

# Nocatee Knights of Columbus council raises \$7,300 for people with disabilities

Knights of Columbus Council 16492 of St. John Paul II Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra's Nocatee community raised \$7,300 for the organization's annual Citizens with Disabilities Campaign.

Proceeds from the annual fundraiser will be donated to local nonprofit organizations that support people with intellectual disabilities. Known as the "[Tootsie Roll Drive](#)" because donors are offered a piece of candy as appreciation, without being required to buy it, the campaign raises more than \$500,000 annually statewide and has generated millions of dollars over the years to support adults and children.

Locally, the donations raised by Knights of Columbus Council 16492 of St. John Paul II will be given to L'Arche, Field of Dreams, Bit of Faith Ranch and Camp Boggy Creek. Volunteers raised the funds over the course of 60 time slots spread over five weeks. Collection locations included St. John Paul II, Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Ponte Vedra Beach, and Publix stores in the Ponte Vedra area.

"We are thankful to the parishioners from St. John Paul II and Our Lady Star of the Sea for their support and generosity," said Ken Gault, campaign chairman for Knights of Columbus Council 16492 of St. John Paul II. "We are also thankful to Publix stores and the generosity of the public."

The "Tootsie Roll Drive" is one of the most popular and successful fundraisers conducted by the Knights of Columbus for the benefit of people with intellectual disabilities. Globally, the [Knights of Columbus](#) raises more than \$175 million annually for local, national and international projects for many charitable purposes.

Charities run by the Knights of Columbus include the Christian Refugee Relief Fund, Disaster Relief, Ultrasound Initiative, and Coats for Kids. The Knights of Columbus also partners with international charities such as Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity.

[Knights of Columbus](#) is an international fraternal organization for Catholic men. For more information on Knights of Columbus Council 16492 of St. John Paul II visit <https://www.nocateeknights.com/>.