



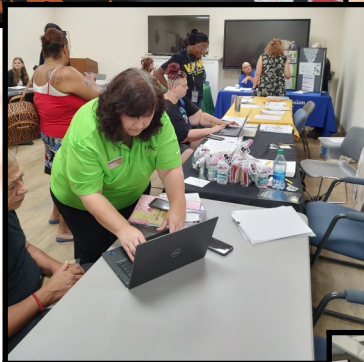
Food4Thought

People Helping People's Newsletter

September 2023

Day of Hope Saturday September 23

On Saturday, Sept 23, the first Day of Hope, an outreach of the Hernando Homeless Initiative, was held at PHP's HELP Center at 1396 Kass Circle in Spring Hill. Thank you to the many social and human services agencies and organizations, businesses, and individuals that were present that day to support and show human kindness to the homeless in Hernando. To learn more about how you can help, please call 352-686-4466.



PEOPLE
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in Hernando County

www.phphernando.org

352-686-4466

ON BEING HOMELESS IN HERNANDO

This is a real and honest perspective of what it's like to be homeless in Hernando County.....

Some of you may have seen them. A man pushing an older woman in a wheelchair up and down Spring Hill Drive. David and his mother Patricia.

They had been renting a home in the area, but the owner wanted to renovate and sell the house. They were given a short time frame to vacate but were unable to find any place they could afford (sound familiar?). David and Patty came to PHP to see what help they could find. For months, we tried to find them housing, to no avail. For months, we fed them, shared potential resources, and provided a safe, cool place to stay during the day.

Ahhh. But the nights. The harsh, dark, humid nights....David doesn't want to disclose exactly where, but the two of them slept on concrete seven nights a week. They avoided the woods because of the drugs and safety concerns. They tried staying outside of churches, but security would chase them off the property. If they could just find safe shelter, David could look for work and not worry about leaving his mother alone and unattended. Patty received a small amount from social security each month and SNAP funds but this didn't allow for them to pay rent.

David describes his experience seeking help in Hernando as challenging and stressful. "I plowed through every nonprofit and other organizations. Government agencies and all the churches not only in Hernando but neighboring counties as well. There was no help."

David finally reached out to distant family out of state who put him and his mom up in a motel until they pulled enough money to get David and Patty's belongings (what was left) out of storage and drove them to Georgia to stay with family members. What David would like people in Hernando to know. "Honestly, get help from friends and family, not any government agency. They might have the money but realistically they help themselves over the people that vote them in office. Churches are strapped for funds and other means to help.

Life is getting better little by little. Being in a new state, things takes time."



ELKS LODGE 2582 - A TRUE FRIEND OF PHP AND HERNANDO COUNTY

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks has been in Hernando county for more then 30 years. It was founded "To promote and practice the four cardinal virtues of Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity; to promote the welfare and enhance the happiness of its members; to quicken the spirit of American Patriotism and cultivate good fellowship."

Elks Lodge 2582 is involved mainly with nonprofits who provide for children, veterans, and the homeless. Their motto "we care, we share" is personified in their volunteering of time, treasure, and talent. In Hernando, this caring group supports, in addition to People Helping People, K-9 Partners for Veterans; Jericho Road Ministries; Children's

Advocacy; New Beginnings; Rachael's Room; and New Generations.

Besides their generous monetary donations, Lodge members volunteer with PHP as champions for our Weekend Blessings program, each week packing around 40 bags of food for students facing food insecurity to enjoy over the weekend.

Carr Hussey, the Exalted Ruler for the lodge, is responsible for setting the tone and culture of the lodge, making

sure that the lodge's values and principles remain at the forefront of all of its activities. PHP can attest to the community spirit Carr shows, along with fellow members Sherry, Nora, Jane, Richard, Susie, Colleen, and Nancy, to name just a few.

Stop in their County Line Road facility and you can enjoy yourself most any day. There are dinner dances, fun nights, karaoke, trivia night....a good time is had by all! All this while supporting the community. Thank you, Elks Lodge 2582!



