

Stats with impact: 350 job seekers. 28 employers. 300 possible openings. GYAC Job Fair: Priceless

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USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Gifford Youth Achievement Center was filled with 350 job seekers and 25 local employers at its inaugural Gifford Job Fair held in October, surpassing all expectations of participation.

Just under 350 job seekers were able to come through and speak with 28 employers who brought 300 open positions to the event, many who were either hired, given appointments for second interviews or directed to job training managers who were also on hand. Almost a dozen service agencies also were there to help those who needed further guidance or direction to help them relieve any current issues.

Mark your calendar

What: Gifford Youth Achievement Center's 20th Anniversary Gala. Celebrate the 20-year history of the Gifford Youth Achievement Center with a night of cocktails, dining and dancing as well as a fabulous raffle.

When: Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Where: Oak Harbor Club

Cost: \$150 per person, \$1,000 for table of eight

Tickets: Buy tickets online at www.GYAC.net; or call Peggy Gibbs at 772-794-1005, ext. 441

Color Guard as Sheriff Deryl Loar led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a few words by each of the distinguished guests. Each division of First Responders were recognized with a plaque honoring their service to the community.

This was a cooperative effort by CareerSource Research Coast, the Gifford Youth Achievement Center, Grand Harbor Community Outreach and the Progressive Civic League of Gifford, Piper Aircraft, Gifford Front Porch, United Way of Indian River County, John's Island Community Service League, Publix Supermarkets and the Indian River County Chamber of Commerce.

Distinguished guests for participating in the opening ceremonies included



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Each division of First Responders in Indian River County were honored with a plaque by the Gifford Job Fair Committee.



Indian River Chamber representative Helene Caseltine, left, and Linda Morgan.

Loar, Vero Beach Police Chief David Currey, Fellsmere Police Chief Keith Touchberry, Sebastian Police Chief Michelle Morris, Indian River County Fire Chief John King, Indian River County



Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher, left, Wilfred Hart and Sebastian Police Chief Michelle Morris.



Ron Browning, of United Against Poverty, and Freddie Woolfork, Gifford Youth Achievement Center director of public relations and facilities operations.

Commissioner Joe Flescher and Vero Beach Mayor Laura Moss.

The success of this event has encour-



Indian River County Commissioner Joe Flescher, left, with Vero Beach Mayor Laura Moss and Brian Bauer, president/CEO of CareerSource Research Coast.



Sarah Ruwe, left, of the American Red Cross, and Indian River County Fire Chief John King accept awards.



GYAC Executive Director Angelia Perry, left, Doug Sweeney, of Grand Harbor Community Outreach, and Carolyn Thornton-Nelson at the Gifford Job Fair in October. Thornton-Nelson is business services account manager with CareerSource Research Coast.

aged all participants to return in 2018 and make it an annual event.

The Gifford Youth Achievement Center is at 4875 43rd Ave., Vero Beach; 772-794-1005.