

FOOD⁴THOUGHT

People Helping
People's Monthly
Newsletter

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HERNANDO STATISTICS

These Hernando County statistics and more can be found in economic and demographic research by [clicking here](#).

- ▶ Hernando County makes up approximately 1% of Florida's population with roughly 182,000 residents.
- ▶ The number of residents per square mile in Hernando County has increased from 273 in 2000 to 385 in 2017. That is a difference of 112-people per square mile, or 41%, in just 17-years.
- ▶ The average annual wage in Hernando County is \$35,750, which is 23.9% lower than the FL statewide average.
- ▶ 46% of adults in Hernando County make up the local labor force compared to the state average of 62%.
- ▶ 15.4% of people in Hernando County live below the Federal Poverty Line.
- ▶ Hernando County ranks 6th in the state of Florida (per capita) for bankruptcy filings.
- ▶ Per capita admissions to prison in Hernando County is 31.8% higher than the state average.
- ▶ 34.6% of local residents work outside of the county compared to the FL average of 17.5%; this is double the state average.
- ▶ On average 27.9% of state residents earn a bachelors degree, which is almost double the Hernando County rate of 16.4%
- ▶ The average cost per meal in Hernando County is \$3.21 which is 7% more expensive than the national average of \$3.00 according to the 2016 study completed by the organization Feeding America.





MAGIC SHOW

Thank you to everyone who helped make the Magic Show a success. We are grateful for magician Elliot Smith for his "mag-ish-ing" for both an afternoon and evening show on Saturday September 8th. Thank you Linda Prescott and Maureen Soliman for all of the hard work securing the venue, sponsors, stirring community interest and to many others who helped to raise more than \$6,500 for People Helping People in Hernando County.

The afternoon show was geared toward students, many of whom were recognized by Superintendent, John Stratton for their reading achievement. The evening performance was family friendly and drew an equally fantastic crowd.

Proceeds will go to the PHP blessings programs where they will be put to good use serving needy members of the community with quality PHP hospitality.

Thank you to [The Hernando Sun for the wonderful article](#) printed in the newspaper and posted online.



FIRST UMC OF SPRING HILL

Thank You! Thank you! Thank you! The generous efforts of Beth Donaldson and others at [First United Methodist Church of Spring Hill](#) have led to a contribution to PHP

of over \$4,500 for their 2018 Mission Campaign. We are grateful for the generosity of everyone who contributed and inspired contributions for this mission.



ZIG ZAG SCALLOP FOOD DRIVE

[Zig Zag Scallop](#) restaurant does it again!! A record amount of food has been collected from the restaurant; principally through the efforts of owner Scott Morano. The focus of the food drive is for Helping People's Weekend Blessings program (commonly referred to as the "backpack" program). Last year, this effort provided weekend food for a little over 700 Hernando Co. school children for the entire school year. This school year is shaping up where it could even exceed that number. pictured from left are Paul Castello PHP volunteer, Scott Morano Zig Zag owner, Gail Miller Zig Zag employee, Ariana Zig Zag employee and Steve Shipman PHP volunteer.





HERNANDO COUNTY YMCA TOGETHERHOOD PROGRAM

Togetherhood provides YMCA members with a fun, convenient and rewarding way to give back and support their communities. It is the YMCA's member-led service program for Social Responsibility. This program invites Y members to lead and participate in volunteer service projects that benefit the community where they live.

Our local Togetherhood program has their own Togetherhood committee. Led by a YMCA member as the committee chairperson, and Y Staff Advisor, the committee selects projects for our community. After projects are selected, the Togetherhood committee works with Y members and volunteers to form teams to complete the selected projects. Projects can range from food drives to building projects or grounds-maintenance at area organizations (or schools), and everything in-between. Projects are chosen based on the needs in each Y's neighborhood.

Over the last year, the [Florida Hernando County YMCA of the Suncoast](#) has been involved in several projects in the community. Recent projects have been conducted for the Dawn Center, Weekie Wachee Senior Citizens Club, Habitat for Humanity, Feeding Tampa Bay, and Senior Citizens Club of Hernando County. Most recently, the local Togetherhood members helped PHP to get a grant of \$2,500 from the local Lowe's store on Commercial. The grant was used for flooring and building supplies at the Help Center in Kass Circle.



SPRING HILL GARDEN CLUB

Thank you to the [Spring Hill Garden Club](#) for their generous donation of \$1000 to the Weekend Blessings program. Pictured is treasurer Janice Zachariah and Maureen Follansbee, Weekend Blessings Director.



GLENLAKES BINGO

PHP hosted bingo at the country club in [GlenLakes](#) Bingo September 25th. The event was a well attended and fun opportunity to raise funds for PHP. Thank you to all of the volunteers that sold cards, tickets, and managed the games. It was a wonderful evening.



