



Food4Thought

People Helping People's Monthly Newsletter

April 2023

HAND UP TO HOMELESS

If you're still reading, that's good. You didn't move on because you read the word "homeless" in the title.

People become homeless for many reasons. PHP is seeing a new influx of who the homeless are. People in their senior years of life now living in their cars or tents because after 10 years of paying rent, their new landlord is asking for hundreds of dollars more each month. We are seeing entire families living in the woods in conditions you can't even imagine. We are seeing fully employed people who simply can't pay the high cost to rent or afford to purchase a home.

Too many in Hernando County seem to choose to turn their eyes away, maybe roll their eyes, maybe even close their eyes when it comes to the homeless situation in our community.

Not People Helping People. We see it every day. At our door, at our Sunday Blessings meal, at our Tuesday and Friday lunches, at our health clinic, with our free showers, with our Neighborhood Blessings program when we bring food and necessities to homeless campsites in our county.

We also see many folks who *could* do something about it, choosing to not see it.

We are choosing to do something about that.



HOW DO WE GIVE A HAND UP TO THE HOMELESS IN HERNANDO?

Join us and others

- Social Service Agencies, Elected Officials, Law Enforcement -
concerned about the ever-growing homeless situation in Hernando County!

Hernando Homeless Initiative

People Helping People in Hernando County in partnership with
Mid Florida Homeless Coalition

Moderated by Barbara Wheeler, Exec. Dir., Mid Florida Homeless Coalition

May 16, 2023, 3 pm – 5 pm

Greater Hernando County Chamber of Commerce
15588 Aviation Loop Drive, Brooksville, FL 34604

Let's discuss -

- Demystifying the funding process for services for the homeless and near-homeless
- Understanding what Hernando County government and organizations can and are willing to do
- How Hernando County can receive more funding to help those experiencing homelessness
- Understanding the barriers of moving people from homelessness to housing

Let's leave with -

Action Plan and Timeline: Immediate action, Short term & long term goals
Looking to the Future - How we will **Tackle This Issue**

Weekend Blessings is supported by grants from the following:



**PEOPLE
HELPING
PEOPLE**
in Hernando County

www.phphernando.org
352-686-4466

PHP Supports the Needs of Hernando County

There is a woman who needs to know she is not alone.
Meets every other Monday

There is a veteran who needs the camaraderie of
fellow veterans. Next meeting - May 20

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Group

When: Every other Monday
Starting March 20, 2023
Time: 5:30 PM-7 PM
Where: People Helping People
1396 Kass Circle
Springhill FL 34606

Please call 352-686-4466 or 352-592-1288 for questions



**COFFEE, COMMUNITY, CARING
WITH VETS**



Veterans of all ages!

Join your fellow veterans at **People Helping People in Hernando County**
HELP Center - 1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill, 34606

one Saturday and one weekday a month

- Saturday gatherings - *for vets eager to continue serving their community through various projects for those in need*
- Weekday coffee - *a time to gather, share in conversation, offer each other support, receive valuable, useful information.*

First organizational meeting is **Friday, March 31, @ 0800**

See you then! Questions? 352-686-4466



Bi-Annual Community Connections Conference

Presented by People Helping People Health Services Staff

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

11:30am - 2:00pm

Lunch will be served 11:30am- 12:00pm

People Helping People

1396 Kass Circle
Spring Hill

Let's come together to:

- ◆ Identify and share existing resources in Hernando County
- ◆ Increase awareness and identify gaps in existing services
- ◆ Share common goals for increasing support and self sufficiency tools to our at-risk and vulnerable community members

Please bring agency/organization info to share

Seating is limited.

To register - 352-686-4466 or admin@phphernando.org



People Helping People. That's what we do.

When we see a need or learn of one, we discuss as a board, go to our volunteers, seek other social services organizations, businesses, and the community at large to figure out how we can best respond to the needs of the people in Hernando County.

If you are a social service organization, you'll want to attend our Bi-Annual Community Connections Conference, May 10.

