



THE SWFC MULTICULTURAL CLUB IS RAISING MONEY FOR A LOCAL OFFICER

Fort Myers, Fla. (August 6, 2009) – When a Southwest Florida College criminal justice student, James Poitras, heard about Officer Damien Garcia’s motorcycle accident, he wanted to find a way to help out.

But he couldn’t do a whole lot all alone. So, with the help of his college club and the entire Miracle baseball team, Poitras spearheaded an effort to turn a baseball game into a fund-raiser.

On Tuesday, June 2, a Cape Coral motorcycle police officer, Damien Garcia, 26, was critically injured after an accident that occurred at Cultural Park Boulevard and Southeast Van Loon Terrace. The Florida Highway Patrol reported that the driver of an SUV collided with Garcia’s motorcycle as she attempted to make a left-hand turn across the southbound lanes of Cultural Park.

Poitras said he heard about the accident on the news and then informed the SWFC Multicultural club president, Maynor Luna, about the opportunity to lend a helping hand.

“I don’t know Officer Garcia or his family, but that is what our club is about,” Poitras said, “. . . helping out.”

Poitras reached out to the Fort Myers Miracle baseball team and came up with an idea.

On Saturday, August 29 at 7:05 p.m., all are invited to watch the Miracles play the Jupiter Hammerheads. Three dollars of every four dollars raised will go to Officer Garcia and his family. Tickets are \$15 and include a Miracle hat, general admission ticket and hot dog and soda voucher. There will also be a fireworks display following the game.

Tickets can be purchased by visiting www.miraclefun.com and entering ‘swfc’ as the password or by calling Terry at 239-768-4210.

“We want to fill the stadium for Officer Garcia,” Poitras said.

The Southwest Florida College Multicultural Club is always taking on new ways to help members of the local community.

“We try to take on all the requests that we get to help someone out,” said Courtney Lanute, SWFC Multicultural Club Advisor and CP Language, CP English and Spanish Instructor. “The SWFC Multicultural club would like to thank the Miracle baseball team for the opportunity to do this and extends their best wishes and speedy recovery to Officer Garcia and his family,” she said.

For more information about Southwest Florida College, please call toll-free, 888-526-7973 and ask to speak with a Guest Services Representative or visit www.swfc.edu.

Southwest Florida College is an accredited, private, nonprofit institution of higher learning centrally located in Fort Myers, Tampa, Port Charlotte, and includes the Institute of Interior Design located within the International Design Center in Estero. The College has been providing post secondary education to Floridians since 1974 and offers programs in Allied Health, Business, Design, Education, Information Technology and Legal Studies. Its mission is to provide educational opportunities for individuals to acquire knowledge and skills that will help prepare them for rewarding careers in fields with high growth potential. For more information, call toll free 888-526-7973 or visit www.swfc.edu.