



MetroWest's annual charity drive, MetroWest Giving Hearts Supporting Edgewood Children's Ranch, seeks to raise funds for our neighborhood non-profit now through Dec. 12.

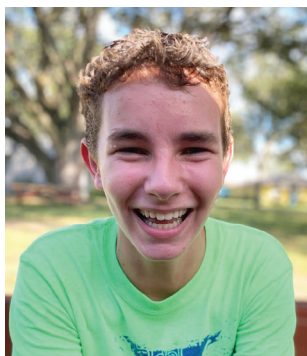


MetroWest Giving Hearts asks for donations to help at-risk children and their families find hope through faith, love and education at Edgewood Ranch.

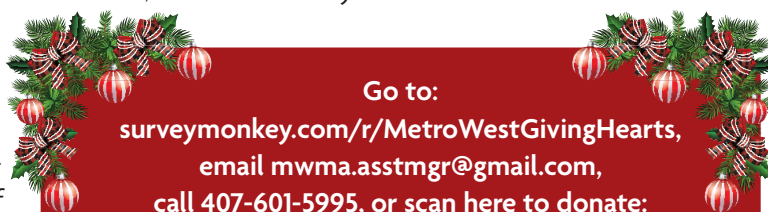
Since 1966, Edgewood Children's Ranch has helped thousands of at-risk children overcome adversities. Currently, over 86 percent of children in the program come from cost-burdened homes. Your support in any amount helps provide a loving environment where children can learn to thrive and succeed in life, and where families can find healing.

The focus at Edgewood Children's Ranch is to meet the needs of each child regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, or ability to pay.

Central Florida is full of families struggling with troubled at-risk children that demonstrate difficult behaviors. Edgewood Children's



Ranch gives children in our community an opportunity to receive safe quality care and education while learning the social-emotional skills they need to properly manage their behaviors. Children who complete the Edgewood program have a better chance to finish school, become successful community members, and build healthy families.



Go to:

surveymonkey.com/r/MetroWestGivingHearts,
email mwma.asstmgr@gmail.com,
call 407-601-5995, or scan here to donate:



To get involved and learn more about ECR's mission and the work they do to change children's lives, visit edgewoodranch.com.

Edgewood Children's Ranch: Mending Hearts. Healing Spirits. Transforming Futures.

MWMA Thanks Jim Drayton for 20 Years of Service to the Community!

After 20 years of serving on the MetroWest Master Association (MWMA) Board of Directors, including terms as President, Jim Drayton has retired.

MetroWest General Manager Julie Sanchez praised Jim's "exceptional dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the success and well-being of the MetroWest community. Jim consistently goes above and beyond the expectations of a Board Member, offering thoughtful insight, making sound decisions and investing countless hours to ensure that initiatives are executed with integrity and excellence."



"Jim Drayton truly exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose and serve with heart."

— Julie Sanchez

In addition to the MWMA Board of Directors, Jim served on and led Annual Budget Committees and other Boards that needed support at critical times. A resident of Palma Vista, he also served on that community's Board and is a past Board

President.

During Jim's tenure, MWMA created MetroWest MusicWORKS, which has become the community's signature event, instituted an annual donation of \$5,000 each to MetroWest Elementary and Westpointe Elementary, and established a yearly fundraising drive supporting Edgewood Children's Ranch.

"Jim's collaborative spirit, always willing attitude, forward-thinking approach, and ability to navigate complex challenges have made a lasting positive impact on our community," said Julie. "Jim Drayton truly exemplifies what it means to lead with purpose and serve with heart."

Stina D'Uva will finish Jim's term on the MWMA Board, which ends in December. A proud MetroWest resident since 1989, Stina and her husband, Nick, raised their three sons here. A lifelong community advocate, she has served in leadership roles with local schools, her homeowners' association, and MWMA including as President.



Stina also led the West Orange Chamber of Commerce for 22 years, earning the organization three Florida Chamber of the Year honors, and was recognized as Florida Chamber Executive of the Year. Named District 1 Citizen of the Year and honored in the U.S. Congressional Record, she now enjoys retirement, community service, and her grandchildren.

Thank you, Jim! And welcome back, Stina!

