

- HOMES  
& BUSINESSES IN
- DEERFIELD BEACH
  - LIGHTHOUSE POINT
  - HILLSBORO BEACH
  - POMPANO BEACH
  - BOCA RATON

# Observer

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## OF INTEREST



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**"You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance."**

Psalms 65:11

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## Gateway Community Outreach helps families Angel Tree & Christmas Special Touch

By Diane Emcott

One act of kindness often leads to another. Some 60 Broward County children received a special gift they had wished for at Gateway Community Outreach's annual Angel Tree event on Monday, Dec. 17. Zion Lutheran Church and School was the sole sponsor of the Angel Tree this year.

Amanda Sinatra, who volunteered at the event for years, got her younger sister Danielle and now her mother Elizabeth involved in assisting with the Angel Tree.

"Amanda, would be here but she moved to Orlando. She now works as an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatcher, so she is still helping people," said proud mom Elizabeth.

"That's how you raised them," added Elizabeth's friend Tiffany Gregorek, who also helped at Gateway around Thanksgiving. The two women were making sure the toys in the 'toys for boys' and 'toys for girls' rooms were ready for pick up at the next day's Christmas

Special Touch Outreach, held on Tuesday, Dec. 18. (See more below.)

Danielle Sinatra also brought a friend, Madison Ortiz, to volunteer. The two girls are students at Randazzo School, a private K-12, in Coconut Creek off Copans Road.

And stopping by to drop off toys donated by Kiwanis Club and food donated by GFWC Deerfield Beach Woman's Club was volunteer extraordinaire Katy Freitag.

"More toys and gift cards [for Christmas Special Touch] are coming from Flanigan's [Seafood Bar & Grill]," said Freitag, who returned again Tuesday to help out.

Renea and her 1-year-old goddaughter Trinity were recipients of all these local angels' kindness. Renea, who was picking up gifts for her own two kids and her beautiful goddaughter, called the Angel Tree "a blessing."

### Christmas special touch

On Tuesday, Dec. 18, Gateway gave out more toys — toys for ages newborn up to 13 years old and specialized gifts for teens, ages 13 - 17 years old, according to

Gateway founder, president and CEO Carol Ray.

"We're expecting 200 people. Today is [for] gifts," said volunteer Tiffany Gregorek, who returned again this day to sign in guests.

Toy donations for Gateway's Christmas Special Touch came from BrandStar, Cintas, Community Presbyterian Church, Crossfit of Deerfield Beach, CSPI Technology Solutions, Hillsboro Ocean Club Condo, Javita Inc., Kamm Consulting, Inc., Mack Mack & Waltz Insurance Group, Spirit of Giving Network, Kiwanis Club of Deerfield Beach and numerous stores from TJMaxx. Also Laura Sanders, of Re/Max in Motion, Inc., hosts a private annual party, having guests bring toys instead of gifts. The Lighthouse Point Fire Rescue has its' annual Boot Drive. TDL Centers gave toys and bikes. Food donations came from GFWC Deerfield Beach Woman's Club.

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(1) Elizabeth Sinatra (L) and Tiffany Gregorek (R) get toys for boys ready for next days Christmas Special Touch Outreach at Gateway. (2) Renea (R) picking up gifts for her 1 year old goddaughter Trinity (L) and her own two kids. (3) Young mom of 7 kids, Jessica May (C) picks out toys. (4) Jamie Johnson and T.J. from Gateway help volunteer Cletus load his truck with pantry items to be given out Dec. 21 at The Church at Deerfield Beach.

## Festival of the Arts Meet Poster Contest winner

By Diane Emcott

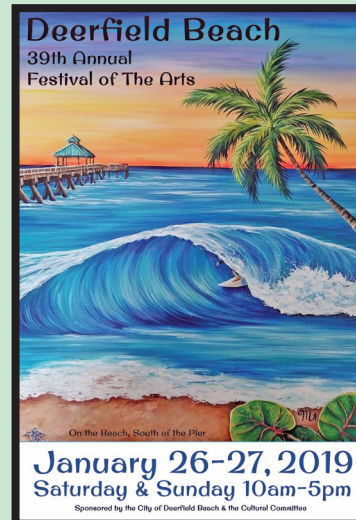
Some 80 artists and 16 food vendors have already signed up for the 39th Annual Festival of the Arts in Deerfield Beach — coming the last weekend of the month, Jan. 26 and 27, 2019.

Their mediums include jewelry, wood, mixed media, glass, leather, watercolor, oil/acrylic painting, photography, fiber and sculpture, according to Superintendent of Community Events Allie Fitzsimmons, who acts as a liaison to the Cultural Committee.

New this year, the Cultural Committee Board has approved up to 50 from the public to attend the usually invite-only cocktail reception held that Saturday night, [Jan. 26] at the pier — at a cost of \$10, which includes one drink ticket and food.

As of press time, Entertainment Chair Terry Scott had not yet confirmed the name of a piano player or magician, as was discussed at the Dec. 17, 2018 Cultural Committee meeting.

The Cultural Committee next meets on Jan. 7 and 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Central City Campus, second floor large conference room at 401A SW 4 St., in Deerfield Beach.



This year's poster, designed by poster contest winner Melissa Mastrangelo.

### Meet the artist

Winner of this year's Poster Contest, Melissa Mastrangelo, said inspiration for the artwork "came from times where I was chilling on the beach or having dinner at JB's, looking at the pier while the sun starts to set and watching the surfers when the waves are good. Basically just a perfect, good vibe type of beach day is what I wanted to portray."

Mastrangelo said she uses acrylic paints mainly, so that's what she chose to use for the poster art. (She also works in watercolor and ink when she designs shirts and prints for her "Dream in Color" brand, she added.)

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Poster Contest Artist Melissa Mastrangelo with some of her art work.

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