



Food4Thought

People Helping People's Monthly Newsletter

Dec. 2020

Ron Van Matre Steps Down

After 11 years at People Helping People (PHP), Ron Van Matre is retiring.

Back in 2009, when PHP was founded, Ron served briefly on the board and became the executive director for the nonprofit. In addition to being an unpaid executive director for over nine years, Ron assumed the responsibility of getting meals for PHP's Sunday Blessings program. Ron would contact restaurants, civic organizations and individuals to provide a Sunday meal for up to 150 people. In a year's time, he typically would fill 50 of the 52 weeks of the year.

Additionally, Ron headed up the food drives program for donated can goods and nonperishable food. He made arrangements for food drives by contacting organizations and businesses to ask their employees or members to donate food for the hungry. Also, he put together a team for pickup and delivery of the food to our warehouse, which is now at the HELP Center.

After we hired a paid executive director, Ron continued on as a board and executive board member. He has been a tireless volunteer, as well as a financial contributor to PHP. Already, we had to recruit several volunteers to carry out the jobs that he filled for PHP.

Would you like some low-cost advertising for your business? We are in need of reusable bags for our Senior Blessings.



Doug Brainard and Ron Van Matre

I know I speak for the Board and other volunteers, wishing him the very best in retirement. We appreciate his hard work and dedication to our organization. Without any doubt, we'll miss him and his noteworthy efforts to help feed hungry people in Hernando County.

Doug Brainard, PHP President

Weekend Blessings Pick Ups

Our Weekend Blessings program has expanded to include satellite locations for those students who are home schooled or distance learners. Any child residing in Hernando County is eligible to receive kid-friendly food for the weekend. Bags can be picked up at the following:

FRIDAYS: 3 - 4pm (beginning Jan. 8) at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 8064 Weeping Willow St., Brooksville.

FRIDAYS: 11am - 12:30pm at Christian Church in the Wildwood, 10051 Country Road, Weeki Wachee.

If you have any questions, please call us at 352-686-4466.

Contact us: 352-686-4466
admin@phphernando.org

Kass Circle Clean-up!

The Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Jan. 18, 2021, marks the 26th anniversary of the day of service that celebrates the Civil Rights leader's life and legacy. Observed each year on

**MLK
DAY**
OF SERVICE

the third Monday in January as "a day on, not a day off," MLK Day is the only federal holiday designated as a national day of service to encourage all Americans to volunteer to improve their communities.

To honor Dr. King, we will host our Annual Kass Circle Clean-up. Volunteers are needed to help clean up our street and area of trash.

**Kass Circle
Clean Up**



Saturday, January 16

8:30 - 11:00 AM

Show your support of this area and keep the ball rolling for improvement by participating in a neighborhood effort to clean up Kass Circle & vicinity.

Check-In at HELP Center
1396 Kass Circle

- Information
- Gloves
- Trash bags
- Water

Let's improve Spring Hill's oldest commercial neighborhood at Kass Circle!



**PEOPLE
HELPING
PEOPLE**
in Hernando County

WITHOUT ALL OF YOU, WE ARE NOT POSSIBLE!

Cash donations enable us to buy those food items that we do not get in donations. Thank you so much for your continued support of PHP!

John J & Mary E Adamczewski
Amazon Smile Foundation
Anthony & April Artemisio
Thomas & Arlene Berry
Linda M Bixby
Kelly Brown
Catherine Buonemani
Margo Castellana
P. Ronald & Sara Cohen
Murilene A Cronk
Crystal Motor Car Co Inc
Employees at Crystal Motors Car Co.
Disability Experts of Florida Inc
James A Distefano
First Auroveda Foundation Inc
Joseph E & Joan Griffin
Syed Waqar Hasan
Alison Kalvelage
Robert W Kwarren Family
Monica Lombardo
Donald MacWhinnie
Serafina E Mogavero
Nature Coast Parrot Head Club LLC
Oak Hill Hospital Medical Staff Inc
Kathleen Olynik
PayPal Giving Fund
James M & Debra J Peary
Joseph Pienkos
Marilyn Rosenberg
Victor & Barri Schledt
Richard Sweade
The GoodCoin Foundation
Dan Tovar
Ronald M & Dorothy E Yarrington

Thanks to Dr. Rodwan Hiba, PHP received sizable donations from Oak Hill Hospital and the Islamic Center of Hernando County. Lately, Dr. Hiba has been working around the clock with GI and Covid-19 cases at the local hospitals, yet, he was able to find time to get two sizable donations for PHP. When donations are down and the need to feed hungry people is up, we appreciate Dr. Hiba's dedication and support. Thank you so much!

Story ideas and photos may be sent to
admin@phphernando.org



November Sunday Blessings meal sponsors

GLENLAKES BIBLE STUDY



*Please remember to help those listed
in our newsletter by
patronizing their businesses!*

HELP Center Rental

If you are interested in using the HELP Center for an upcoming meeting, please take a look at our online calendar first, then fill out the form on our website to request use of our space.

www.phphernando.org/calendar

The HELP Center will have the following holiday hours:
Thurs., Dec. 24: Closing at Noon
Friday, Dec. 25: Closed
Thurs., Dec. 31: Closing at Noon
Friday, Jan. 1: Closed

*Merry Christmas and Happy
Hanukkah from all of us at PHP!*



November was a big month for in-kind donations. Thank you to the following businesses and organizations that held food drives for PHP:

Access Health
ATA School
Campbell & Campbell
Dr. Chaney
Crosspoint Church
Encompass Health
Sala Evans
Forest Glen Coop
Glen Lakes
Grace Presbyterian Church
Dr. & Georgia Haus
Hernando County Library
Hernando County Sheriffs
High Point
Holy Trinity Church
Robert Kwarren & Family
Parrothead Club
Laurel Predmore
Reflection Salon
Lori Scott
Sunshine Christian Homes
Timber Pines
United Way
UF/IFAS Ext. Hernando & Sumter

PHP Hours and Services

Someone is generally at the HELP Center to answer calls Mon-Fri from 9am-3pm, but here are our current service hours:

Tuesday: Showers (by appt) and essentials available from 10 am-1 pm.
Lunch served from 11:30-12:30.

Friday: Showers (by appt) and essentials available from 10 am-1 pm.
Lunch served from 11:30-12:30.

Sunday: Hot meals, bread, produce (when available) served at 3:30pm.

Free Health Clinic: Second Wednesday of each month, 10am-1pm, by appointment, call 352-686-4466.

PHP is taking donations of grocery gift cards for families in low-income housing to make their holidays merrier!



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