

East Central Florida's Black Voice

Spring cleaning project by teens

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Campbell Middle students paint local residence as community service activity



Barbara Benjamin stands with TeenZone students from Campbell Middle School after they paint her home. (PHOTOS COURTESY BRIANA THOMPSON/FOOD BRINGS HOPE)

BY ASHLEY D. THOMAS
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TeenZone students from Campbell Middle School gave up a recent Saturday to paint and landscape the outside of a home located near their school.

"In the spirit of Mrs. (Forough) Hosseini, the kids did a great job demonstrating the importance of giving back," said Dan Lucas, Campbell Middle teacher and Food Brings Hope sponsor.

Students painted and planted flowers along the residence located on Keech Street in Daytona Beach while homeowner Barbara Benjamin looked on from her driveway at the team of students working together to better the community in which they live.



These students paint the home of Barbara Benjamin while others planted flowers.

Fun, rewarding

“It was inspiring to see the young kids enjoying giving back,” said Jana Maclsaac, a Food Brings Hope volunteer and Bethune-Cookman University student. “They had a lot of fun working together on the home.”

Briana Thompson, program coordinator for Food Brings Hope, says Robinson was randomly selected by Lucas. His criteria was that the homeowner be a senior citizen living in a working-class neighborhood with a home in need of exterior improvement.

Thompson said the organization has not set plans for another home but the possibility remains. An Easter Day celebration took place at the home to celebrate the holiday weekend and the completion of the landscaping project on April 4.

Helping needy families

“Food Brings Hope instills in its students that giving back to the community through service is one of the most rewarding acts of a contributing citizen,” expressed Forough B. Hosseini, founder and chair of the organization. “I am very proud of our Campbell TeenZone students for being kind and civic-minded and helping one of their neighbors.”

Food Brings Hope, founded in 2007, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing collaborative solutions for families with children who experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources.

According to the organization, it provides meals and other needs to more than 500 students in Volusia County.