

PRESS RELEASE

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Pasco Tax Collector Mike Fasano Announces Over \$3400 Raised for Diabetes Research

During the month of November (National Diabetes Awareness Month) the Pasco County Tax Collector's office raised over \$3400 on behalf of **Terri's Tears Charitable Trust Foundation**, a non-profit dedicated to supporting research which seeks a cure for diabetes. **Terri's Tears Charitable Trust Foundation** is a Pasco-based organization founded to honor the memory of **Mary Theresa (Terri) Garofolo**, a Type 1 insulin dependent diabetic for over 35 years. It is estimated that more than 1,000,000 Floridians have diabetes (both Type 1 and Type 2). It is further estimated that 30,000 children and young adults are diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes annually.

"For our first partnership with **Mr. Fasano** and the Tax Collector's Office, this is amazing," states **Vince Garofolo**, widower of Terri Garofolo and founder of Terri's Tears. "The citizens of Pasco County showed not only their generosity but also a genuine concern to help the cause. Our Mission Statement proclaims: '...because WE have to find a Cure for Diabetes.' It was heard loud and clear as the response was overwhelming. I'm sure Terri is looking down on us today with a beautiful smile on her face. On behalf of the Trustees (**Marion Bragado, Mary Bandini, Vincent Garofolo, Jr.** and myself), thanks to **Mr. Fasano, Greg Giordano**, the office managers, and the terrific staff for their support and the work they performed to make this a great success."

“There probably is not a person or family who has not been impacted by diabetes in some form,” **Tax Collector Mike Fasano** states. “As an agency we are very proud of the efforts of **Vince Garofolo** and the trustees of **Terri’s Tears Charitable Trust Foundation** for their work to help find a cure for this disease. The people of Pasco County truly stepped up to show their support of the **Foundation’s** efforts to find a cure for diabetes. I truly thank everyone who took the time to come to our office to make a donation. Every dollar raised will bring diabetes research one step closer to finding either a cure or better treatment options for those afflicted.”

Photo of check presentation is attached. From left to right Trustee Mary Bandini, West Pasco Government Center Tax Collector’s Office - Office Manager Clare Casey (sister of Terri Garofolo) Director of Customer Relations at Tax Collector’s Office Greg Giordano, Founder and Trustee Vince Garofolo and Trustee Vincent Garofolo, Jr. Not pictured – Trustee Marion Bragado).