



Citizens Leaders Team Up to Help Children in Need



Members of the winning ELT/SLT team (From left, John Fox, Spencer Kraemer, Steve Bitar, Joe Martins, Kelly Booten and Mark Kagy) team show off their teambuilding achievement.

Members of Citizens' Executive Leadership Team and Senior Leadership Team recently gathered in Tallahassee for teambuilding exercises with a philanthropic twist.

After several icebreaker activities, members of both groups split into teams to work on a variety of timed tasks requiring teamwork and collaboration. As each group completed the tasks, they earned points, which they later used to "purchase" various fun games and school supplies to stuff into backpacks for students as they head back to school. A hardbound journal book containing a handwritten message of inspiration and motivation from the leadership teams to each recipient also was included in the backpacks.

At the conclusion of the day's activities, President/CEO and Executive Director Barry Gilway and members of both leadership teams presented the backpacks to Erin Warner, Director of Events, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend.

"Creating a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters benefits our community's most important asset – our children," Warner said. "Successful partnerships with businesses, foundations and organizations are fundamental to supporting children. They provide for children in need and contribute to brighter futures, better schools and stronger communities for all. If it weren't for our generous partners, we couldn't make the Big-Little matches that lead to life-changing results on the lives of young people."

Concluding the day's event was a presentation by Jeff Grady, President/CEO of the Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA). FAIA is a trade group representing more than 2,100 independent agencies throughout Florida. Grady is an advocate on behalf of independent insurance agents in the legislative process at both the state and federal level and is widely recognized as a leader in the insurance industry.

"Agents play a valuable role in the insurance relationship between Citizens and our policyholders," said Steve Bitar, Chief of Underwriting and Agency Services. "As we make strategic decisions, it is vital that each executive understands the potential impact we could have on our agents and policyholders. Having Mr. Grady share his perspective on the role of Citizens and the effects we have on agents was a great reminder of our responsibility to the Florida insurance marketplace."

More about Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters is Citizens' latest company-approved charitable organization and seeks to help provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better.

If you are interested in more information about the Big Brothers Big Sisters program or would like to learn more about becoming a "Big," contact your local Big Brothers Big Sisters chapter:

[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Florida](#)
[Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend](#)
[Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay](#)