

Happy Bair Day

South Seminole Hospital's
Craig Bair gives us a reason to
celebrate altruism every day.

By Kevin Fritz

How did you celebrate **Craig Bair Day**? Well, unless you were in Cape Coral on October 2, 1992, you probably missed it. For Bair, though, it was a humbling experience. Some 17 years after that auspicious day, the **Sanford** resident and native Floridian is still at it and has served the community for the past three decades.

Today, you can find the altruistic Bair donating his time as the incoming president of the Lake Mary Rotary Club and incoming chair of Envision Seminole, a leadership program for county residents. In his spare time, the father of two sons chairs the annual Freedom Bike Ride to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Seminole County that attracts 400 cyclists each fall to the AAA grounds in Heathrow. He has been running the event for five years and has been involved helping the children-centric organization for the past nine. It's a perfect fit for a man who enjoys being a volunteer and also is an avid cyclist and outdoorsman.

Born in Leesburg, Bair has spent most of his adult life on helping others, beginning with his four years in the Air Force from 1978 to 1982. Since then, he has been driven to lend a hand or take charge with dozens of community organizations such as Kiwanis Club, Rotary, various chambers of commerce and the American Heart Association—as well as serving a term on the board of directors of Sanford's Helen Stairs Theatre and as a Relay for Life Chairman for the American Cancer Society.

It's no coincidence then that Bair works day to day in an industry that helps others. He is now the director of marketing for South Seminole Hospital in Longwood, a position he took in 2008, after almost 10 years in marketing with Central Florida Regional Hos-

pital. Not surprising, he also volunteers at work and serves as the lone male on the South Seminole Hospital Women's Advisory Council that supports women's health issues.

People often wonder what drives individuals such as Bair, who like everyone else is confined to a 24-hour day. He says the key to his longevity as a volunteer is similar to finding success on the job—teamwork and dedication.

“You must surround yourself with people who want to get out and get things done,” he says, noting Central Florida is flush with “community-minded people” upon whom he relies. Beyond community support, he is blessed with the support of his wife of 24 years, **Pat Bair**, who is an occupational therapist, and South Seminole Hospital President **Steve Glazier**, who also gets involved with local efforts and is a major supporter of Craig taking the time to volunteer.

While Craig does not see the current economic conditions causing a drop in community-minded volunteers, he is concerned about the funds that these volunteers and charities work so hard to raise. “What worries me now is that charities in today's economy are going to suffer for the lack of funding,” he says.

Because of that stark reality, he now needs to work even harder to bolster efforts to gain outside assistance, but he says he will continue to help in any way he can. And although he does not go out searching for recognition, perhaps it's time for another Craig Bair Day. **L**



Craig Bair has made a lifetime habit out of helping, including acting as chair for the annual Freedom Bike Ride to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Seminole County.

COURTESY OF CRAIG BAIR

Tell us about an amazing volunteer in our
community at CentralFlorida-Lifestyle.com.