



FOOD BRINGS HOPE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2021

FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear FBH Family,

The month of March began with a flurry of excitement as I met with the owner of Jersey Mike's, Drew Maider, and the employees of his four stores in our area for the "Month of Giving" kick off campaign. Together, we set the lofty goal of \$30,000 through donations from customers during the month and then 100% of the sales from the "Day of Giving" at the end of the month. The FBH team is extremely grateful for the dedication and support of Jersey Mike's Subs over the past seven years. Since March 2015, Jersey Mike's has contributed over \$80,000 to FBH.

The act of giving during March was also displayed by students in our various programs. Some students chose to be kind and make cards for lonely senior citizens in a nursing home, others planted a garden to give or provide their herbs and vegetables to the school cafeteria, as well as, to needy families in the community. FBH honors students prepared classroom donation kits to raise money and awareness for children battling leukemia and lymphoma.

Businesses, organizations, volunteers and donors stepped up also to give back to the community by distributing over 300 bags of food, 9 pound hams, school supplies and Covid safety items plus over 600 Easter candy treats and stuffed animals for the children. This Spring Break drive through was held in partnership with A WISH Organization and Mainland High School. One of the highlights of the day was when one gentleman stopped his car, after completing all his stops, came over to me and said, "I appreciate so much what you all are doing for me and my family. Everyone is so happy and smiling as they gave us all our stuff. I want to know how I can be a part of this and help others too."

As we celebrate Spring, the season of new growth, let's all put forth great effort and grow in our spirit of giving, showing kindness to all and helping others.

My personal thanks for your continued support and wishes for a wonderful Easter.

My Best,
Judi



BUSINESS OF THE MONTH - STELLAR FOUNDATION

Food Brings Hope recently recognized Stellar Foundation as the February Business of the Month. For the last four years, Stellar has produced holiday cards, featuring outstanding FBH students, that they sent to their clients. The cards contained a message that they would make a donation to Food Brings Hope to assist them in meeting their mission to nourish the bodies, minds, and spirit of our community's children. Stellar also supported FBH by donating over \$10,000 to purchase freezers for FBH programs so that frozen food could be added to the weekly Feed-A-Family food bags. The Stellar Foundation is also a proud sponsor of Food Brings Hope's annual Pearls of Hope Gala.



Stellar Foundation Board Members with the Business of the Month plaque. Congratulations on your award!

PARTNER OF THE MONTH - SUNCHASERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

The Sunchasers Motorcycle Club held a Cycle Run in December to benefit FBH. They collected toys, clothing and school supplies for KidsZone, TeenZone and FBH honors students.

A special ceremony was held at Bethune Cookman College at which Mamie Oatis, Community Program Director, accepted the donations from the club members.

The Sunchasers Motorcycle Club was chosen as FBH's Partner of the Month.



Thank you to Sunchasers for your generosity. Congratulations on your award!

JERSEY MIKE'S MONTH OF GIVING

Judi Winch, FBH Executive Director, joined Jersey Mike's owner, Drew Maider, and his staff, at the Kick Off meeting for the March 2021 Month of Giving Campaign. Judi shared information about Food Brings Hope to the employees. Drew and she encouraged the team to help FBH reach their goal of \$30,000. Food Brings Hope is Jersey Mike's Subs Charity of Choice for the 7th consecutive year!



THT UPDATE

The THT (Tutoring, Homework, Test Prep) Helpline recently celebrated student successes. Students participating in the Helpline were awarded gifts and certificates for attendance, academic achievement and learning gains. The Helpline continues to see an increase in students participating since the beginning of the year.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Food Brings Hope is always looking for volunteers. Please email info@foodbringshope.org to request a Volunteer form. FBH uses these forms to pair volunteers with activities matching their interests.

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunity

Food Brings Hope is planning an End-of-the-Year celebration. Please email us if you are interested in volunteering. The date is TBD.