The HELP Center kitchen is coming along nicely. Since this photo was taken the tile work has been completed and the hood system is almost complete.



THE WELLINGTON SOCK HOP

The Wellington at Seven Hills is holding a Sock Hop Dance for the benefit of PHP on Friday October 19. Tickets are \$10 each (plus canned goods). Barbara Nassar bought tickets for a table. Contact her for space at the PHP table or the [event ticketmaster \(Chuck First at 688-9146\)](#) for your group.



HOEDOWN FOR THE HUNGRY

The Hoedown tickets have been going quickly; so fast, in fact, that at the time of this newsletter release, they may even be sold out! The saloon opens on Saturday, October 6th at 6PM and dinner starts at 7PM. We will be honoring Kristine Wee who was a founding member of PHP. So dust off your hats, shine your belt buckles, and clean off your boots. Line dancing lessons will be provided; don't be shy. Bring your cash, check books, and credit cards. There will be 50/50 raffle, and 18 gift baskets to purchase tickets to win, door prizes, food & beverages, dancing, and entertainment.

SEPTEMBER 2018 MEAL SPONSORS

Thank you to our meal sponsors for the month of September!

Muslims Serving Hernando

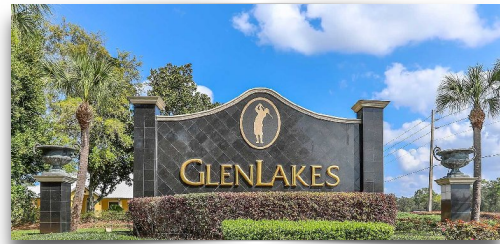


LIFE CHURCH



Evergreen Woods Health
and Rehabilitation Center

A NOT FOR PROFIT FACILITY



PHSC
Pasco-Hernando State College

PASCO HERNANDO STATE COLLEGE

People Helping People had the opportunity to visit the [Pasco Hernando State College](#) (PHSC) campus off of Ridge Road in New Port Richey to address Human Services students regarding the internship component of "Human Services Practicum I." Interns are required to complete at least 60-hours of relevant field experience and 15-hours of classroom instruction. PHP, represented By Barbara Nassar, discussed applicable opportunities with students, and distributed literature and contact information to the majority of students. In all, there were about a dozen organizations represented. We are quite pleased with the interest in PHP and look forward to a continued relationship with PHSC.



KASS CIRCLE REDEVELOPMENT

The idea of redeveloping Kass Circle business community is still viable. A group of concerned property owners, managers and residents are working to form a community association that will provide a coordinated voice to Hernando County. The group is concerned about public safety, beautification and promoting business in the area.

A proposal is in the works to form a business and property owners' group, called Historic Spring Hill, to focus on:

- public safety in the area
- crosswalks & sidewalks
- bus stops & bike lanes
- speed management on Spring Hill Drive
- beautification through vegetation
- establishing pride in the neighborhood
- refreshing and coordinating themed signage
- identifying old Kass Circle as Historic Spring Hill
- adding some prestige to the area
- promoting business and new enterprises

If you are interested, attend the meeting at [ATA Career Education](#) on Tuesday, October 9 at 6 PM or call 352-650-9006 for information.



NAMI MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

PHP volunteers attended [NAMI Hernando's](#) 8-hour Mental Health First Aid Training.

Just as CPR helps you assist an individual having a heart attack – even if you have no clinical training – Mental

Health First Aid helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health related crisis. In the Mental Health First Aid course, participants learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

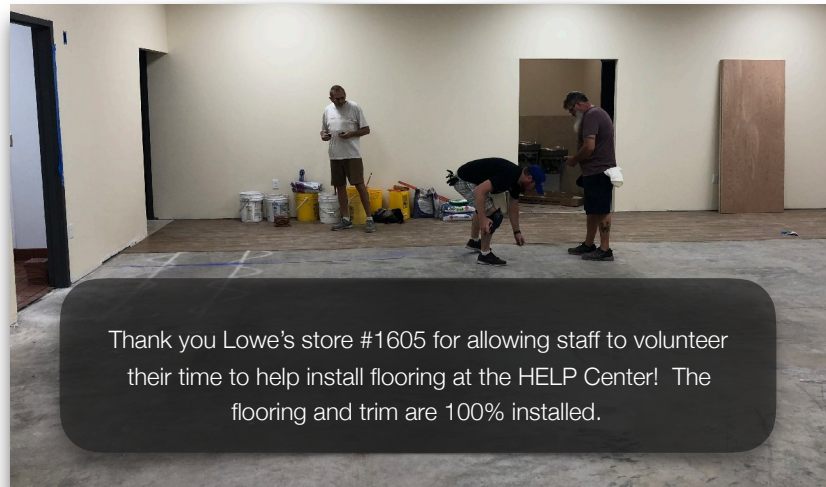
Taught by certified instructors, Mental Health First Aid teaches about recovery and resiliency – the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can and do get better, and use their strengths to stay well.

