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FOOD⁴THOUGHT

People Helping People's Newsletter



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CECIL BRADLEY – PHP CHARTER BOARD MEMBER EMERITUS

BRADLEY, Cecil U. Jr. 91, of Brooksville, died on December 4, 2019. Cecil was the first president of People Helping People until 2010 and was active in the prison ministry, Kairos. PHP sends sincere condolences to Cecil's family.

FOOD DRIVES

During the fall food drives held in October, November and December, we had 9,780.5 lbs. of food collected and donated to PHP. We thank all of the companies, communities, clubs and civic organizations, and families for their support.

Top Ten Fall Food Drives

1. **Hernando Co Sheriff's Office**
1,185 lbs
2. **Zig-Zag Scallop**
838 lbs
3. **Campers Holiday**
591 lbs
4. **Hernando County Fire Dept.**
422 lbs
5. **Notre Dame Catholic School**
386 lbs

6. **Springstead High School**

371 lbs

7. **Timber Pines**

355 lbs

8. **High Point Lions**

328 lbs

9. **Temple Beth David**

278 lbs

10. **SW FL Water Mgmt -**

249 lbs

Grand Total 5,003 lbs

A special thank you to our friends at Skintastic in Spring Hill - during the month of November they ran a different form of a food drive by requesting a \$20 Publix Gift Card to receive 20 units of Dysport TM and the gift cards would be donated to a local food bank and PHP was that recipient. The promotion produced \$2,650 in gift card. We are so thankful for their support.

FOOD DRIVE LOCATIONS NEEDED

Our Weekend Blessing program commonly known as the "Backpack Program" is in dire need of food as it serves approximately 600 Hernando County school children with weekend food for the entire school

year. These children are from low income families and receive free breakfast and lunch during the school week. The benefits for these children include better attendance and improved attention spans.

If you are a business owner, belong to a church or another organization, community or small social group you can sponsor a PHP Food Drive. PHP will supply and deliver the collection boxes complete with signage including the list of preferred food items. When it's full, just call PHP to pick up the box and donations. For detailed information please call Ron at 597-6454 or email at ronvanmatre@aol.com

FALL FUNDRAISING RECAP

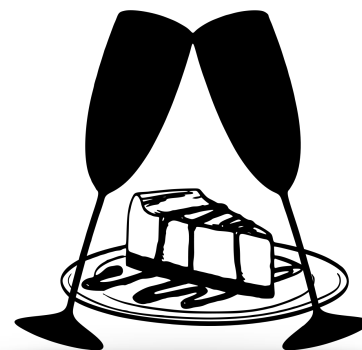
This year's Magic Show saw an encore performance by Elliott Smith at the Springstead HS Theater with a matinee geared toward elementary aged students who were again recognized by HC Superintendent, John Stratton for their summer reading achievement and an evening showing billed as family friendly. A thank you goes out again to Linda Prescott, HC School Board member who secured the use of the Springstead Theater. The two productions netted PHP \$3,100 and we thank all who sponsored, supported and attended the shows.

On October 19, 2019, PHP held its 8th Annual Celebration Dinner. A full house enjoyed a night of fun and fundraising, as we celebrated the opening of our HELP Center. Thanks go out to our sponsors, the Islamic Center of Hernando County, Disability Experts of Florida, Rick Matthews Buick-GMC, Bomhoff Law Firm, Storey-Adams Family, Theo Batchelder, CRPC, and Van's Cars and Trucks, as well as the many businesses that provided gifts for our raffles and the generosity of our guests and donors to make this event a great success with a net profit of over \$46,000.

Monies from the event will be used to support our backpack program for school students, groceries for seniors living in low income housing, food and supplies for homeless and disadvantaged, a free health clinic for the uninsured, a laundry & shower facility for the homeless, and a computer lab for job searches, resume building, and benefits enrollment. If anyone is interested in obtaining a program booklet, feel free to stop by the PHP office, Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 2 PM, to request one and check out all our advertisers.

On a side note, inquiring mind want to know, "How did we do on the Belk Charity Day, Saturday, November 9, 2019", PHP made \$349.52

An Evening of Decadent Desserts



An Evening of Decadent Desserts is planned for Saturday, May 2. This new PHP fundraiser should be fun for couples, moms and ladies' groups. Save the date for this evening of dessert sampling and bubbly. Watch the PHP FaceBook page for more information.



KASS CIRCLE CLEAN UP – JANUARY 18TH

THANK YOU to the 54 volunteers who spent their morning cleaning up the Kass Circle neighborhood. Peak Financial Coaching provided coffee, donuts and bagels. People Helping People provided gloves, garbage bags and water. Hernando County and Republic Services provided a large dumpster. Thanks to the teamwork in Kass Circle, we filled the dumpster by 11 AM.

Saturday, March 21, 2020

11 AM– 3 PM



PHP Help Center

1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill, FL 34606

5TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The 5th annual Chili Cook-Off is scheduled for March 21 at 1396 Kass Circle. This is an opportunity for individuals, clubs or businesses to prepare their best chili and enter it into a cook-off competition.

