



*A Non-Profit 501 ( C )-3 Organization*  
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# Press Release

St. Patty's Day Small Boat Charity Fishing Tournament now in 21<sup>st</sup> year set for Saturday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Harbour Towne's Annual Tournament will benefit local south Florida boy; Christopher Timothy Knowles

**Dania Beach, Florida:** Quietly helping a different child each year with chronic medical condition has become the calling card for this charity fishing tournament which brings almost 200 local anglers together each year in March, the week of St Patty's Day. Limited to only those boats 37' in length and under, this event has evolved over the last 21 years into the largest small boat fishing tournament in south Florida! This year participants will "*Do Their Part for Christopher's Heart*" for the benefit of a 2 ½ year old local boy who had a heart transplant and receives ongoing medical treatment.

*The St. Patty's Day Small Boat Charity Fishing Tournament* is a two-day event that begins on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at 6:30 pm with the Captain's Party that includes a raffle and silent auction at Harbour Towne Marina in Dania Beach. The one day fishing tournament out of Port Everglades begins at 8:00 am on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> and ends at 3:00 pm on the docks of the Marina with the weigh in and presentation of the top place trophies and cash awards. Harbour Towne Marina, owned by California based Westrec Marinas, has been hosting the

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tournament since 1991. The event is administered through their nonprofit 501 (c) (3) exempt organization, *Helping Hands of Harbour Towne, Inc.*, which provides assistance to children with chronic life-threatening medical conditions and their families who live in south Florida.

Last year 168 anglers fished on 67 boats in this charity tournament which benefits a different local south Florida child each year chosen by the Tournament Committee. In 2010, for the second time, the proceeds from the event benefited the Irrevocable Trust of Dylan Tyler Jeskey, who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor at the age of 9 months. The organization previously benefitted Dylan in 2008. The location of his tumor continues to present multiple medical complications affecting his growth, development, and fine motor skills. Dylan, now five years old, continues to have multiple seizures daily and is on numerous medications. Despite the depressed economy, this past June , the Tournament Committee was able to present the Dylan Tyler Jeskey Irrevocable Trust with a check for \$32,579.10, from Helping Hands of Harbour Towne, Inc., the proceeds from the 2010 event made possible by the cumulative efforts of everyone involved.

This year, the tournament committee has picked 2½ year old Christopher Timothy Knowles, who received a heart transplant at two months of age. Unable to breathe on his own at birth, Christopher's doctors diagnosed him as having a rare heart condition called Pulmonary Atresia with intact septum and sinusoids. A heart problem that is sometimes labeled "blue-baby syndrome" because of the low amount of oxygen provided to the body. This condition is caused by a congenital defect of the heart valves which inhibits blood flow to the lungs. Doctors recommended the heart transplant as Christopher's best option for a successful outcome. Over two years since his surgery, Christopher is improving but continues to have medical issues related to his condition. Due to his suppressed immune system he has the potential to contract infections easily. For this reason his parents must constantly monitor his condition and effect treatment immediately to avoid any complications or stress to his heart.

This local family is in true need of our support to help provide for Christopher's medical care and related expenses not covered by insurance. He is receiving on-going treatment at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida, in addition to periodically traveling to All Children's Hospital in St Petersburg, Florida where his transplant was performed. His father, Timothy is now his primary caregiver while his mother maintains their health insurance coverage through her workplace. Please see the bio attached for more information.

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**“Over the last twenty years we have given over \$290,000 to local children living right here in our south Florida community to help provide for their medical care. These children have been organ transplant patients, fighting aggressive cancers, or suffering from rare diseases or congenital birth defects”** stated Michelle Van Lenten Vice President of Helping Hands of Harbour Towne and coordinator of the event. “In all cases these proceeds provide much needed relief for the child’s family by easing the financial burden of enormous medical expenses, co-pays, and related care not covered by insurance. For a few families it has helped them obtain specialized treatments for their child’s condition that they might not otherwise be able to afford”, Van Lenten further disclosed. “The continued support from numerous businesses and individuals throughout the local community, has been vital to the success of this charity event. This support, combined with the dedication of the staff of Harbour Towne Marina and numerous volunteers truly makes a difference each year for these children who live in their community! Participants come from all over the tri-county area and beyond.”

The grand prize of \$3,000.00 will go to the angler with the heaviest fish overall in any eligible category along with cash prizes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place fish as well. In addition, there will be prizes for the heaviest fish brought in the lady angler and junior division. Prizes will be given out the day of the tournament for those with the correct answers to marine trivia questions. Qualifying fish for the tournament are: Dolphin, Kingfish, Cobia, and Wahoo.

**Sponsored by Al DeSimone’s Charity for Champions. Other major sponsors include The City of Dania Beach and local businesses: Seafarer Marine, A-Network, Sam’s Lawn Maintenance, Contour Marine, and Paradise Apparel. Over 100 area businesses contribute prizes and gifts for the event’s silent auction and raffle.** Presently, the Tournament Committee of Helping Hands of Harbour Towne, Inc. is continuing to seek donations for all levels of sponsorship as well as prizes for the silent auction and raffle.

**For more Information  
Call Harbour Towne Marina @ 954-926-0300 ext. 0.**

*Do your Part for Christopher’s Heart  
...and have a great time!*

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