



Food4Thought

People Helping People's Newsletter

June/July 2023

Day of Hope - September 23, 2023

How do you define "Hope"?

One pretty concise definition - **Hope** is an optimistic state of mind based on an expectation of positive outcomes with respect to events and circumstances in one's life or the world at large. As a verb, it means: "expect with confidence" and "to cherish a desire with anticipation." Among its opposites are dejection, hopelessness, and despair.

PHP and a host of partner social service organizations, local businesses, governmental departments, elected officials, law enforcement, religious institutions, and caring and concerned community members continue to come together monthly as the Hernando Homeless Initiative to work on short term and long term goals toward ending homelessness in Hernando County. A pretty big bite of the apple (see what I did there!).....but the team is willing to do the work and bring hope to the hundreds of homeless in our community.

Maureen Soliman, PHP's board president, director of our health clinic, and the initial driving force for the initiative, explains, "The Hernando Homeless Initiative is offering our community officials, county agencies, concerned residents, and volunteers a plan to provide basic service access to the homeless in our community."

As one outcome of its monthly meetings, the Hernando Homeless Initiative is declaring September 23 as a **Day of Hope**. On that day from 10am - 2pm, it's bringing together in one place, PHP's HELP Center at 1396 Kass Circle, a variety of many of the resources in Hernando that offer support, direction, information and that all important **hope** for the homeless community. If you would like to volunteer or offer a service, please call 352-686-4466 or attend the next Initiative meeting July 25th at the Hernando County Chamber, 3:30p - 4:30p.

DAY OF HOPE

For the homeless

September 23, 2023

10am - 2pm

1396 Kass Circle

The Hernando Homeless Initiative is offering a **Day of Hope** for the vulnerable population in our county by having the services, information, and organizations available on September 23 from 10am to 2pm at PHP's HELP Center, 1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill 34606 for those who are unsheltered in Hernando.

Information will be provided for

- ♦ Obtaining a birth certificate and ID
- ♦ GED classes
- ♦ Employment opportunities
- ♦ Mental health services
- ♦ Veteran services and support
- ♦ Other eligible services

On site services :

- ♦ Haircuts
- ♦ Showers
- ♦ Lunch
- ♦ Laundry vouchers
- ♦ Clothing vouchers
- ♦ Bus passes

For more information or to join the initiative, contact People Helping People at 352-686-4466 or Maureen Soliman at 352-650-9006 or join the Hernando Homeless Initiative Facebook group.

Homelessness is a complex problem in Hernando County. In May 2023, partners, stakeholders, and concerned citizens met and formed the Hernando Homeless Initiative. This community task force has been organized to mobilize existing resources and services and maximize outcomes.

Weekend Blessings is supported by grants from the following:



**PEOPLE
HELPING
PEOPLE**
in Hernando County

www.phphernando.org
352-686-4466

HOPE FOR THE HUNGRY

A Spooktacular Evening of Fun!

To Support People Helping People in Hernando County



October 14, 2023

6p - 10p

Elks Lodge 2582

13383 Countyline Rd. Spring Hill

Tickets \$75/person

Dinner
and Dancing!!

Best Costume Contest!

Silent Auction!

Lottery Ticket Tree!

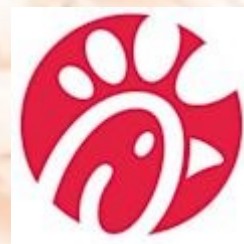
Entertainment!

Call 352-686-4466 for ticket information



Good food
brings people together and
nourishes the soul

**Sunday Blessings
Meal Sponsors -
June & July
THANK YOU!!!!**



KINGDOM OF HOPE MINISTRIES



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



"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."

Thank you to all who provided in-kind donations in May & June!



