



# FOOD BRINGS HOPE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2021

## FROM THE DESK OF OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear FBH Family,

As we begin our final month of the school year, I reflect on the initiative and perseverance displayed by our FBH sponsors, students and volunteers as we juggled changes due to COVID and adapted our programs to include Virtual students in activities and celebrations from home.

One such initiative was our online THT (Tutoring, Homework Help, Test Prep) program to assist our FBH students with after school academics in 4 middle schools.

Data analyzed comparing 3rd grading period report cards to second showed 80% of students attending THT regularly achieved a Learning Gain (raising their grade) in one or more subjects. Two students made all A's, an awesome achievement!

This year brought us new partnerships and a substantial growth in our volunteer network that tremendously helped us address the immediate needs of our students and the community. Thank you to all for bringing hope to our students even in the most difficult of times.

My Best,  
Judi



## SOUTH DAYTONA ELEMENTARY KIDSZONE

South Daytona Elementary's KidsZone students have enjoyed team building activities while focusing on theater. They have read scripts and acted out scenes with puppets. They will round out the final nine weeks with tending to their raised garden beds as many students have never experienced growing their own vegetables and fruit. The garden beds are a fantastic way to encourage healthy eating. Great project, South Daytona!



## PETRA'S HOMEWARMING

Homes Bring Hope (HBH) held its inaugural homewarming ceremony on April 8th to celebrate our first client who closed on her house earlier this month. Homes Bring Hope, the newest addition to the FBH Community, empowers hardworking individuals and families to fulfill their dream of homeownership by assisting in making the process as affordable as possible. Through a team of agency and business professionals, clients are provided expertise, guidance and wraparound support, from finding a home, attaining a lender, applying for down payment assistance, surveying and closing on homes in the 32114 zip code. Our partners include Halifax Urban Ministries, Southern Title, the Housing Authority of the City of Daytona Beach, Mid-Florida Housing Partnership, Sliger & Associates and more. Rooted in the Florida Chamber's Prosperity Initiative, HBH's overarching goal is to increase people's financial stability by way of becoming homeowners; thereby, having an impact on the surrounding community by strengthening and beautifying neighborhoods, permitting both adults and their children to feel stable and secure, which will ultimately enhance their performance as employees and students. Homes Bring Hope even affords each client a home warranty and a refrigerator full of food for their new home! For more information on how to support these efforts or for how to refer someone in need, please visit [www.homesbringhope.org](http://www.homesbringhope.org).



## FEBRUARY VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH—CATHY OXENDINE

Cathy Oxendine was recently chosen as the February Volunteer of the Month. She is a Pierson Pantry Volunteer who goes above and beyond to make sure Pierson families are served with dignity and respect. Every Tuesday she assists clients with food choices, takes senior clients groceries to their cars, restocks pantry shelves, and helps sort and organize community donations. She takes the time to meet the needs of families and children however she can. Cathy became a pantry volunteer after seeing her sister Carolyn Oxendine volunteering during the weekly distribution day. FBH is truly fortunate to have such devoted and compassionate volunteers like Cathy. Mamie Oatis counts on these volunteers for the successful operation of the pantry. Their dedication is extraordinary. With many giving us a weekly commitment, they make it possible to serve the Pierson community.



Thank you, Cathy!  
CONGRATULATIONS  
on your recognition!

## FBH PARTNERS WITH A WISH INC. FOR SPRING BREAK FOOD AND SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION

On Friday, March 19th, Food Brings Hope partnered with A WISH Inc. and Gamma Omega Mu Omega, Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. to sponsor a drive through distribution event targeting FBH schools in the 32114 area. Many organizations and groups came together to donate food, school supplies, safety items and Easter goodies.

FBH thanks the following groups and organizations who donated to make this event a huge success - Advent Healthcare Daytona, Banbury Drive Neighbors and Friends, First Methodist Church of PO, Cypress Creek Elementary, Bank of America, Brooks Rehabilitation, Panera Bread, Melissa Bergeron, Ann Johnson, Annette Caito, Bernadette Ramsey, and Bryce Frazier. FBH also sends a big thank you to the Daytona State College Volleyball Team, A WISH Inc., Jeff Dreier, Tyler Winch, and Kevin Smith who loaded the cars. Rod Smith, and the Mainland Team assisted with logistics, set up and clean up. A true team effort!

