



FOOD
BRINGS
HOPE

An Initiative of the Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler

Food Brings Hope



An Initiative of United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties

2008 - 2009 Annual Report



Chair's Report

The *Food Brings Hope (FBH) initiative* completed an exciting and dynamic chapter in its development through the addition of new schools and participation in new programs and events. A total of 245 elementary and middle school students were active participants during the 2008-2009 school year in Osceola and Westside Elementary Schools, and Campbell, Hinson and New Smyrna Middle Schools. Each school managed a customized version of this program based on the needs of their student population - ranging from tutoring programs, sports, visits to arts museums, participating in cultural programs and other activities including field trips to food preparation classes, Thanksgiving corn husking and dinners.

Food Brings Hope achieves collaborative solutions for families with children that experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources that provide nutritional assistance. We work closely with caring partners in the school district, social service agencies, and other friends who provide us with the benefit of their time and/or contributions. Unfortunately, there are hundreds of homeless and hungry children living right here in our community, most of whom are school aged and sometimes un-reached by the traditional safety nets of our human service agencies. It is a little known fact that county-wide, the population of homeless children enrolled in Volusia County schools averages about 1,000.

As an involved community member, I have been very concerned about children in our community, kids who attend classes with my kids and yours, going to bed hungry at night and in many instances the only food they receive is the free breakfast and lunch at their schools. One common denominator and key purpose of the *FBH Initiative* for all the schools is the free dinners provided for the purpose of addressing the rising incidence of childhood hunger in our school-age population.

In 2005, a dedicated group of volunteers, educators, human service professionals, and community leaders teamed up to make this dream an amazing reality. It is around this central purpose of addressing the nutritional needs of children at-risk, that a fully integrated effort has coalesced to bring true hope for these families in need of community assistance.

During the past four years of working with *FBH* schools, we have realized how important it is for the initiative to be versatile to address different needs at each school. In many instances, the schools already had wonderful programs in place, but we were able to provide the missing link for the program to become more successful or have better attendance; such as providing bus service for Osceola's FCAT camp or lunches for Westside Elementary FCAT Saturdays.

Each school and its administrative leadership has shown wonderful creativity and commitment in tailoring their individual program for the unique characteristics of the students and their neighborhoods. We are delighted to have Campbell Middle and New Smyrna Middle Schools join *FBH* in the 2008-2009 school year.

Food Brings Hope committee is committed to working with these wonderful schools and their caring, committed principals and staff to offer programs that would make a difference in these youngsters lives.

The support we have received from the Volusia County School District's personnel, volunteering their time to attend these meetings and work on this initiative with us to accomplish *FBH's* mission has been invaluable. I specifically want to thank Mr. Greg Aiken and Mr. Chip Kent of the transportation services; principals Mike Osborne, Ted Petrucciani, Judi Winch, Earl Johnson, Carl Persis, Vickie Presley and Jim Tager; as well as the homeless liaison for Volusia County schools, Pamela Woods. Mayor Fred Costello has been involved since the inception and has donated generously to this initiative. Committee members Dave Jones, Marjan Kargar, Vickie Sims, JoLynn Deal, and Ali Babazadeh have not only contributed their time and talents but also have sponsored meals and other activities for these students. County Council Member, Jack Hayman has attended many of our meetings and has been an invaluable mentor. *Food Brings Hope*, a donor advised fund with the Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler, has also had the benefit and the expertise of Mr. William Ward, Executive Director of the Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler, as well as Mr. Ray Salazar, President of United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties. I am deeply indebted to all these caring community members. We hope and wish to add more schools for the next school year.

Food Brings Hope Board

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Founder and Chair, Food Brings Hope

Greg Akin

Director Student Transportation Services, VCS

Ali Babazadeh

CEO, Habitech Systems

Dr. Fred Costello

Mayor, City of Ormond Beach

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SFR Funding, Inc.

