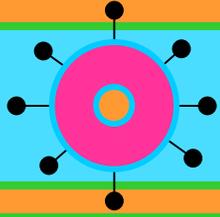


# East Gateway Neighborhood "Back to School" Celebration



Photo Credits: Edilberto Suarez, Galactics Clearwater International F.C. & Betsy Clement, City of Clearwater.



## Sowing Seeds in East Gateway

Exceeding expectations, an estimated 300 people turned out for the August 2<sup>nd</sup> **East Gateway Neighborhood “Back to School” Celebration** to enjoy activities, food and the company of other East Gateway residents. The YWCA Hispanic Outreach Center, Clearwater Police Department, Galactics Clearwater International, FC, and other community partners attended the event to bring greater awareness of services offered to residents. The celebration’s highlight was a colorful folklorico dance performance by *Reflejo de Mexico* of Clearwater.

Although fun was reason enough for the celebration, **the greater mission was community building**. Working together on neighborhood events and projects helps to build ties among people who might otherwise have little reason to interact. The Back to School Celebration is like a seed that sprouts to strengthen neighborhood bonds.

**Community building is especially important to revitalizing neighborhoods** like East Gateway. Studies show that neighborhoods with strong social ties, trust and a willingness to intervene for the common good have fewer violent crimes, fewer property crimes, reduced juvenile delinquency, better performing governmental institutions, higher educational achievement and lower rates of asthma and teen pregnancy. By increasing “*social capital*,” the East Gateway community improves its potential to achieve neighborhood goals.

**Your participation is key to the mission!** Be involved in making East Gateway a stronger neighborhood. Have an idea for a neighborhood event? Simple or extravagant, we’d like to hear from you. Contact Tammy Vrana at (727) 562-4047 or [tammy.vrana@myclearwater.com](mailto:tammy.vrana@myclearwater.com).

***Having fun and supporting your community at the same time...  
What could be better?***



# Thanks to Our Community Partners

- Clearwater Police Department ([clearwaterpolice.org](http://clearwaterpolice.org))
- Galatics Clearwater International, FC ([galactics.org](http://galactics.org))
- Joanna Sissen, Neighbor
- Julie Thompson, Neighbor
- Morton Plant Mease Health Care ([mortonplant.com](http://mortonplant.com))
- North Pinellas Women's Club ([northpinellaswc.org](http://northpinellaswc.org))
- Publix Super Markets ([publix.com](http://publix.com))
- Reflejo de Mexico Folkloric Dancers ([celalohe@verizon.net](mailto:celalohe@verizon.net))
- Shelly Kuroghlian, Neighbor
- Staywell Health Plan of Florida ([wellcare.com](http://wellcare.com))\*
- Sundrummers ([sundrummers@yahoo.com](mailto:sundrummers@yahoo.com))
- Taoist Tai Chi Society USA ([clearwater.florida.usa.taoist.org](http://clearwater.florida.usa.taoist.org))
- YWCA Hispanic Outreach Center ([ywcaoftampabay.org](http://ywcaoftampabay.org))

