



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Gamma Mu Omega Chapter Contributes \$400 to Food Brings Hope

Food Brings Hope is the beneficiary of a \$400 donation from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Gamma Mu Omega Chapter. The Sorority selected Food Brings Hope as a beneficiary because of the many programs and activities it provides to 500 needy students in ten elementary, middle and high schools in Volusia County.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority donation will be used to provide a 40-pound bag of groceries plus frozen meat weekly to the most needy Food Brings Hope students and their families at Westside Elementary School and Campbell Middle School. Each bag supplies nine nutritious meals for a family of four. This program, in partnership with Halifax Urban Ministries, is having a significant impact on these families.

Food Brings Hope began the weekly food bags when it became evident that many of our children were not receiving adequate nutrition over the weekends and it was impacting their success at school. We also knew of families who had to choose between paying the rent and providing healthy meals for their children. In today's economy, Food Brings Hope is trying to do all that we can to help these families stay in their homes while serving nourishing meals for their children.

The Food Brings Hope program began six years ago to provide hot meals, tutoring, transportation, rewards for improvement, and opportunities to participate in sporting and cultural programs for homeless and other economically disadvantaged students in Volusia County Public Schools. Students at all levels are provided assistance in their goal of successfully completing each grade and graduating from high school and becoming responsible citizens.

In Volusia County, the number of homeless children and youth on any given day during the 2011-12 school year was 2,026, a 100% increase since 2007. Aside from providing numerous programs, Food Brings Hope also serves as a conduit for community members and organizations that wish to help those in need in their own community. With an increasing number of homeless students in our local schools, the need is greater than ever before.

Food Brings Hope, founded by local businesswoman Forough B. Hosseini, is making measurable progress in breaking the cycle of poverty for homeless and other economically disadvantaged students. If you would like to help, please contact Food Brings Hope Director Beth Butera at Beth @FoodBringsHope.org.

"Food Brings Hope is a donor-designated fund of the Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler, a tax exempt public charitable organization. By providing the gateway to giving, the Community Foundation (www.communityfoundationvf.org) empowers charitable individuals to realize their philanthropic goals and strengthen our community forever."