MetroWest Connect is a quarterly publication of MetroWest Master Association distributed at no charge to residents and businesses in the community. One of Orlando's first master-planned communities, MetroWest was developed in 1986 and features award-winning landscaping, MetroWest Golf Club, Valencia College campus, as well as high-performing public schools. MetroWest also provides convenient access to both I-4 and 408 from the west side of Orlando. MetroWest offers a community lifestyle with neighborhood businesses and outdoor recreation options. The diverse community is complemented by a range of living options, from single-family homes of all sizes to apartments and condominiums. For more information, please visit www.metrowestcommunity.com or call (407) 601-5995.



MetroWest Public Safety Corner

MetroWest Master Association Announces Jeremy Konvalinka as Public Service Manager



The MetroWest Master Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeremy Konvalinka as the new MetroWest Public Service Manager.

Konvalinka has more than 20 years of experience in public safety, law enforcement, and

security operations. His background includes service as an Auxiliary and Commissioned Police Officer, Maritime Security Officer, School Protection Officer, and Public Safety Supervisor, with a consistent focus on building safer and more engaged communities.

Prior to joining MetroWest, Konvalinka served as the first certified School Protection Officer with Critical Intervention Services at the Rosen Jewish Community Center, where he led safety initiatives for early childhood and pre-K programs. He also held maritime security roles protecting U.S. Navy vessels in Norfolk, Va., and served seven years with the Bono Police Department in Arkansas. In 2024, he joined the MetroWest

Public Safety team, where he was promoted to a supervisory role overseeing daily field operations and team development.

“I’m excited to join the First Service Residential Team at MetroWest and contribute to a community that values connection, safety and collaboration,” Konvalinka said. “In this role, I look forward to building strong relationships, supporting the public safety team, and helping ensure MetroWest remains a welcoming and secure place for everyone who lives, works, and visits here.”

“In this role, I look forward to building strong relationships, supporting the public safety team”

As Public Service Manager, Konvalinka leads public safety initiatives, manages team operations, conducts community inspections, and develops engagement strategies. His role combines field leadership with strategic coordination to support the safety, well-being, and quality of life in the MetroWest community.

Meet the MetroWest Public Safety Service Team

MetroWest Public Safety Director Derwin Bradley and Public Service Manager Jeremy Konvalinka have meticulously assembled an experienced and dynamic Public Safety Service Team for the MetroWest community.

Your MetroWest Public Safety Officers (PSO) are:

Ismael Torres

Monique Shepherd

DeAngelo Rolax

Erik Barragan

Michael Lastimosa

Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MetroWestMasterAssociation) to ensure that you don't miss any MetroWest community news. Also, scan the QR code for our website. It provides a wide range of timely news and updates about MetroWest, including events, business, community stories and more.



Community Celebrates Opening of New MetroWest Village Publix



The new 48,387-square-foot Publix, built on the site of the old store in MetroWest Village, opened Sept. 25. Publix executives, local elected officials, and MetroWest Master Association board members, management and Public Safety were on hand for the grand opening event.



Commercial activity in MetroWest continues to be strong, with other businesses also recently opening including:

- Crunch Fitness (1101 Resource Ave.)
- Amore Nails (5856 Raleigh St.)
- MetroWest Shipping Center (2445 S. Hiawasse Rd.)
- H.O.C. - House of Celebration (2254 S. Kirkman Rd.)

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Legacy of
Expert Care.

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For more than 70 years, Orlando Health – Health Central Hospital has delivered comprehensive, world-class healthcare. We're proud to offer advanced expertise in cardiovascular and stroke treatment, orthopedics, spine surgery, bariatrics, emergency medicine, neurosciences, outpatient services and more — today and for generations to come. OrlandoHealth.com/HealthCentral



MetroWest Public Safety Offers Essential Tips for Holiday Safety



Keep your home secure and shop wisely this holiday season with these safety tips from MetroWest Public Safety.



Holiday Home Safety

- **Secure Doors and Windows:** Always lock all doors and windows, especially when leaving your home or before going to bed. Consider installing deadbolts and security bars for added protection.
- **Install a Security System:** Use monitored alarm systems and cameras. Display signs indicating your home is protected by a security system to deter intruders.
- **Use Timers for Lights:** Set indoor and outdoor lights on timers to give the impression that someone is home, even when you're away.
- **Keep Valuables Out of Sight:** Store expensive electronics, jewelry, and other valuables in secure locations away from windows.
- **Maintain Your Property:** Keep shrubs trimmed and yards tidy to eliminate hiding spots for potential burglars. Ask a trusted neighbor to collect mail and packages if you're traveling.