WESTSIDE ELEMENTARY FUNDRAISES FOR PIGEON KEY TRIP

Westside FBH honors students have been actively fundraising to pay for transportation for an upcoming field trip to the Pigeon Key Marine Science Center. Unfortunately, this trip had to be canceled last year due to the pandemic. The sponsors and students are scheduled to go in May. To help cover bus transportation, the students have been operating a "snack" store each day. They are very excited to make this journey and learn more about Marine Biology which has been an area of focus in their FBH honors class held afterschool.



TRIO DELIVERS FOOD AND GROCERIES TO FBH FAMILIES

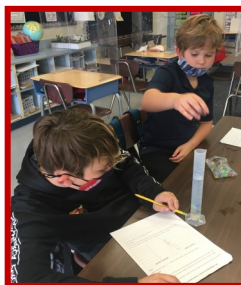
Susan Varga, Sharon Miceli and Judith Flaherty delivered bags of groceries to FBH families. This terrific trio of volunteers banded together to purchase groceries and paper goods so that needy families would have enough food for a week.

Susan Varga has inspired her friends to become volunteers for Food Brings Hope and contribute as she has done for many months during the pandemic. One mother recently had surgery and was extremely thankful for the special home delivery of much needed food and other essential items.

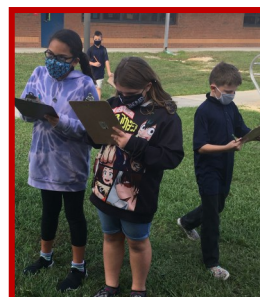


SUNRISE FBHONORS STUDENTS PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Students participating in the Sunrise FBH honors program have enjoyed the last nine weeks! They went on a virtual field trip through Aesop's Fables with the



Orlando Shakespeare Theatre and learned about the morals associated with them. They had a book tasting where many students were introduced to new books and genres. They also conducted a school wide clean-up day, and an outdoor learning day looking for different geometric figures; parallel and perpendicular lines, angles, quadrilaterals, and types of triangles. Students also conducted investigations with water displacement. During the next 9 weeks, they will be working on STEM projects associated with a trip to Jupiter.



CAMPBELL NIGHTS ALIVE HOSTS A FAMILY FUN NIGHT



Campbell's Night Alive, in partnership with Food Brings Hope TeenZone, held a Family Fun Night on March 3rd. All families were served a delicious dinner of baked ziti, meatballs, salad, garlic bread, and cupcakes for dessert. Adhering to social distancing guidelines, wearing masks and sanitizing frequently, students and their families played safely together throughout the evening. Families competed against other families playing Minute to Win It and other games to win prizes. Students were also given certificates for their participation in the Food Brings Hope Homework Helpline. What a fabulous way to celebrate the students! Students were able to bring their entire families to join in on some much needed food and fun!



BASILICA SCHOOL OF ST. PAUL PLANT GARDENS

KidsZone and TeenZone students at Basilica School of St. Paul's recently planted a Hope Garden cinder block proto-type garden project. Students in grades 4-8 helped build cinder block raised gardens on campus. Students calculated how many bricks would be needed, the amount of soil/potting mix needed, and what type of crops to be planted.

Students wanted to grow fresh herbs that can be used in the school cafeteria or even to bag and sell to the school community. This project involved Math, research into AgriSciences, and creativity on the students' part to make Hope Garden a success. The 8th grade will then guide the 7th grade in building their Cinder block garden, followed by the 6th grade.



FBH/VCAN PROGRAM WISH LIST

VCan provides food, toiletries, and baby items to families who call the Helpline for assistance. Following are some of the items that are needed on a weekly basis:

Diapers
Baby Wipes, Formula
Gas Cards
Walmart or Grocery Store Gift Cards

If you know a child or youth under the age of 25 yrs. old who is in need of assistance with food or housing, please have them call or text our VCan2020 help line #386-999-1888. You can support VCan2020 by liking our Facebook Page and by visiting our website VCan2020.org.

If you would like more information, please email Assistant VCan2020 Director, Sofia Rivas, at Sofia@VCan2020. **Together VCan!**



Our Mission
Nurturing the Body, Mind and Spirit of underprivileged children in our community.

Our Vision
Creating a community where underprivileged school children discover their full potential.

FoodBringsHope.org
Facebook.com/FoodBringsHope

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