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CFO, Kargar Construction

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Executive Director, Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler

Judi Winch

Principal, Westside Elementary School

Pam Woods

District Homeless Education Liaison, VCS

Vickie Sims

Executive Administrative Assistant, ICI Homes

Who We Are

Food Brings Hope is an initiative of the Community Foundation of Volusia & Flagler, a division of United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties. Food Brings Hope is supported by a donor-advised fund, sponsored by the Hosseini Family Foundation, committed to helping break the poverty cycle for homeless and economically disadvantaged children enrolled in Volusia County schools.

Our Mission

Food Brings Hope achieves collaborative solutions for families with children that experience hunger due to homelessness, poverty, or unfamiliarity with community resources that provide nutritional assistance. We work closely with caring partners in the school district, social service agencies, and other friends who provide us with the benefit of their time and/or contributions.

Some of our initiatives are programs operating at Campbell, Hinson, and New Smyrna Middle Schools, and Osceola and Westside Elementary schools. These are school-based programs that provide at-risk students with meals, within the structure of a tutoring atmosphere and activities program.

Scope of the Problem

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of homeless and hungry children living right here in our own community, most of whom are school aged and sometimes un-reached by the traditional safety nets of our human service agencies. It is a little-known fact that county-wide, the population of homeless children averages about 1,000 (source: Volusia County School District office of the Homeless Liaison).

Key Components of this Program

- Tutoring program for extra credit
- After-School Transportation to and from school
- Free Dinner and Snacks
- Field Trips to area Museums, Sporting Events, Cultural Programs, etc.
- Fun learning and activities programs
- Reward system for academic improvement, good citizenry, attendance, etc.



The version of *Food Brings Hope* at **Hinson Middle School** is known as the popular *Teen Zone*. *Teen Zone* is funded by *Food Brings Hope* and it is staffed by dedicated teachers who provide assistance with tutoring, activities, and special projects during the school year.



The *Teen Zone* program has 20 student enrollees, and meets in the cafeteria for two hours on early release Wednesday afternoons from 2:45pm to 4:45pm. *TZ* starts with a snack immediately after school at 2:45 pm, at which point students are provided with teacher-tutoring assistance for completing specific homework in areas where a student may have developmental needs. If homework assistance is not required, the teachers provide an extra credit assignment for completion within that 40 minute tutoring period.

Following the tutoring period, the activities program begins for 40 minutes. The teachers plan a variety of activities, which have included a diversity of programs that encourage social interaction with peers and adults. Included activities are as follows: basketball, jewelry making, Thanksgiving corn husking, relay races, kickball, making holiday cards and cooking their own meals. A nutritious dinner is then served. Students are offered the opportunity to take home leftover food packages and a school bus is waiting outside to transport the students directly home.



Teen Zone students have also had a special opportunity to visit the Mori Hosseini College of Hospitality Management where the students were given a special tour of the facility including the kitchens, Café 101, classrooms and of course the Southeast Museum of Photography. Additionally *Teen Zone* students had a unique opportunity of attending Embry Riddle Eagle's basketball game as well as a Cubs Baseball game. For cultural enrichment, students and faculty were invited to attend Passport to Persia events which included a visit to the Museum of Arts and Sciences and a musical performance at BCU.



Teachers, Ms. Hannah Hendricks and Ms. Patti Osterman did an outstanding job with the *Teen Zone* students.



Kids Zone operates as part of the “Westside Night Alive” program every weekday afternoon at Westside Elementary School. *Food Brings Hope* provides food and rewards for this marvelous after-school program while the tutoring component is funded by a grant from the State of Florida and support from partners and sponsors.



“Westside Elementary” The “Westside Night Alive”, WNA, mission is to provide after-school, evening and summer physical and educational activities in a healthy, safe environment. A very important partner and supporter in the WNA program is Forough Hosseini and her integrated network of service organizations that together help provide academic and personal enrichment activities, events and services to targeted students and families. *WNA/Kids Zone* strives to assist student improvement and growth in academics, character qualities, social skills, special activities, the arts, fitness and attitude.

