



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **CFHLA PARTNERS DONATE BUILDING TO SUNSHINE FOUNDATION DREAM VILLAGE TO HELP SERVE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES**

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (November 7, 2024) – Today, the **Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association** (CFHLA) and its partners will dedicate a new building they donated to the **Sunshine Foundation Dream Village** in Davenport, Florida. The Sunshine Foundation Dream Village is a local non-profit group that serves children with disabilities and their families. Members of the CFHLA Engineers' Council, as well as many other CFHLA partners, purchased a permanent metal building for the Sunshine Foundation, because its storage sheds are badly deteriorating. The \$23,000 project will enable the Sunshine Foundation Dream Village team to store files, holiday decorations, landscaping and maintenance equipment, as well as other gear they use every day to carry out their compassionate mission.

Specifically, the Sunshine Foundation Dream Village grants Special Dreams to families of children who have profound physical, developmental or intellectual challenges or trauma from physical abuse. The Village offers these families a place to stay in fairy tale-themed cottages while they enjoy Dream Trips to Central Florida's theme parks and other attractions. Facility managers at the Village say the new permanent metal building is a welcome and needed addition to their facilities.

News crews are welcome to attend the Building Dedication event today at **10 AM** to interview volunteers who are making this project a major success. The Dream Village is located at **5400 County Road 547 North (Dream Village Road on GPS) Davenport, Florida 33837.**

The CFHLA Engineers' Council selected the Sunshine Foundation as its Charity of Choice in 2017. The Council agreed to repair the group's damaged storage sheds, but the 2020 Pandemic knocked the project off course. Volunteers are thrilled they were able to complete the project to help the nonprofit group succeed.

**Keith Luka** serves on the **CFHLA Engineers' Council** and on the **Sunshine Foundation Board of Directors**. Luka says, "The pandemic really delayed this project, but volunteers knew they had to get this metal building put up for the foundation, so they pushed through. It is our honor to support their mission to help families who face big challenges."

**Robert Agrusa, President and CEO of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association**, says this project is all about resilience and giving back. Agrusa says, “These Council members and volunteers have a real passion for helping these families in need. They overcame the Pandemic’s challenges and got the job done for such a deserving nonprofit group. This total team effort reminds us of just how much the hospitality and tourism industry consistently gives back to our Central Florida community.”

The CFHLA Engineers’ Council and its partners donated a playground to the Dream Village three years ago, and they donated the village’s new entrance sign this past summer.

### **About Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association**

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association’s mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service. As the largest regional lodging association in the United States, CFHLA represents approximately 80 percent of the more than 129,500 hotel rooms throughout the Central Florida Region (including but not limited to Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk and Seminole counties) and more than 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit [www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org).

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