

Food Brings Hope raises \$46,000 for homeless schoolchildren

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A fundraiser sponsored by The Daytona Beach News-Journal has raised more than \$46,000 to help homeless schoolchildren.

A group of 30 former news carriers who went on to become community leaders fanned out across town Saturday to collect donations for Food Brings Hope, a charity that offers meals to homeless students, after-school tutoring and rewards for academic success.

At a reception Tuesday, News-Journal Publisher Ron Wallace presented a check for \$23,606.45 to Forough Hosseini, senior vice president of ICI Homes and founder of Food Brings Hope.

“In a time when so many people who live in our community are struggling, it is heartwarming to see people reach in their pockets to help others in need,” Hosseini said.

Tom McCall, chief operating officer for ICI Homes, presented a matching donation of \$22,500 on behalf of the company and its CEO Mori Hosseini.

Outgoing Daytona Beach Mayor Glenn Ritchey received a traveling trophy for collecting the most donations. John Johnson, president of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, finished second, followed by Mike Mitchener, store manager at Sam's Club.

Last school year, 2,228 homeless schoolchildren were enrolled in Volusia County Schools, while Flagler County had 367. School systems define homelessness as lack of a “fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence.”

To make a tax-deductible donation to Food Brings Hope, visit www.FoodBringsHope.org or email Beth Butera, executive director, at Beth@FoodBringsHope.org.