales techniques, and he is known to speak prolifically when promoting his work. It is possible that he painted additions to some of Alfred Hair's work and sold paintings for some of the other Highwaymen artists while he learned to paint through observation. Black has claimed several times that he taught himself to paint by fixing work in his possession that became smudged during transport for sale. Al Black paintings are characterized by the inclusion of sea birds in his Florida coastal landscapes. Al commonly includes three white birds flying through crisp blue skies in his work. He says the birds are representative of the Holy Trinity. Black sometimes adds a fourth bird that lags to special paintings, which he claims signifies himself. Each of the Al Black paintings have a serene and peaceful feeling and showcase the natural beauty of undeveloped Florida without the angst or jarring colors that some Highwaymen art contains. Al Black began his career as an artist with the standard Highwaymen tools, producing his early work on Upson board with oil paints and crown molding frames. Al is the most experimental of the Highwaymen in terms of media and has at times utilized acrylic paints, produced wall murals in oil and painted on canvas.

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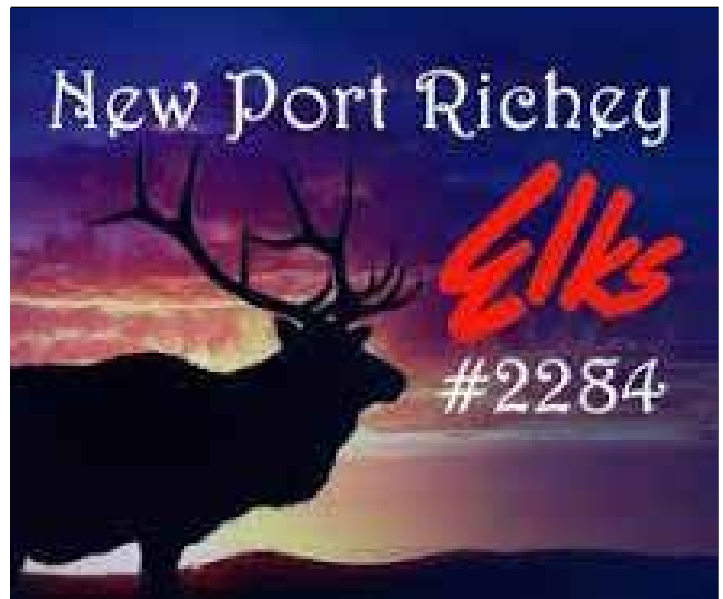


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wanted to thank all the committee members, who unselfishly donated their time, talent, ideas, and expertise in helping to make the Florida Elks Charities Unmasking Autism Gala a success! Through your dedication we are helping children with autism spectrum disorder and their families to overcome the challenges that they deal with daily. The funds raised by this gala will be used to help enhance and expand the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through Florida Elks Children's Therapy Services.

A special thank you goes to Carol Bressler. Without her, this program would not have happened. Again, I want to thank you all for your contributions to this gala. It takes a great team to make great things happen!

– Dan

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