Amir	Shirley Kelly
Anonymous (we know who you are!)	Maggie & Jennifer
Ron Binder	Jim Mason
Campers Holiday Assoc Country Band	Melissa
Celeste	Peggy Monahan
Cadence Bank	Merry Oakes
Darrell	Panera
Deluca Dental	Charles Ransford
Ramona Dickinson	Rosina
Dollar General	Maureen Soliman
The Fletchers	SH Animal Clinic
Karin George	Jackie Stout
Glen Lakes Social Club	Veronica Stringer
Dr. Earlie Hairston	Temple Beth David Sisterhood
Hernando Animal Hospital	Timber Pines
Joyce	Lisa Torres
Katy	USPS

Thank you to those who contributed monetarily in May & June!

Amazon Smile Foundation

Anonymous

Anthony & April Artesmisio

Linda Bixby

Blooms 4 Good Program

BOA Charitable Foundation

Kelly Brown

Catherine Buonemani

Murilene Cronk

Donation Jar HELP Center

Syed Waqar Hasan, MD

William and Pauline Hatch

Alison Kalvelage

Scott Madden

James & Sandra Morgan

Sona Movalia

Network for Good

Kathleen Olynik

Ron & Barbar Osipoff

Debra Peary

Sunday Blessings Donation Jar

Richard Sweade

Wesquan Tuck, LLC



What, when, where to donate?

Please consider - the items you donate are often going to someone who is homeless or without the funds to purchase other ingredients or the means to heat or bake it.

In-kind: Drop off at 1396 Kass Circle, M - F 9a - 2p.

Monetary: mail to: PO Box 6182,
Spring Hill FL 34611
or online at www.phphernando.org

Thank you!



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Small, But Mighty!

PHP provides and delivers to Hernando County seniors living in low income situations supplemental groceries each month.

As with most everything PHP does, it's done by volunteers, and our Senior Blessings program is no exception. On the last Thursday of the month, a small group of folks under the guidance of our Senior Blessings' program director Noemi, meet at our HELP Center to pack bags of pantry food items that are then delivered to seniors in need. Currently, that means filling 170 bags.

How was PHP fortunate enough to have this team? Two years ago, Noemi and her friends were looking to add something to their lives, "So I said, let's go see what PHP is about." They learned of the need for PHP's Senior Blessings program, and here they are!

That team has as many as 14 different folks helping out. Their friend (and ours!) Noemi reaches out to see who can come that month.

"They all love to come. I send a text out and whoever can, comes. Those that can't make it truly miss it. I just invited a couple to join us and they LOVE it!

What they all love the most is the opportunity to help others. We work hard and get along together helping each other."

Noemi is a retired RN from New Jersey. She and her husband Deacon Jose are dedicated to their church, helping to bring a Spanish-speaking mass to St. Joan of Arc.

"We retired to Florida to rest and relax, but the Lord had other plans."

Although she's under 5 foot tall, Noemi has used her might, and charm, to build a dedicated, compassionate team. Thank you to all of them for helping to bring food to Hernando County seniors in need!



Some of the Senior Blessings program volunteers

Welcome New Board Member Neil Williams!

PHP's latest board member, Neil Williams, was welcomed at the July board of director's meeting. Coming from a family tradition of volunteering, Neil was looking for an opportunity to give back and help others.

He and his wife Jane have been married for 27 years, have a son in college, and a daughter about to start her senior year at Springstead High School. They've lived in the Spring Lake area since 1999.

Neil recently "semi-retired" but still enjoys taking care of the Williams' property, running, cooking, and following English soccer. In addition, he feels like he now has the time and passion to do whatever he can to help out in and around PHP's Kass Circle Help Center.

"There is a great need for PHP's services, and hopefully, we can continue to grow and expand our programs," said Neil who expects to focus on fundraising efforts needed for those very things.

We're excited for Neil's involvement and contribution to the mission of People Helping People - alleviating hunger in Hernando County and helping to break the cycle of poverty. Thank you for being a part of our board, Neil!



Our Next Mobile Food Distribution

For low-income
Hernando County families

Wednesday, July 26, 10:30am

Always the LAST Wednesday
of the month
1396 Kass Circle

352-686-4466 with any questions
or to volunteer

HELP Center Calendar

Our Calendar is online - view it here:
<https://phphernando.org/calendar>



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