Reserve your spot! 352-686-4466 or admin@phphernando.org



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"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." -Maya Angelou

**Thank you to all who provided
in-kind donations in March!**

Access Healthcare
Anne
Anonymous (we know who you
are!)
Bob
Dollar General
Elaine
Garden Railroad Group
Glen Lakes PEO
Grace
HCC
Jim Mason
Maggie & Jennifer
Chris Schever
Sue
Timber Pines
Wellington at Seven Hills

**Wondering what and when to
donate?**

We so appreciate your donations of unexpired pantry item! Please consider the items you donate are often going to someone who is homeless or without the funds to purchase additional ingredients or the means to heat or bake it.

Right now, we're especially in need of variety pack cereals, juice packs, peanut butter, peanut butter crackers, snack packs of peanut-free snack crackers, and 3.2 oz packets of dry milk.

You can drop your donations off at 1396 Kass Circle, M - F 9a - 2p.

Thank you!

**Sunday Blessings
Meal Sponsors -**

THANK YOU!!!!



Cliff and Sandy Morgan

**If you are a restaurant owner /
manager, a homeowner's association,
a religious institution, or a group of
friends and would like to donate a
meal for our
Sunday Blessings
program, please call 352-686-4466**

**Thank you to those who
contributed monetarily in February!**

Anonymous
Linda Bixby
Blooms 4 Good Program
Sean Bradley
Catherine Buonemani
Murilene Cronk
Donation Jar HELP Center
Richard and Ellen Frank*
FrontStream/SPV LLC
Syed Waqar Hasan, MD
Alison Kalvelage
James and Debra Peary
Preceptor Delta Iota Chaptr XP2332
John Rinaldi
Rotary Club of Spring Hill Scholarship
Fund, Inc.

Richard Sweade
Timber Pines Irish Club

**in memory of Beth Weiner DeSanto*

Among other things, your monetary donations mostly help us to purchase the food we provide for our Senior, Weekend, and Neighborhood Blessings.

Monetary donations can be mailed to:
PO Box 6182, Spring Hill FL 34611
or online at www.phphernando.org

Thank you!



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Dynamic Duo

Mothers and daughters do lots of things together. Most enjoy a great relationship throughout the years. This mom, June, and her daughter River, spend quite a bit of time together. Not only is River home-schooled and both are active with the Girl Scouts, but the two of them spend another few hours together weekly volunteering at PHP. Whew!



When doing research on local opportunities to help their neighbors, they came across People Helping People. They knew they wanted to volunteer with us because of their interest in being more active in the community.

In particular, June and River have been so helpful with organizing our pantry food items. You can also find them as part of the team for our Mobile Food Distribution each month. Their enthusiasm and energy is enormous. Often, you'll hear laughter and fun bantering coming from them - always bringing a smile to anyone who hears them.

HELP Center Calendar

Nature Coast Art League

Mondays, 9am

AA meetings

Mondays & Thursdays 8 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 7pm

Free Health Clinic

Tuesdays, 10 am - 1 pm

GED classes

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Support Group

Every other Monday, 5:30pm - 7pm

Spring Hill Central Rotary

2nd and 4th Wednesdays, noon - 1p

Lunch for those in need

Tuesdays & Fridays, 11:30 am

Hot meal for those in need

Sundays, 3:30 pm

Showers available

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm

Our Calendar is online - view it here:

<https://phphernando.org/calendar>



Our Next Mobile Food Distribution

For low-income
Hernando County
families

Wednesday, April 26 Always the LAST Wednesday of the month

Begins at 10:30 am

Location: HELP Center
1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill

*(Please be aware that we never
know what we'll get on the truck.)*

Other Support Services

PHP is committed to breaking the cycle of poverty by helping the disadvantaged gain access to appropriate social service organizations, employment programs, and affordable quality healthcare.

Come see us if you need information or assistance with such things as SNAP, social security enrollment, job applications, unemployment assistance, and health insurance questions.



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"This experience has given us a greater awareness of the needs within our community. It has been rewarding to help out together as a mom/daughter team. It has been fun working together and meeting new people," said June.

An added benefit has been the volunteer hours also help meet the requirements for the Bright Futures scholarship. A win for River and a win for PHP!

Are you a parent who would like to spend quality time volunteering with your teen+ child? Please give us a call at 352-686-4466.