

## Music Showcase Gets Ready To Present Its Annual Christmas Festival

By Kathy L. Collins

Music Showcase will present its Annual Christmas Festival on Saturday, December 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 402 Oakfield Dr. in Brandon. There will be over 60 vendors on hand selling their unique and one-of-a-kind homemade jewelry, make up, clothing, food and more. This is a perfect opportunity to pick up some holiday gifts for that someone special.

The Annual Christmas Festival features live music inside the auditorium. The music is performed by Music Showcase students. On the patio outside, there will be performances by a number of groups from local schools and the community. Some of the groups that will perform include students from Seffner Christian Academy and Dowdell High School. Students from groups such as Leonard's Dance Academy will perform as well.

In addition to the entertainment, there will be a kids' zone full of activities such as a bounce house, crafts, face painting and much more.

Deborah Evans, Director of Promotions and Marketing for Music Showcase and FAOPA said, "This is our eighth year of putting on the festi-



Children and adults will find something fun to do at Music Showcase's Annual Christmas Festival.

val. It's a great community event because it is an opportunity for our students to celebrate the season and perform on stage. It is also a wonderful opportunity for local crafters to showcase their artwork and wares. It is also an excellent time for the public to enjoy a good time with music, food, Santa, shopping and other

activities. Parking and the entertainment is free."

Vendors can contact Debbie Evans at [debbie@musicshowcaseonline.com](mailto:debbie@musicshowcaseonline.com) for information on availability and prices for 10X10 booths at the festival.

Music Showcase has been serving the community since 1996. It offers quality instruments, printed music and more. A variety of highly-talented music teachers offer quality instruction. Through the Florida Academy of Performing Arts (FAOPA), they offer musical theatre, show choir and more.

To become a vendor, or for more information on this event and other events at Music Showcase, please visit [www.musicshowcaseonline.com](http://www.musicshowcaseonline.com) or call 685-5998.

## Faces Of Courage Hosts Santa's Workshop At Rotary's Camp Florida

By Libby Hopkins



Faces of Courage will be hosting its 2013 Santa's Workshop Weekend on December 6-8 at Rotary's Camp Florida. The camp is in its twelfth year and its campers are children who have cancer or a blood disorder or are survivors of cancer or a blood disorder.

Faces of Courage will be hosting its 2013 Santa's Workshop Weekend on Friday-Sunday, December 6-8 at Rotary's Camp Florida. The camp is in its twelfth year and its campers are children who have cancer or a blood disorder or are survivors of cancer or a blood disorder. The free weekend-long, medically supervised camp also includes the camper's siblings. "Every year we up the stakes for kid's camp," said Peggie Sherry, founder of Faces of Courage. "We will have more celebrities, gifts, games and activities for Santa's Workshop this year."

Faces of Courage is a non-profit organization located in the Tampa Bay area that offers free camps and events for women and children with cancer and blood illnesses. The organization provides life enriching experiences to kids, women and families touched by cancer or blood disorders. Current

enrollment for the programs is over 4,000 families and all programs are provided at no cost to the participants. Its motto is "Cancer is serious, camp is serious fun."

Sherry is currently looking for "angels" to help sponsor this year's campers. "We are looking for 20 people to donate \$250, which covers a child for the entire weekend at camp and another 50 people to donate \$100, which will cover an entire day for a child at camp," Sherry said. "Everyone who donates will be listed as a sponsor on our camp T-shirts." All donations made to Faces of Courage are tax deductible.

Santa's Workshop is designed to allow the campers to have fun while making personalized gifts for their friends and family members, in addition to meeting other children touched by cancer and blood disorders. The camp is non-religious and the children have a wonderful time being able to be a regular kid at camp for the weekend. "We are expecting 80 campers this year; that's our maximum and we always max out," Sherry said.

To learn more about Faces of Courage or to become one of the organization's much needed "angels" and sponsor a camper for Santa's Workshop Weekend, visit its website at [www.facesofcourage.org](http://www.facesofcourage.org) or contact Sherry at 948-7478. Rotary's Camp Florida is located at 1915 Camp Florida Rd. in Brandon.



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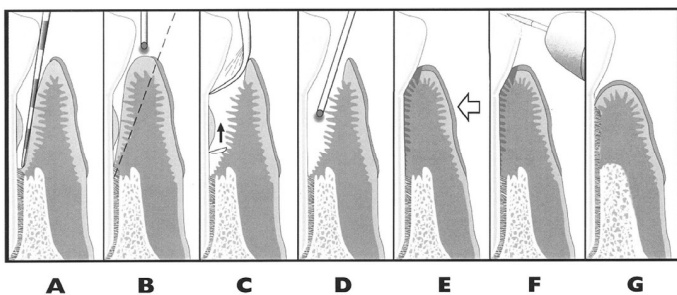
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