Approximately One-hundred-twenty-five students participate in this program after school each day emphasizing a high level of parental involvement. WNA also facilitates five Saturday FCAT Camps to help prepare 40-60 targeted students for the FCAT tests by providing three hours of reading and math tutoring with *FBH* sponsoring a late morning meal for all the students. Several Fun Family Saturdays are held throughout the year with students and family members participating in events such as Make A Difference Day, Annual Neighborhood Watch for Education, Holly Hill Christmas Parade and others. *FBH* sponsors or provides participating support whenever requested. Many other special events are sponsored by *FBH* throughout the year such as Summer Camp “Persia Day”, Family style community dinners, Daytona State College Holiday Concert, ERAU Basketball Games, motivational speakers and quarterly *WNA/Kids Zone* Student Awards program.

“Passport to Persia”

Mrs. Hosseini provided “Passport to Persia” for *WNA/Kids Zone* students and families - as well as students and families from four other schools *Teen Zone* and *Kids Zone* programs. The schedule of events included visits to the Museum of Arts and Sciences, where one exhibit hall featured Persian Art from the Tehran University Art Gallery, a catered dinner at Campbell Middle School, and the viewing of a performance by world renowned Persian musicians, The Safahan Music Group, at Bethune-Cookman University Performing Arts Center. Hundreds of parents and students in attendance gave the musicians a standing ovation in appreciation of their performance. Bus transportation was also provided by *Food Brings Hope*. Safahan Music Group also provided performances at Westside Elementary School as well as at several other locations in the area.



“2009 Awards Banquet”

A very successful school year for *Teen Zone* and *Kids Zone* was celebrated with 250 students, guests and staff from five schools at Westside Elementary cafeteria for the 2008-2009 Student Awards Banquet, sponsored by Forough Hosseini and *Food Brings Hope*. Westside principal, Judi Winch, served as Master of Ceremony with Mayor Costello and Mrs. Hosseini providing encouraging remarks along with other important guests in attendance. It was a very exciting and memorable occasion for all with performances by Westside Steppers, a catered dinner, gifts for each student, and special awards for ten outstanding students receiving Citizenship Awards.



Westside Elementary School, WNA program, the faculty, staff and the entire Westside Community are very appreciative of the substantial, continual and valuable support by Mrs. Hosseini and her collaborating partners.

KZ

Kids Zone is the *FBH* sponsored program at **Osceola Elementary School** that provides the after-school environment for kids in need of special academic and nutritional assistance. Osceola's *Kids Zone* program is a multi-faceted on-site after school program. One component of this program focuses on providing additional tutoring in reading, writing, and mathematics for students in grades 3 through 5 who needed additional support.

Three hours of tutoring per week is provided for students on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:45 - 4:45pm by Osceola teachers. On Tuesdays, a snack is provided to each student during the tutoring session and on Thursdays, *Food Brings Hope* provides dinner for the students prior to their departure.

Since *Food Brings Hope* provides bus transportation through Volusia County Schools' buses to all qualified students, more students were able to participate in the tutoring sessions. This past year we were able to tutor forty-four fourth and fifth grade students in math and reading from September until December. Upon returning from winter break, we continued our tutoring by providing twenty-six fifth grade students explicit instruction in the area of fractions and decimals.



We also provided forty-eight students additional instruction in writing. So far our efforts have paid off! Our writing scores continue to show great improvement. We are anxiously awaiting our fourth and fifth grades scores in reading and math.

In order to enhance the science skills of our students in grades four and five, we added a 3-hour Saturday Science Camp component to our *Kids Zone* program. Four Osceola teachers were hired to provide this comprehensive reading, math, writing, and science integration enrichment camp. The purpose of this science camp was to expose students to science content by participating in hands-on science exploration, engaging in problem-solving activities, writing as a scientist, and reading as a scientist. Each Saturday, transportation was provided for students to and from Osceola and lunch was served prior to their departure. Approximately thirty fourth and fifth grade students were in attendance for the full three months of this program. We are confident that the scores for fifth grade science will reflect the additional support that this program provided.

