

FOOD4THOUGHT

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2018 Edition

PHPINHC.ORG

Introducing PHP's *new*

HELP CENTER

PHP is renovating a building on Kass Circle in Spring Hill to provide education and support for individuals who currently lack the means and knowledge to help themselves be productive, self-sustaining citizens. The HELP CENTER is a place where people can obtain food, support, and referrals to services. Renovated building features to include: commercial kitchen, dining room, classroom, shower, laundry facilities, restrooms, storage and serve as a community resource center for the area.

PHP's mission is to end hunger in Hernando County by breaking the cycle of poverty among the people served. Besides providing food, PHP links people to benefits, education, training and resources empowering them to help themselves to be productive members of Hernando County.

What happens at HELP CENTER?

- Preparing and serving nutritious food to individuals who have shown a willingness to help themselves get on track to a better life.
- Venue space to include kitchen and dining facilities available for parties and community organizations.
- Licensed commercial kitchen to be available as an *incubator* kitchen, is certified for food production.



- Food entrepreneurs, ranging from chefs, caterers, food truck proprietors, and bakers, benefit from the incubator kitchen instead of spending capital to build or lease their own facility. Once successful, the entrepreneur could open their own food business with an established customer following. Renters to use the kitchen by the hour or day to produce food while fulfilling regulatory compliance.

- Beneficiaries to have an opportunity to learn and practice skills of table waiting, bussing tables, food preparation, baking, and culinary arts.

- After training at our facility, trainees possess employable food service skills valuable to local employers.

- Provide a multipurpose classroom with audio-visual connections, internet, and suitable classroom furniture for most learning situations.

- Alcohol, drug and tobacco cessation classes, AA, life skills classes, GED classes, etc. offered by trained professionals.

- Meeting space available for collaborative partners for office visits, scheduling, evaluation, training and connection to resources and benefits.

- Shower and laundry facilities to be available to beneficiaries who need proper personal hygiene to prepare for food preparation jobs at PHP's facility or for job interviews.

- Provide computers with access to the internet since most benefits, claims and job applications are now managed online.



St Paul the Apostle Church

St Paul the Apostle Church on Lori Drive continues to support PHP. They have delivered numerous bags of groceries, clothing and checks. In February, leaders of the church brought a check for \$300 to Kass Circle for the HELP Center building fund.



HELP Center Benefits to County



For those who want to help themselves, PHP will provide training programs and collaborate with other agencies/institutions to help people access benefits and pathways out of poverty and hunger.

PHP's programs could help the county by improving the nutritional value and quantity of available food. Possible benefits include:

- less panhandling on the streets
- reduced jail time as some individuals may resort to crime to provide food for their families
- reduced emergency room visits due to poor nutrition
- better grades in school by needy students receiving weekend food
- reduced hospitalization for medical conditions that are often made worse by poor diet and nutrition.

PHP's Chili Cook-Off a Success!

On February 17, PHP held their third annual Chili Cook-Off at the Lake House in Spring Hill. The event drew hundreds of visitors to taste over two dozen kinds of chili prepared by local participants. A contestant could win in three separate categories: 1) People's Choice, 2) Wild and 3) Mild. Carol Gallagher won the People Choice award, while Otteau Christianson won the "Mild" award and John Stratton won the "Wild" category, which were judged categories. The judges were, Beth Navarud and Mark Johnson, school board members and John Allocco and Jeff Holcomb, County Commissioners. This year the event featured live entertainment by the Taylor Creek Road Band, beer provided by Market 48 and hot dogs by Mr. Jim's Famous Hotdogs. The Chili Cook-Off is an annual fundraising event by PHP to support the four feeding programs for hungry children, families and individuals in Hernando County.

February 2018 Meal Sponsors



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Funding Needed to Complete Construction of HELP Center

PHP still needs additional fundraising to finish the renovation at 1396 Kass Circle. At the end of February, it's estimated that PHP needs nearly \$150,000 to convert the old vacant hardware store into the HELP Center. Jeff Thomas of Reliable Construction and Plumbing is retrofitting the facility to include a commercial kitchen, shower, washer and dryer, computers with Internet service and space for counseling and resources. Once the renovation is complete, furniture and equipment will be purchased so PHP's volunteers will be able to work with impoverished individuals to link them to community resources that appropriately address their needs. Donations of any amount are appreciated and can be sent to PHP, PO Box 6182, Spring Hill, FL 34611. Please contact the contractor, Jeff Thomas to donate materials, equipment and labor at (352) 686-7527.

Offering a hand-up, not a hand-out

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IS A

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