

MY FAVORITE CHARITY EVENTS STRIVES TO GROW HEALTHY FAMILIES AND STUDENT SUCCESS

By Gina Foresta

“Our goal is to be a small local charity that is flexible enough to react to families without a long wait and to provide assistance and foundational life skills,” said Alberta Valli, co-founder of My Favorite Charity Events. “We realize that one size does not fit all, and that each family has needs that must be addressed to help them become a successful family unit.”

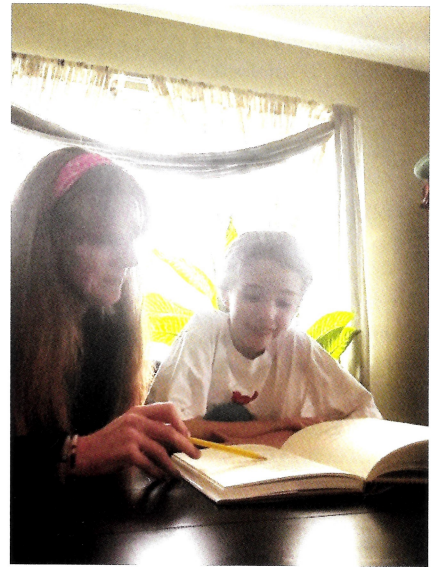
Husband and wife team, Alberta and Robert, created My Favorite Charity Events after years of involvement in other support networks and witnessing the backlog of families who needed help. While serving in the military and stationed in Spain, Robert supported a local Spanish orphanage for over two years by helping to provide clothing, blankets, hygiene products, Christmas gifts and more, and taking the kids to multiple events held on Torrejon Air Force Base. Similarly, in 2018, Alberta and her coworkers partnered with the charity Hotel Kids to provide Christmas stockings and Easter baskets for over 60 local children. The following year, she and her coworkers worked with the Salvation Army and Union Mission to provide toiletry and food items for the unhoused population.

“These experiences made us realize that people who are in a crisis, when making contact with larger charities, are faced with a waiting period before they actually get the help they need,” explained Alberta. “Our goal is to help families so that they are not living from crisis to crisis but have stability and consistency in their lives.” The couple witnessed how many children do not receive the needed opportunities to foster academic success. Instead, they may

experience financial instability, language barriers, inconsistent support from their parents or unsettled housing — all of which can interfere with the development of the skills necessary to succeed and to simply enjoy being a child.

The goal in creating My Favorite Charity Events was to assist elementary school students and their families in developing a healthy educational environment where the parents are actively involved in helping their children realize their potential. Tutoring services for students and coaching for parents to support their children’s studies are offered when needed. Other support, such as needed clothing and financial counseling are also available. “What we believe sets us apart from other charities is that we want to make all these services available to the local families when required, and to also provide structure and a learning process so that over time these families have the tools to lessen the chance of these same problems coming up again,” said Robert. “Dedicating ourselves to easing family stresses, we hope will allow kids to be kids and grow to be super elementary school students with a foundation that supports them through the remainder of the school years.”

What began as sponsoring a family for Christmas through Cooke Elementary School is now a 501(c)(3) in its third year. “Working closely with the family taught us what it really means to assist a family unit,” recalled Alberta. She and Robert helped the single mother create a budget, apply for utility budget plans, and start her own cleaning business through which she could set her own hours and eliminate the need for a



babysitter. They also provided tutoring for her daughter who continues to succeed in school.

Today, the Cooke school counselor determines the families who need assistance and anonymously offers the profiles to My Favorite Charity Events, who, in 2023, will work to assist two other elementary schools in our community. To date, they have helped 38 families with 111 children. “Our 2023 goals will expand our support to more families while working with the schools to identify them and how we may help from an educational perspective,” said Alberta. “Many of those who supported families mentioned that this was a positive learning experience for their own children — hopefully creating the next generation of caring individuals.”

As with most charitable organizations, My Favorite Charity Events relies on ongoing community funding and volunteers with experience with human services, budgeting and tutoring, or who simply want to help them expand their reach. Visit myfavoritecharityevents.org to learn how you can help.

Liza Wolfe Photography

Lizawolfephotography.com

Lizadawn33@gmail.com | Family Photographer | (361)227-7927

Now Booking
2022/2023

Edward Jones

Looking to retire early? Let's talk.

Chris Dotolo
Financial Advisor
3704 Pacific Ave Suite 110
Virginia Beach, VA 23451-2719
757-963-5436

edwardjones.com

MKT-5894M-A