

FOOD4THOUGHT

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1—JAN/FEB 2017

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LOCAL COUPLE GRATEFUL FOR SUPPORT

After loss of work, a couple in Spring Hill faced a dire economic circumstance that led them to do the unthinkable. For the first time in their lives, Derek and Diane found themselves living outside in a tent and reaching out for help. "I'm the last person to ask for anything, but then when you really are hungry—this is like a miracle," says Diane. The two heard about PHP's Sunday Blessings program which offers a free hot meal to anyone in need every Sunday at 4pm at the Senior Center off U.S. 19. Diane says it feels good to be in a safe environment, free from judgment. Experiencing homelessness, "It puts you in touch with your basic needs. Sometimes people act like you're invisible or look at you like trash." Despite the hardships of having no water source, managing water storage, heating food over a camp fire, weathering storms and bugs, and cleaning their clothes, Derek and Diane have kept up infectious smiles and hopeful attitudes.



The couple will reflect on some lessons from their recent experience, even after moving back into a rented room, which they hope to do soon. There is value in learning to, "Live simply," says Derek. Meanwhile, the benefit of even one hot meal is immeasurable for people who would otherwise be hungry. "PHP has been a tremendous help. It has changed our lives," concludes Diane. PHP will be here to support this couple and so many others like them in our county while they work to regain self-sufficiency.

HUMBLE BUT MIGHTY VOLUNTEER—JEANNIE

We all know the phrase, "Great things can come in small packages." An amazing person who embodies this is PHP volunteer Jeannie Grimsley. This petite lady, together with volunteer Rick Pres-



graves, works tirelessly to secure, prepare, and distribute food and other basic necessities to dozens of people in need every week. Jeannie has been one of the faces of the Neighborhood Blessings program for 3 years. Her compassion for feeding the hungry comes from a young age. She says, "Growing up, my daddy fed everyone who came by. So I'm the same. I just do what my daddy did—it's in me."

PHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

On January 13th, the Board of Directors of PHP came together for a day-long Strategic Planning workshop to assess the current state of the organization and make plans to move forward in action. The workshop was facilitated by consultant Amanda Clearwater, who is continuing work with PHP as Project Coordinator. In evaluating the strengths of the organization, the Board agreed some of PHP's greatest assets are: a strong mission, good ethics and accountability, dedicated volunteers, and programs which really serve people. The Board will take actions to: complete the renovation of the Community Resource Center at Kass Circle, improve communications, better utilize volunteers, and foster greater outreach and partnerships with other local agencies.

UPCOMING PHP EVENTS!

Adopt-A-Duck *NOW* for Rotary's

Rubber Duck Derby



February 11 at 5:00 PM

on the Weeki Wachee River starting at the Springs

- * **Donate to Save Weeki Wachee Springs:**
\$5 per Duck **\$25 for a Quack-Pack**
(6 Ducks)
- * **Each Duck ticket gives you free entrance to Weeki Wachee State Park on February 11 after 3:30 PM**
- * **1st Place wins \$500.00** (winners do not need to be present to win)

All proceeds supports Rotary's
People Helping People Hunger Project



For tickets or information
 contact a Rotary member or:
 Doug Brainard (352)442-1156
 Karen Van Sickle (352)279-1530



1973 VW Bug For Sale

To benefit People Helping People

See it at 1396 Kass Circle on January 28 8AM – 4PM
 To Be Sold at Chili Cook-Off at Lake House on March 11

Place a bid today!



All Proceeds help PHP's building project at Kass Circle

Car details: Antique 1973 VW Bug; new engine replaced in summer of 2016; good tires; low mileage (42,000?); automatic; nice exterior and interior.

POINT-IN-TIME COUNT SUCCESSFUL

On Tuesday, January 24th, PHP participated in an annual census of all un-housed persons in Hernando County. The "Point-in-Time" count, as it is referred to, happens nationwide in January every year and is used primarily to direct funding and other resources from the federal government to local communities. Seven PHP volunteers worked for nearly twelve hours scouring known and new locations to interview people living outdoors or in places not meant for habitation (car, abandoned buildings, etc.). When the day was done, PHP had surveyed 54 individuals and given food to every one of them.

Thankfully, we did not find any children.

We did find young people, veterans, and folks with medical needs. Many reported they were seeking work but had barriers like no transportation.

As one of many organizations working on the census, we do not know what the total count for Hernando County was yet, but will report it in a future newsletter issue. Whatever the number, it surely represents only a sample of those experiencing homelessness—whether temporary or long term—on any given day.



WHAT WOULD YOU NAME IT?

For a \$200,000 donation, we will name our building after you! We're hoping for a major donor, but in the meantime PHP is seeking name suggestions for our building at 1396 Kass Circle, which we are developing into our organizational headquarters and a Community Resource Center. Some names already suggested are: The Source, Connection Center, The Filling Station, and A Hand Up. If you have suggestions, call or email us. There may be a prize! Naming rights are also still available for interior portions of the building based on donation amount.

Nature Coast
Chili Cook-Off
 Saturday, March 11, 2017 12-4PM
 Lake House
 1202 Kenlake Ave
 Spring Hill, FL

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE
 in Hernando Co, Inc.

Helping take a bite out of hunger

Entertainment by
 "Dixie Blue" and
 "Press Play Sound"