

David Smythe is superhero to those in need in Martin

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FOR LUMINARIES

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He doesn't have a flowing white beard, a herd of reindeer or even a sleigh.

However, David Smythe is as much a superhero to Martin County residents as Santa Claus.

Smythe's passion to help others has inspired tremendous generosity over the years, such as the David L. Smythe Wound Center at Martin Health System, the butterfly garden at Molly's House, and a future performing arts center for StarStruck Theatre and Academy.

"The gift I get from giving ... nothing else compares. The reward is indescribable joy," said Smythe.

Last month, Smythe helped sponsor New Horizons Breakfast with Santa at Mets Stadium/First Data Field. Hundreds of children from across the Treasure Coast -- including many from Martin County -- were treated to a hot meal and a visit with St. Nick.

Smythe's sponsorship of the event will help pay for outpatient mental health and substance abuse services in Martin County, where New Horizons, a 501c3 nonprofit organization, has two clinics.



David Smythe

"More than half of our clients have no source of income or insurance, so these resources are vital to continuing our work with people struggling with mental health issues," said John Romano, New Horizons CEO.

Programs for adults and children in Martin County currently include mental health therapy, case management, drug and alcohol counseling, and psychiatric medical services. New Horizons also offers around-the-clock support for adults with severe and chronic mental illness.

New Horizons also is helping organize the Treasure Coast Opioid Task Force to address the opioid epidemic. Furthermore, the mental health agency educates the community about suicide, the second leading cause of death in young people.

Established in 1958, New Horizons has eight facilities in four counties. The main campus in Fort Pierce features several inpatient units with 104 beds for children and adults in crisis.

"Everyone deserves a chance to be happy," said Smythe. "If I can put a smile on the face of a child or someone in need I feel good."