Participants learn how to apply the Mental Health First Aid action plan in a variety of situations, including when someone is experiencing panic attacks, suicidal behaviors, acute psychosis or reaction to trauma. The opportunity to practice – through role plays, scenarios, and activities – makes it easier to apply these skills in a real-life situation.



CLARITY TRAINING

PHP volunteers participated in Clarity Human Services Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) training with NAMI and the United Way. Clarity is an online data management system to used to load and help with the assistance given to our clients. When the Help Center is fully operational, all clients will be registered in Clarity going forward. HMIS platforms are becoming an essential tool to manage goods and services provided to clients across agencies and increasingly required to secure greater grant funding for programs like PHP's four blessings programs.



Thank you Lowe's store #1605 for allowing staff to volunteer their time to help install flooring at the HELP Center! The flooring and trim are 100% installed.



BICYCLE MINISTRY

Grace Presbyterian Church on Spring Hill and Waterfall Drive has a bicycle ministry devoted to repairing bicycles and refurbishing used bikes. The ministry is headed by a gentleman affectionately called Big Bob who devotes Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to repairing donated bikes, and then making them available to people in the community who need transportation. Thanks to Big Bob, PHP has a steady supply of bicycles for the homeless, and less fortunate individuals, that need transportation.

HELP CENTER GARDEN

Soon the garden in front of the HELP Center will be planted and producing fresh vegetables for the kitchen. New compost has been ordered for the raised garden beds and the seven hydroponic towers have been refurbished. Seeds and seedlings are ready to be planted and will be producing eatables within a few weeks. PHP is looking for volunteers to help in the PHP Garden. If you are interested in learning gardening, teaching gardening or helping out with both the towers and root beds, get in touch with Doug Brainard at dougbrainard@phpinhc.org.



NEIGHBORHOOD BLESSINGS

The Neighborhood Blessings program began 4-years ago when we recognized just how many people in Hernando County were homeless, and struggling to manage with minimal resources while living with poverty level resources. Neighborhood Blessings was created with the mission to provide people, on a weekly basis, with a hot meal and some of the necessities they may need to aid in their daily lives. Most of the people provided with these essentials live in the woods in a tent, their car, a shed or housing with extremely limited resources, our program is a great help; emotionally, physically, and financially.

The implementation of the Neighborhood Blessings program is carried out with the help of our volunteers who drive to designated locations and dispense the food and goods requested. These essentials (tents, bikes, sleeping bags, bug sprays, sleeping mats, toiletries, groceries and a hot meal) are acquired through donations, fundraising events, food drives and the generosity of the community. We try to help with health referrals, lost IDs and other issues, when we can.

Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to assist with his program. This program operates every Tuesday with locations in Spring Hill and Brooksville, and every Friday in Masyrktown and Spring Hill from 1-5PM.



Thank you Lowe's for helping install the flooring in the HELP Center!

LOWE'S[®]

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The HELP Center is nearly complete. Jeff Thomas, the general contractor, explained that the construction should be complete in another couple of weeks. The flooring is complete and looks terrific. During the first week of October, plumbing will be connected to the sewer and the kitchen hood vent system installed. In addition, the security system will be installed throughout the building. While there have been delays, we should be up and running for our grand opening scheduled for December 2 and 3. The ribbon cutting will be noon on Monday, December 3.



DAWN CENTER DASH FOR DAWN 5K

Participate in the Dawn Center's 5K dash (or 1-mile walk) in support of survivors and victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Date: Saturday October 13, 2018

Location: Tom Varn Park (301 Darby Ln, Brooksville)

Starts: Registration at 5PM & Dash starting at 6PM

Ends: Around 7:30PM

For more info visit www.active.com or [click here](#).



People Helping People In Hernando County, Inc. is a proud partner of United Way Hernando County.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Habitat for Humanity of Hernando County are proud to announce our 2nd Annual Charity Golf Tournament which will be held at World Woods Golf Club's Rolling Oaks Course on January 12, 2019. Following last year's success, Habitat is aiming to make this event even more enjoyable by incorporating a three-flight tournament including Men, Ladies and Seniors categories. There will be more prizes, more sponsorship opportunities, return of a Pro Golfer, and this year vendors are allowed to have stalls at the tee boxes.

If you would like to take part in this tournament, either as a player, a sponsor, a donor or have a vendor table at the event please download the Sponsorship and Registration Package.

Alternatively, if you would like to register online and make payment with a credit card, you can do so by using one of the links below:

- [Sponsorship and Vendor Registration](#)
- [Team Registration](#)

Habitat for Humanity of Hernando County would like to thank you for supporting its mission to build affordable homes for low-income families. Everyone deserves a decent place to call home.

There will be a 10% Early Bird Discount for all players/teams who register and pay before October 31, 2018.