Usually 20 to 25 contestants will present their best chili to be judged by local fire fighters and politicians for bragging rights for Hernando County's best chili. Also, there is a people's choice award, where the public votes with their dollars for their favorite chili. And of course, all proceeds go to help PHP feed hungry kids, families and individuals in Hernando County.

Chili of all varieties have been entered in PHP's fundraising event including chili with beans, without beans, with and with out meat and both hot and spicy. The public is invited for tasting at just \$5 for 5 small tasting cups of chili.

Besides chili, PHP will feature Jim's Famous Hotdogs, drinks and a bake-sale, with bake goods prepared by PHP volunteers and board members.

FREE HEALTH CLINIC

Has been in operation since September 2019. Uninsured low income Hernando County Residents are evaluated and treated by a Nurse Practitioner for general medical problems. The clinic is staffed by volunteer nurses, medical assistants and support staff.

The next clinic dates are:

Wed, Feb 12 @ 1130AM-2PM @ Vineyard Church

375 S Broad St, Brooksville

Wed, Feb 19 @ 10AM-1PM @ PHP HELP Center

1396 Kass Circle, Spring Hill

Wed, Feb 26 @ 1130AM-2PM @ Vineyard Church

375 S Broad St, Brooksville

For information call (352) 515-1663 or (352) 650-9006.



NEW YEAR'S CYCLING TOUR 2020

A group of chilled, but eager cyclers gathered in the clubhouse parking lot to cycle for charity on January 5, 2020. Organized by Pepe Castagnet the group was committed to two loops around GlenLakes which most of the riders completed. Led by a pace "cart" and with additional supporters located at busy corners the loops were completed a little over an hour. Donations collected from the cyclers were given to People Helping People in Hernando County. Thank you to all who participated and donated to this worthy non-profit. Dunkin' Donuts provided coffee and donuts for the event. Photo is courtesy of Nestor Rodriguez.

MONDAY MEAL

PHP has recently begun a new feeding program at our facility at Kass Circle. On Mondays, every week, PHP offers a meal to anyone who comes in need of nourishment. This meal can range from anything to a pasta dish, to soup and bread, or anything in between!!!

PHP has several “regulars” who attend this meal each week. It’s nothing fancy to be sure but if you’re in need of a meal, come and see us on Mondays between 11:30 and 12:30. Small donations are certainly welcome but PHP can find some work around the facility for you to do if you feel compelled to give back!!! Come see what we’re serving this week!

WEEKEND BLESSINGS

Weekend Blessings has had a great start to the new school year. PHP currently services over 600 students in 11 Hernando County Schools. These students have been identified by the Guidance Department as in need of food assistance over the weekend. This program is run with the full buy in of the Hernando County School Department. Weekend Blessings ended last year with an average number of 680 students being served by our backpacks. In case you’re unaware of how it works: a student is verified as needing assistance, a letter goes home to the parents and the process begins. One of our 11 sponsor groups assigned to that particular school gets food supplies from the Kass Circle Food Pantry or Winn Dixie and fills a backpack with food for the weekend: 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners and appropriate snacks. The backpacks are delivered to the school and the Guidance Department hands them to the students privately. Students then return the backpacks to school, empty, on Monday. If you have any questions OR would like more information to help out Weekend Blessings, please contact the Weekend Blessings Director, Barbara Nassar at the PHP number.

THANK YOU, SUNDAY BLESSINGS VOLUNTEERS

PHP would like to recognize ALL the dedicated volunteers who help prepare, set up the dining room for, and serve the Sunday Blessings meal. Nancy Wood is the current Volunteer Coordinator for all the servers and prep people who help make the Sunday Blessings meal as close to a restaurant experience as they can. Nancy always goes above and beyond to make it special for our guests with her little personal touches on the tables and behind the scenes. Our bread, salad, and dessert volunteers get everything organized to hand out to the guests who attend the dinner. The kitchen prep volunteers make sure everything goes out at the proper temp and watch the safety of the food delivery. They are all dedicated to providing outstanding service and they

deliver, each and every week!!! The volunteers are too numerous to mention, but PHP appreciates everything they individually do to take care of our Sunday Blessings guests. Photos of our Sunday Blessings Volunteers are posted weekly on our People Helping People Facebook page.

SENIOR BLESSINGS

PHP’s Senior Blessings program is going strong serving more than 250 seniors throughout Hernando County. Pastor Yvonne Woods and volunteers from Greater Love Outreach Ministry of Brooksville deliver supplemental groceries, provided by People Helping People, once a month. Seniors from Allen Temple AME Church, Brook Haven Apartments, Jerome Brown Community Center – Senior Enrichment Program, Magnolia Gardens Senior Apartment Homes and Vista Park Senior Living in Brooksville, along with seniors from Spring Hill’s Madison Reserve and Vista Grand Apartments are very appreciative of the assistance given.