This program that Osceola Elementary provides its students help ensure that they will gain the knowledge, skills and values necessary to be productive citizens in our democratic society. In these difficult economic times where programs, personnel, and funding have been cut, it is because of the generosity of organizations such as *Food Brings Hope* that help sustain programs which directly impact student achievement.

Food Brings Hope funds provided the missing link of transportation for students who wanted to take advantage of the free tutoring. *FBH* funded the food, awards and transportation portion of this program. The committee is always looking for any reason to recognize and award the students. During the year, students were recognized for attendance, model behavior, improvement in grades, etc.

TZ

CAMPBELL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Teen Zone at Campbell Middle School is staffed by two very dedicated teachers who provide assistance with tutoring, activities, and special projects during the school year. Initially, *TZ* met every early release Wednesday afternoon 2:45pm to 4:45pm. After winter break, the sponsors decided to meet every other Wednesday which was a huge success, as numbers increased in attendance. Teen Zone is a mixture of 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Upon reporting to *Teen Zone* the students were treated to a light nutritional snack and then focused on homework assignments, preparing for exams, working on projects, etc. Sponsors were available for tutoring on any needed subject. The homework sessions were followed by 45-minutes of enrichment such as Literature Circles with discussions led by the sponsors, educational videos, and educational games. Hot meals were always a big hit. Sponsors, with the help of the students, prepared meals such as Shepard's Pie, Chicken Alfredo and other delicious fares.



Food Brings Hope also provided opportunities for Campbell Middle students to attend arts and cultural programs such as: Passport to Persia's Safahan Performance at BCU, visiting the Museum of Arts and Sciences; attending Daytona State College's Christmas program and dinner, among other events.

Campbell's first year involvement with *Teen Zone* was a pleasurable experience shared by both students and sponsors alike.

TZ

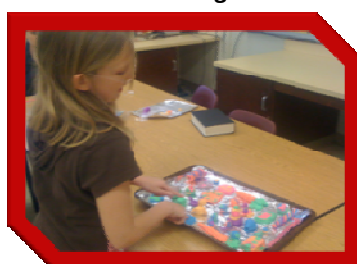
NEW SMYRNA MIDDLE SCHOOL

This year, *Teen Zone* was officially kicked off at New Smyrna Beach Middle School! Fifteen students met on Wednesday afternoons for two hours each week with Language Arts teacher, Jodi Alligood, and Guidance Counselor Cari Hankerd. Everyone involved had a great time getting to know each other and all found a special bond had been formed among participants. One such student, Justin Rivera, even boasted to NSBMS head principal Mr. Jim Tager that although he had been checked out of school for a doctor's appointment, he had his mother bring him back to school just to attend *Teen Zone!* Activities varied from week to week and included: outdoor sports and games, group discussions, lessons on healthy eating habits, and food preparation. Dinner was always provided with the students' assistance in preparation and service. All learned valuable lessons on working together! Students were honored at the end of the year for their outstanding grades, participation, and special talents.

The Art of Making Erasers



Nutrition Day



Study Time

How You Can Make a Difference Today!

Donor Advised Fund

You can contribute directly to our donor-advised fund "*Food Brings Hope*" with a tax deductible contribution of any amount in the form of cash/check, stock, or real property. You can also set up your own donor-advised fund with a customized name of your own selection (for example, to honor the legacy of a family member, etc.) with a minimum investment of \$50,000 in cash, stock, or real property. Foundation staff is available to assist you in this simple and easy process.

To Donate

Food Brings Hope greatly appreciates and accepts any contributions. For information on how to donate, please contact Bill Ward, Community Foundation Director at 386.366.9059 or Vickie Sims at 386.236.4252. All contributions are tax deductible.

KIDS ZONE

TEEN ZONE



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Sponsored by the Hosseini Family Foundation

United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Inc.

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