## ORMOND BEACH ELEMENTARY'S KIDSZONE PROVIDES

To wrap up the school year on a positive note, students in OBE's KidsZone program created kindness gifts for the school's teachers. The bags will be distributed each week until the end of the school year. The goodie bags are filled with water, coffee, donuts, mints, gum, sticky notes and chocolates. The kind gesture will definitely be greatly appreciated by the teachers! Thank you, OBE KZ students. The world needs a little more kindness.



## FOOD & SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION PHOTOS



## MARCH VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH - KEVIN KEYES

Mamie Oatis nominated Kevin Keyes as the March Volunteer of the Month. Kevin meets Ms. Oatis at Second Harvest every Tuesday to help load the food items that will be distributed at that afternoon's Pierson Food Pantry. Mamie shared that Kevin is a fantastic volunteer, is reliable and never misses a week. She truly appreciates his dedication to Food Brings Hope.



Thank you, Kevin!  
CONGRATULATIONS  
on your recognition!

## PIERSON UPSKILLS PRESENTATION

On March 25, students in Pierson's FBH/DSC Adult Literacy Program were given the opportunity to participate in an UpSkills presentation by DSC Staff.

Daytona State College is offering high-value, low-cost or no-cost training to those who qualify for entry-level employment as a Microsoft Office Specialist, AutoCAD Foundations, Office Support, Fire Fighter, Emergency Medical Technician, CNC Milling, Lien Practitioner, HVAC Installer, and Certified Production Technician.



These programs are designed to provide individual training and get people into a career quickly. Many of Pierson's students are working to enhance their language skills in order to improve their career prospects.

## MARCH BUSINESS OF THE MONTH - BRIAN'S BBQ

Brian's BBQ, Deland, has been chosen as FBH's March Business Partner of the Month. Brian Hill and his family (Jane, Sarah, Mary and Adam) provide and deliver nutritious hot meals to FBH's Pierson students and food pantry clients during our weekly pantry distribution. Brian saw a need in the community, and he started serving. He continues to demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to FBH and the Pierson community. Brian Hill and the Pierson Pharmacy began serving meals to the community before the pandemic so, getting involved during the current time of need was a natural extension. A hot meal is even more important during the pandemic because many of our pantry clients are senior citizens who are grateful to receive it. Brian's BBQ is aiming to make sure the Pierson community knows they are there to help. Food Brings Hope's Pierson Pantry is located at The San Jose Mission 165 Emporium Road, Pierson. We are open every Tuesday 2:00pm- 5:00pm.



## FOOD BRINGS HOPE RECIPIENT OF SODEXO SERVATHON EVENT

Servathon is Sodexo's largest global Stop Hunger event. Every April and May Sodexo empowers its employees around the world to join forces, engage their teams and fight hunger in their local communities. They do this through service, skilled volunteerism, fundraising and activities that go beyond food aid. Participating in Servathon is easy and a great engagement and team-building tool!

In keeping with Sodexo's commitment to fight hunger in local communities, they partnered with Food Brings Hope and provided financial support for Weekend Feed -A-Family by adopting three families for a year, one for each of their accounts in Daytona Beach (ERAU, BCU and Brown and Brown).



## HOMES BRING HOPE PROGRAM WISH LIST

In order to assist our new homeowners settle in to their homes, we are collecting basic household items. If you would like to donate any of the following items, please contact Kathy Clark, Homes Brings Hope Director, at [Kathy@HomesBringHope.org](mailto:Kathy@HomesBringHope.org).

Cleaning products

Paper products

Laundry products—detergent, dryer sheets

Household items - utensils, dinnerware, pots, pans, towels, sheets, brooms, dust pans, welcome mats

Walmart/Target 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](http://VCan2020.org).

If you would like more information, please email VCan Assistant Director, Sofia Rivas, at [Sofia@VCan2020.org](mailto:Sofia@VCan2020.org). **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](http://FoodBringsHope.org)  
[Facebook.com/FoodBringsHope](https://Facebook.com/FoodBringsHope)

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