



NICHOLAS NEWELL

The Spirit of St. Nick

As a guy who is named Nicholas, and who was also born on, you guessed it, Christmas Day, Nicholas Newell has heard all of the St. Nicholas references through his life.

The thing is, they all seem to fit him very well.

That's because, although he works as a REALTOR® as part of the Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage team, Nick is also someone who definitely represents and lives the Spirit of St. Nick in his own life of service.

"Real estate is something that had interested me," Nicholas remembers. "I was in a corporate job making good money and didn't really have a lot of free time to think about what I wanted to do. I got caught up in that world. I started to get promotions and raises. In the process, it's easy to forget about what you really

want to do and what you're really passionate about."

After five years on the corporate treadmill, Nicholas made a healthy change.

"I remember a big trigger for me. One of my employees had gotten his real estate license," Nicholas remembers. "I had long known that's what I wanted to do and that's what ignited me to take action."

Making a Difference

Nicholas earned his real estate license in 2018 and soon set to work serving his clients. Through time, serving his community has also been a natural extension of his giving nature ... with the creation of the St. Nicholas Christmas Foundation.

"Seven years ago, I started out with raising money for children. I began by raising money from friends in

increments of \$15, with half going to provide stuffed animals to children's hospitals or children's homes or for first responders for incidents involving children. The other half would go in a donation to St. Jude's Children's Hospital."

The chance for growing that effort soon presented itself.

"Two years ago, I saw the opportunity with real estate to grow the size of donations and make an even bigger impact," Nicholas explains. "So I created the St. Nicholas Christmas Foundation as an official 501(c)(3) non-profit in the fall of 2018."

The spirit of giving that the foundation has fostered has grown tremendously. In fact, during its first year, the St. Nicholas Christmas Foundation raised \$200. Last year, it was able to raise over \$15,000 to help children.



“Along the way, there have been a lot of people who have contributed and who have supported this effort. All of that adds up to make a big difference,” Nicholas emphasizes. “As part of that, Tim Milam and the leadership at Coldwell Banker Sea Coast Advantage has been so instrumental in the foundation’s growth. The brokerage has 20 offices and our leadership allows people to donate at any of the offices and use them as a physical location.”

Expanding the Impact

After starting with an emphasis on stuffed animals and donations to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital, the foundation’s growth has allowed Nicholas to add another area he has long thought about.

“Starting in the fall of 2018, we added something else I had wanted to do for years — it’s called The Christmas Wish List. That is working with local assisted living facilities throughout the region. We specifically work with those who have people on government assistance or have no income, as well as residents who no longer have living family members. In those facilities, we ask people to create Christmas lists for themselves.”

It has been a moving experience.

“Usually, people are asking for the basic necessities of life ... things like t-shirts, socks and hearing aid batteries,” Nicholas says. “We get these lists and then post them through social media and news outlets. From there, people go out and purchase gifts or donate money and drop them off at any of our offices. We then package up the items and donations and go out to make deliveries.”

Heartwarming Experience

The response has been a heartwarming outpouring.

“During our first year of working with these facilities, we were able to go out and make 120 deliveries to people,” Nicholas smiles. “This past year, we were able to help 250 people. And this year, I would really like to be able to add a couple of additional counties to the effort.”

In fact, there have even been discussions to expand the effort to people in the Jacksonville area and scale up the effort.

The feeling of being able to contribute and warm the lives of area residents is a powerful force in Nicholas’ life.

“In many times, we think about kids during the holidays, but we forget about the older people in our lives who are sitting in assisted living facilities. To have someone thinking about them and going and purchasing gifts for them as complete strangers is something that touches their hearts. It feels great to be able to help people,” Nicholas emphasizes.

Nick is an example of how the spirit of giving has a direct impact on the quality of life for an entire community.

As Nicholas says, “My mom, Pamela, has said it best my whole life. She says, ‘If you could do something nice for someone, why wouldn’t you?’ And

I’ve been very fortunate with my real estate career over the last two years to be able to work in an environment that looks at life the same way. Tim Milam reminds us with his daily motto, when he says, ‘Do something nice for someone else this week.’”

The need for stuffed animals for children, donations for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital and gifts for seniors in the area is real — and it is an expensive endeavor. Your help is greatly appreciated.

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For more information about the St. Nicholas Christmas Foundation:
Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/SaintNicholasChristmasFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/SaintNicholasChristmasFoundation)

Or visit any area Corning Credit Union locations and let them know you’re interested in contributing to the St. Nicholas Christmas Foundation.

While Nicholas definitely doesn’t consider himself to be a saint, he is proud to help others in any way he can.

“It’s great to be able to wake up and help people. At the end of the day, whether it’s in real estate or through charity, we’re helping people who need it,” Nicholas says. “I think if everyone who was in a position to help did, the world would be much better off.”

