



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Food Brings Hope Completes its Sixth School Year
Non-Profit Thanks the Volusia County Community for its Support

DAYTONA, July 7, 2013 -- *Food Brings Hope (FBH)*, a 501(c)(3) organization founded by local business-woman Forough B. Hosseini in 2007, reflects on the highlights of its sixth school year serving students in Volusia County Schools as it prepares for the 2013-2014 school year.

FBH touches 500 Volusia County School children and their families through its various initiatives, which include after-school programs entitled Kids Zone in the elementary schools and Teen Zone in the middle and high schools; its FBHonors program for high achieving students; and its weekend grocery bag distribution executed in conjunction with the Halifax Urban Ministries. These programs exist in ten Volusia County schools as a result of the dedication of the administration, faculty and students at these schools and support from organizations, businesses and individuals in the community.

- FBH thanks Embry Riddle Aeronautical University for its extraordinary support, this year and throughout the history of the organization. ERAU's involvement includes not only a significant donation of \$46,000, but also enriching field trip opportunities, STEM outreach and other educational programs for students. The university students, alumni and faculty also support FBH by serving as mentors and volunteers.
- FBH is deeply indebted to Former Mayor Glenn and Connie Ritchey for their continued support of all of our programs throughout the years and their very generous cash contributions.
- FBH, for the second year, was named the charity of choice for the Volusia Building Industry Association's Parade of Homes.
- FBH students, for the past six-years, have benefited from the generosity of Sodexo, Inc. Sodexo has been catering every FBH event since inception. Throughout the past six years, Sodexo has fed thousands of FBH students for which we are very grateful.
- FBH is always very thankful for the generosity of the Margarita Society members for the donation of toys for Christmas that we distribute to our neediest students; as well as, Southern Title and ICI's annual toy drives.
- The United Way of Volusia and Flagler Counties provides guidance, accounting and administrative support to Food Brings Hope. Through its Campaign for Working Families, FBH was able to offer a "MoneySmart Banking" program to teach students in three schools in 2013 about budgeting, saving and smart shopping. FBH was also the very appreciative recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Women's Initiative of the United Way.

- FBH recognizes and thanks Wells Fargo for its \$5,000 donation supporting efforts toward preventing food insecurity. Wells Fargo is proud to support nonprofits working to strengthen communities in Florida. It shares its success as a company and invests in many organizations through charitable contributions and the volunteerism and leadership of its team members. In 2012, Wells Fargo donated more than \$16 million to nonprofits in Florida and its team members volunteered more than 75,000 hours.
- FBH appreciates the *Daytona Beach News-Journal* for designating FBH as its charity of choice and the recipient of the proceeds from the Carrier Hall of Fame. The newspaper's effort, which featured 30 former news carriers selling newspapers throughout the county, raised more \$23,404. This sum was matched by ICI Homes making the total proceeds well over \$46,000.
- Mrs. Lesa Kennedy, CEO of the International Speedway Corporation, and her son Ben, made a generous cash donation to FBH and they participated in the end-of-the-year celebration at the Daytona International Speedway's Daytona 500 Club. Mrs. Kennedy served as the keynote speaker and delivered a motivational address to the 400 students in attendance.
- The Root Family Foundation donated \$5,000 to FBH as part of its mission to help families with critical needs.

"We are indebted to organizations and families such as Embry Riddle, the United Way, Former Mayor Glenn and Connie Ritchey, ICI Homes, the News Journal, the Root Family Foundation, Southern Title, Jay and Leila Adams and the Kennedys for their significant contributions, which substantially enhanced our efforts," said FBH Founder and Chairwoman Forough B. Hosseini. "And we also wholeheartedly thank the all of individuals, businesses, and organizations in our community who donated money, time and other valuable resources that enabled us to expand our reach to even more kids in more schools."

Currently, FBH administers programs in five Volusia County elementary schools (Osceola, Pierson, Starke, T.T. Small, and Westside) and five middle and high schools (Campbell, New Smyrna Beach Middle and High Schools, Taylor Middle-High, Spruce Creek).

"We also extend our sincere thanks to the principals and teachers at the schools we serve," Mrs. Hosseini added. "Their dedication to making a difference in the lives of their students is what has made our programs successful these past six years and will for many more."

About *Food Brings Hope*:

Food Brings Hope is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides collaborative solutions for families with children who experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources. Among other services, *Food Brings Hope* offers school based programs that provide meals, tutoring and activities for at-risk students.

For more information, visit www.FoodBringsHope.org. or contact Fay Theos at 386.453.1588 or Fay@FoodBringsHope.org.

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