



## **The Volusia County Sheriff's Office and Publix Super Markets Charities donate a total of \$3,500 to Food Brings Hope**

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office recently contributed \$2000 to Food Brings Hope. Under Florida statute, the Sheriff's Office must distribute a percentage of local forfeiture funds to local non-profit organizations each year.

Also, Publix Super Markets Charities recently donated \$1,500 to Food Brings Hope Weekend Food Initiative. The donation will be used to provide identified students and their family's nutritional food over the weekends at three elementary schools beginning next fall.

Two months ago, Food Brings Hope began a pilot Weekend Food Initiative program providing food for 50 students and their families at Westside Elementary School in Daytona Beach. The program was created in response to school personnel reporting that many of the students were not receiving adequate nutrition over the weekend and during school holidays. Lack of adequate nutrition was affecting their behavior, growth, and academics. Children who go without meals due to personal/family hardship are the most vulnerable and underserved of our community's citizens.

In a time when many of the area's moderate to low income families are having great difficulty securing an affordable place in which to live, receiving food for nine nourishing meals weekly can make a difference in enabling them to have money to pay their rent.

Food Brings Hope Chair Forough Hosseini states, " Food Brings Hope Weekend Food Initiative has been very effective in alleviating hunger for the selected students who needed it the most at Westside's pilot program and we look forward to expanding it to T.T. Small Elementary School and Osceola Elementary School using the generous donations of Publix Super Markets Charities as well as the Sheriff's Office."

Food Brings Hope, founded by local businesswoman Forough B. Hosseini, is dedicated to helping break the cycle of poverty for homeless and other economically disadvantaged children enrolled in Volusia County Public Schools. The program began five years ago to provide nourishing meals, enhanced academics, rewards for improvement, and opportunities to participate in sporting and cultural programs for identified students at eight local schools.

For additional information, or to donate, contact Executive Director Beth Butera at [Beth@FoodBringsHope.org](mailto:Beth@FoodBringsHope.org)