

# Gladiator News

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## Making a difference with the "Gladiators Care Program"

Press Release

During the holidays we can't forget about those who are less fortunate; and in this tough economy, every little bit helps. As we continue to try and make a difference in the community, the Bradenton Gladiators have launched its new "Gladiators Care Program" for the upcoming holiday season.

The program provides complete Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for qualified low income families in Manatee County. Family applicants must complete a screening process and provide residency information, proof of income, etc. to qualify.



Photo taken with Lilly Family at the Grasshopper Academy located at 1300 Manatee Avenue, Bradenton, FL.

"We are extremely excited about the development of this new program. This program will allow the Gladiators to develop a true connection with the families we are helping", said Bradenton Gladiators' President Edrick Sweeting.

Each year, the Gladiators Care Program will select a qualifying family in need. This year's recipient is the Lilly family of three here in Bradenton. Ms. Lilly is employed at the Grasshopper Academy. Grasshopper Academy offers 24-hour quality affordable childcare services for children ranging in age from one month to 11 years old.

On Wednesday, November 24, the Lilly family was delivered a complete Thanksgiving meal including turkey, ham and all of the fixings. In addition, they received other food items to help throughout the holiday season.

When asked about the experience, Ms. Lilly commented that she was "overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of the Gladiators. I want to thank them for making this Thanksgiving so wonderful. I feel blessed."

Gladiators Care Program...making a difference in our community!



Photo taken with Lilly Family at the Grasshopper Academy located at 1300 Manatee Avenue, Bradenton, FL.

The Bradenton Gladiators, Inc. is a federal non-profit 501(c) 3 tax exempt organization that is more than just football. It is a community based organization that is constantly growing its roots in the community.

Since inception, the organization has given out educational awards/scholarships; thousands of school supplies and toys for underprivileged children; sponsored football camps and clinics; help build a playground for community kids; provided food to families during the holidays; the list goes on and on. "They are an organization steeped in second chances, offering folks another try at not just football — but at life" John Lembo of the Bradenton Herald once wrote.