

Contributing to

COMMUNITY IMPACT



By Evan Dixon

Brianna Olive Supports Women's Breast and Heart Initiative

Have you ever heard of the Bucs Women's Breast and Heart Initiative Club? No? Give it a week or two, and you will.

Brianna Olive, president of the newly formed club, is a Barry senior majoring in advertising. She says what started out as a service-learning assignment for her Introduction to Communication class snowballed into this brand new club.

Olive says she first got connected to the Women's Breast and Heart Initiative with the help of the Center for Community Service Initiatives. Her involvement through COM 201, the communication course, developed into a close relationship with WBHI staff and it inspired her to continue her work as a volunteer.

"We bonded and we had a great relationship, and they asked me to continue working with them," she says, referring to staff at the Miami Lakes-based nonprofit organization.

WBHI Executive Director Andrea Ivory says, "The funny thing was we had no idea she was a part of the communication department because of her engagement and dedication to her task."

Olive says her dedication to promoting breast and heart health awareness is a result of how invaluable the information is to women, because so many of them can be affected.

"One in three women gets heart disease and one in eight women has breast cancer at some point in their life," she notes.



Brianna Olive (left) is founder and president of a student club that promotes breast and heart health.

Olive has taken the lead in spreading the message about the benefits of early detection of breast cancer and heart disease, and a healthy lifestyle. In the face of lack of interest by some local community residents, she has persevered because she knows she is doing life-saving work. And she has heard the expressions of gratitude from many.

“People are so grateful,” she says. That’s what has made me keep doing it,” she says.

Now the campus-based student club she created recently is playing its part, supporting the work of the nonprofit founded by Ivory, a Barry distinguished alumna.

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