

Food Brings Hope treats students to dinner, holiday concert

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Photo provided by Food Bring Hope

Forough B. Hosseini, Food Brings Hope founder and chair, waits with FBH students for DSC's annual holiday concert to begin.

DAYTONA BEACH – Food Brings Hope and Daytona State College have partnered once again to treat nearly 400 Volusia County students Dec. 5 to a catered dinner and holiday concert. This was the fifth year the charity and college have worked together to provide enrichment activities for FBH students.

The holiday celebration started with a dinner catered and sponsored by Sodexo in DSC's Student Center. The DSC baseball and volleyball teams served kid-friendly meals to the participants while Santa and his helper, played by DSC student Matthew Whetstein and Scott Green, passed out candy cane treats.

Following the dinner, students were bused to the News-Journal Center to enjoy the holiday concert conducted by Doug Peterson, chair of the Mike Curb College of Music, Entertainment and Art.

FBH is a local charity working to break the hunger and poverty cycle among Volusia County students and currently operates in 12 Volusia County schools. Eight schools participated in the dinner/concert festivities. Those schools included: Pierson, Starke, T.T. Small and Westside elementary schools and Campbell, Holly Hill, New Smyrna Beach and Southwestern middle schools.

Kamari Brown, a third-grader at Turie T. Small Elementary, said her favorite part of the evening was the food because "we got to go back for seconds."

Brandon James, fifth-grader at Westside Elementary, shared his excitement about the recital saying that he was a "band student and seeing a live performance is really important to me."

Also in attendance was principal of Southwestern Middle School Mamie Oatis, whose school is in its first year participating in FBH.

"I think this is a real educational and cultural experience for our students," she said. "Southwestern is grateful to take part in the Food Brings Hope program."

"Enrichment activities, like DSC's annual holiday concert, are planned to enhance the lives of our students. We believe exposing them to cultural experiences and visiting colleges and universities will deepen their passion for learning," said Forough B. Hosseini, founder and chair of FBH. "By bringing the students onto a college campus, it teaches them that there is no need to feel intimidated by the idea of attending college and furthering your education. It shows them that the environment is safe, supportive and inspiring.