THE HELP CENTER

PHP’s HELP Center on Kass Circle is a busy place six days of the week. The center is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm and again on Sunday from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm. During the week clients use the shower, laundry facilities, relax in climate controlled comfort, take advantage of the twice monthly free health clinics, meet with PHP staff and volunteers to find assistance, charge phones, and use the center’s computers. Monday clients can receive a hot lunch served between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. On Tuesday clients can pick up a hot lunch at 2 pm. The Sunday Blessings hot dinner is served at 4:00 pm.

Partners from the Weekend Blessings program come to the HELP Center to pick up food for the backpacks. Volunteers can often be seen in the Pantry weighing, dating, sorting and shelving food from food drives and donations. Community service groups use the HELP Center for a variety of meetings throughout the month.

Volunteers are always needed to keep the HELP Center running. If you would like to volunteer to answer phones, assist clients, work in the pantry, or serve meals please go online to <http://www.phphernando.org/> and fill out a volunteer questionnaire. Please be specific about what you’d like to do and when you are available.



DOUG BRAINARD'S DECADE AT PHP

Prior to PHP's existence, I attended planning sessions conducted by local clergy from diverse faiths on how to serve the hungry on the westside of Hernando County. Then in July 2009, a young organization, officially known as People Helping People in Hernando County, Inc. (PHP), served their first meal at the Senior Center where 42 servers fed only seven hungry people. In the fall of 2009, I started volunteering on Sunday as a server, but often ended up being the greeter at the door.

In 2010, the economy continued to sputter and the number of people needing a hot meal increased significantly. Personally, I was running my financial advisory practice and in May, I went on a month-long cultural exchange trip with Rotary to Brazil, so my volunteering at PHP was interrupted from time to time due to business, travel and other commitments.

Then later in 2010, the board of directors asked me to join their board and then to serve as their second president following Cecil Bradley. And it wasn't long before we decided to expand our food offerings to include weekend food for hungry kids. Originally known as Blessings in a Backpack, we started out in one school as a pilot and within a couple years we were adding more schools until we were in most elementary schools in Hernando County.

Programs expanded and it wasn't long before we had four main feeding programs that we labeled our Blessings programs: Sunday Blessings for our weekly hot meal; Weekend Blessings for our children's weekend backpack program; Senior Blessings, groceries for impoverished seniors in subsidized housing; and Neighborhood Blessings hot meal and groceries for homeless individuals and families.

In 2015, when the rent at the Senior Center was tripled, I

decided to look for a new place to lease for our Sunday Blessings program. I found an old hardware store on Kass Circle that had been vacant for over 10 years. The owner did not want to lease it to PHP but wanted to sell it. About the same time, the Spring Hill Civic Association sold the Lake House and distributed the proceeds to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations in the county. PHP received enough money for the down-payment on the Kass Circle building. The owner offered us a favorable deal, so we purchased the building at 1396 Kass Circle. Because the commercial property had rent paying tenants, PHP had enough income to pay the mortgage.

On March 31, 2015, People Helping People closed on the property and we immediately started planning for the conversion of the old hardware into a community resource center and headquarters for PHP. Because PHP did not have the funds available to remodel, PHP took over 4 years to raise enough capital for designing, demolition, and renovation construction to complete the HELP Center project.

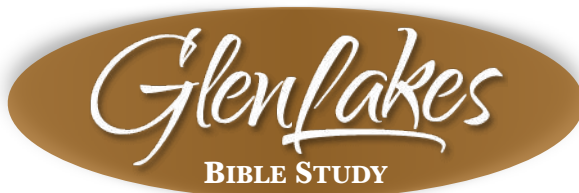
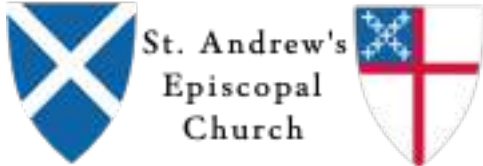
So now in 2020, PHP not only has the original four feeding programs, but a beautiful facility with a commercial kitchen and a paid executive director, Evan Sommerfeld, to keep everything running. Besides feeding people with hot meals and groceries, PHP's HELP Center has laundry facilities, a shower and is aiding homeless individuals with tents, tarps, bedding, camping supplies, and toiletries until they can find housing. Many of PHP's clients are not homeless, but are on the edge, so the goal is to help them avoid homelessness by providing them with food, knowledge and access to services.

Since we opened in May 2019, the community resource center is now being used by a number of other agencies for meetings, a small clinic is open and PHP's Blessings programs are all growing.

In the past 10 years, amazing things have happened at PHP in the most part due to the generosity of our donors, our sponsors, our volunteers and the board's vision to take a bigger bite out of hunger in Hernando County. In the next few years, I expect amazing things to happen as a result of the community's support. I feel so privileged to have had the honor of serving as PHP's president over the past 10 years.

-Doug Brainard

SUNDAY SPONSORS



HERNANDO HARMONIZERS

JIBBER JABBERS