Personal Safety Tips

- **Be Aware of Your Surroundings:** Whether walking, jogging, or running errands, always stay alert and avoid distractions such as using your phone.
- **Travel in Groups:** If possible, walk or exercise with friends, especially at night. Stick to well-lit and populated areas.
- **Trust Your Instincts:** If something feels wrong, leave the area and seek help immediately.
- **Carry Essentials:** Bring a charged cell phone, identification, and emergency contacts. Consider carrying a personal safety alarm.
- **Secure Personal Belongings:** Keep wallets, purses, and backpacks close to your body and zipped or fastened.

Shopping Safety

- **Stay Alert in Parking Lots:** Park in well-lit areas, lock your vehicle, and keep shopping bags out of sight. Look around before exiting or entering your car.

- **Protect Your Payment Information:** Cover your PIN at checkout and use credit cards with chip technology for added security.
- **Avoid Carrying Excess Cash:** Use cards or digital payments to minimize the risk of loss or theft.
- **Keep Receipts:** Save your receipts to track purchases and quickly identify unauthorized transactions.
- **Watch for Suspicious Behavior:** If you notice anything unusual, inform store security or local authorities.

Avoiding Scams

- **Beware of Unsolicited Calls or Emails:** Don't share personal information with callers or senders you don't recognize. MetroWest residents should be aware that scammers often pose as utility companies or government agencies.
- **Verify Before You Pay:** If someone requests payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency, it's likely a scam.
- **Check for Official Communication:** Confirm account changes or billing requests directly with your bank or service provider before responding.
- **Monitor Your Accounts:** Regularly review your bank and credit card statements for unauthorized activity.
- **Report Suspicious Activity:** Contact the Orlando Police Department or local authorities if you believe you've encountered a scam.

General Awareness Tips

- **Stay Informed:** Join MetroWest neighborhood groups or social media pages to receive the latest updates on community safety and events.
- **Know Your Neighbors:** Building relationships in your neighborhood can create a support network and improve collective safety.
- **Use Community Resources:** Take advantage of safety workshops, patrols, and local security initiatives offered in MetroWest.
- **Report Issues Promptly:** If you witness suspicious activity or safety hazards, report them to local authorities or community management.



MetroWest

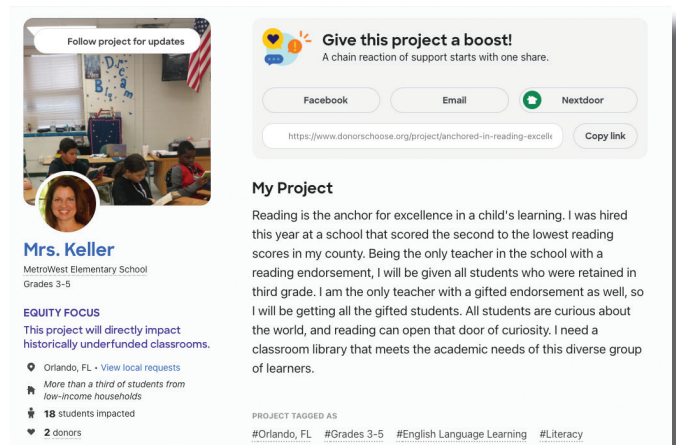
2145 Metrocenter Blvd., Suite 110
Orlando, FL 32835 USA

Community Can Help MetroWest Elementary Teacher Spark a Love of Reading

MetroWest Elementary third grade teacher Gina Keller is asking for the community's support to assist her in building her classroom library.

"Reading is the anchor for excellence in a child's learning," Keller says. "Help me give my students a variety of books to spark a love of reading."

Keller has an active project through Dec. 1 on the Donor's Choose website.



"All students are curious about the world, and reading can open that door of curiosity. I need a classroom library that meets the academic needs of this diverse group of learners," she said.

Use the QR code for more information and to donate.