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352-686-4466**

Good food
brings people together and
nourishes the soul

**Sunday Blessings
Meal Sponsors -
September
THANK YOU!!!!**



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 enrollment. Social security enrollment, job applications, unemployment assistance, and health insurance questions.

HELP Center Calendar

Nature Coast Art League

Mondays, 9am

AA meetings

Mondays & Thursdays 8 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday 7pm
Fridays 7pm

Free Health Clinic

Tuesdays, 10 am - 1 pm

GED classes

Mondays, Wednesdays 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Meals for those in need

Sunday 3:30 pm
Tuesdays & Fridays, 11:30 am

Showers available

Tuesdays & Fridays, 10 am - 1 pm

Our Calendar is online - view it here:

<https://phphernando.org/calendar>

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.



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"You can always, always give something, even if it is only kindness."

Thank you to all who provided in-kind donations in August

Anonymous (we know who you are)

Antonello

Sharon Christian

Valerie Ciaccio

Deluca Dentistry

Dollar General

Chuck & Jan Enderle

Vickie Foy

Hernando Animal Hospital

Jack

Jennifer and Maggie

Jennifer & Oswego

Kind Animal Care

Knights of Columbus

Michelle Lovett

Christine MacElhaney

Kristina Morris

Mallory Ramsey

Veronica Stringer

Timber Pines

What, when, where to donate?

Please consider - the items you donate may be going to someone who is experiencing homelessness with no means to heat or bake or someone without the funds to purchase additional ingredients.

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!

Thank you to those who contributed monetarily in August!

Anthony & April Artemisio

Carol Badillo

Beyond Healing LLC

Gary and Elizabeth Bisard

Blooms 4 Good Program

Brooksville Benevolent
Protective Order of
Elks Lodge 2582

Kelly Brown

Catherine Buonemani

Kenneth & Suzanne Bushart

Murilene Cronk

Donation Jar HELP Center

Chuck & Jan Enderle

Syed Waqar Hasan, MD

Hernando Firefighters Benevolent
Relief Fund

Alison Kalvelage

Joan Kenyon

Sona Movalia

Ron & Barbara Osipoff

Debra Peary

Shari Robinson

Sharon Schroeder

Richard Sweade

Temple Beth David Jewish Center

Neil Williams & Jane Mendelsohn

Special call for these donated items: (unexpired, please!)

- ◆ Thanksgiving dinner fixin's (stuffing mix, turkey gravy, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, canned corn or green beans)
- ◆ Fruit bars
- ◆ Dry/powdered milk packets
- ◆ Fruit juice boxes

Weekend Blessings is supported by grants from the following:



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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



PEOPLE
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in Hernando County

Dressing up for Halloween isn't just for kids!

Wear your best costume and support a great cause - helping our unserved and underserved neighbors in need.

There'll be music and dancing and a delicious dinner catered by the Elks Lodge 2582.

We'll raffle off gift baskets of fabulous items. You can even try your luck at a Lottery Tree.

Did we mention.....there'll be a fortune teller, too?

Call 352-686-4466 to purchase tickets, be a sponsor, or to donate items for the gift baskets.

Costumes are optional. In fact, your Hoe Down for the Hungry attire will also work!

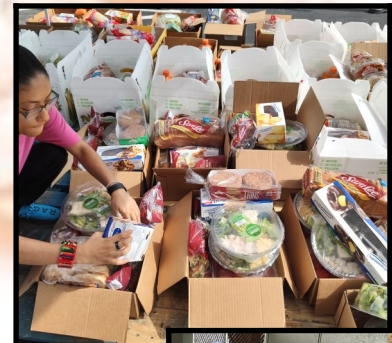


Mobile Food Distribution

For low-income
Hernando County families

Always the LAST Wednesday
of the month
1396 Kass Circle

352-686-4466 with any questions
or to volunteer



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