



# Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster **COAD Meeting #79 NOTES**

Monday, May 20, 2024 @ 9:30AM at Emergency Management

**WELCOME & PURPOSE** – United Way of Hernando, Angie B. Walasek  
34 participants

## **Brief Success Highlights & Partner Shout Outs**

- **St. Vincent de Paul CARES, Tomi:** A Veteran missing for the past 6 year was reunited with his family back in California all thanks to the CARES team and case management.
- **211 Tampa Bay Cares, Kip:** Shout out to United Way & 211 of Lee Hendry & Glades, received Public Private Partnership award at the Governor’s Hurricane Conference during and after Hurricane Ian efforts.
- **Hernando County Government, Amy:** Thank you to United Way for recently assisting with school supply needs for Hernando High.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

**Jericho Road Ministries, Bryan Wall:** Bryan shared that there were 9 graduates from Jericho Road Ministries’ Rebuilt Recovery Program that took place in April at the Wesleyan Church. Program started in 1998 with a 14 bed men’s shelter, now 40 beds, a women’s shelter with 8 beds, soon to be 30. Working towards families and children temporary housing. The mission is to serve the homeless, hungry and hurting population in Hernando County through their faith-based programs. Their vision is to end homelessness, addiction & hunger in West Central Florida. Jericho Roads distributes food to over 40 families every Tuesday from 9-12pm & has 4 thrift stores in which proceeds go back in to their recovery programs. Currently running 3 Recovery programs, Rebuilt Recovery which is 5-month program and 2 continuous program’s Solomon and Niamiah. Would like to invite organizations to speak at Lunch & Learn as they prepare their students what to expect in the workforce. In **2023**, they assisted individuals with **17, 811** shelter nights. Housed **1,239** women & Children. Served **10, 739** meals. Provided shelter beds for **14,191** individuals in recovery. Held **1,447** classes, **23** successful program graduates and currently staff 50 employees of which 23 are current and/or former residents.

## **LONG-TERM RECOVERY**

**United Way, Angie B. Walasek:** (See attached presentation) Members were encouraged to take the [Long-Term Recovery Group survey](#).

## **RESOURCES & UPDATES**

### **SUPPLIES:**

- **United Way, Angie:** Hurricane Sales Tax week & county-wide Hurricane Supply Drive season begins 6/1 (the kick-off to Hurricane Season). United Way will be accepting Hurricane Supply donations at office. (See attached flyer)
- **Emergency Management, Erin:** Emergency management location can be used as a drop off location for Non-Perishables being donated for the county-wide drive.

## **MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

- **Hernando Community Coalition, Tresa:** Hernando CARES resource guide is still being updated. (See attached form to update your resources & information) Any changes are

needed by June 30<sup>th</sup> for August 1<sup>st</sup> distribution. Narcan and Narcan Trainings available as well.

- **BayCare, Gina:** Immediate openings for 8 spots for individuals in need of Case Management. Detera drug disposal bags available for escalation services.
- **NAMI, Chad:** Recovery Community Center Grand Opening 6/7 with ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber. BBQ food will be provided, professional photographer will be on site. Recovery Community Center is a safe space for clients facing mental health and substance abuse challenges. 12 Step Fellowship meetings available, chair yoga & meditation are just some of the new services being provided.

#### SHELTERS & HOUSING:

- **Dawn Center, Ashlee:** Recently approved for Rapid Rehousing Grant. So far have helped 2 families in Hernando County. Also received new brochures for Financial Services, information for victims of Domestic violence including LGBTQ.
- **American Red Cross, Kris:** Available for post land fall to set up for 3 shelters in the county. Also willing to explore “cooling stations” for those underserved.
- **United Way, Angie:** Hernando Homeless Initiative meeting on 5/29 4pm @ Nativity Lutheran Church.

#### CHILDCARE & SCHOOLS

- **Early Learning Coalition, Brenda:** Providing childcare funding for children ages 0-12 income eligible, working parents, students and grandparents qualify too. New Emotional Vaccine support videos, 1–2-minute videos help families reduce stress & anxieties. Circle of Security Workshop has been successful.
- **Salvation Army, Gene:** Summer camp available in Starke, FL starting 6/24 for 7–12, year olds, 7/1 13–17-year-old and music camp as well. Transportation will be provided. \$25.00 a week, Salvation Army will be able to sponsor some costs. 18 children already signed up. More information will be shared with UW.
- **Students & Families in Transition, Shanika:** With school ending on 5/31, 1,072 students have qualified this year TD. SFIT New team member, In House Specialist starts 5/21, Coordinator will be starting 6/10. Will be going over Survey results soon. So far collected 20 community partners & 55 District Staff.

#### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

- **American Red Cross, Kris:** Free installation of 10-year lithium battery smoke detectors for anyone who calls. Red Cross is available to come to your event as part of a community event and service up to 100 homes same day. Temperatures are on the rise, resulting on more power being used, AC’s being overworked & overloading electrical systems potentially resulting in a fire. Can set up cooling stations & distribute water during summer months.
- **You Thrive, Alison:** Weatherization assistance program looking for income clients in Hernando to provide services. Services include weatherstripping, insulation, ventilation, solar screens and air filtrations just to name a few. Please have them call to see if they qualify.
- **Better Together, Cassidy:** A new organization in Hernando County, started in Naples focusing on creating a workforce of volunteers to assist with children before going into Foster Care and providing the services they need. Working closely with DCF and

parents to find them mentors and provide services from 6 weeks up to one year. 98% success in reunification with families.

- **Hernando County Housing, Haydee:** Hernando County has received SHIP funds for first time home buyers and repairs. Trainings will take place. Everyone welcome to attend Homeless Initiative meeting 5/29 @ Nativity Lutheran Church @ 4:00pm 6363 Commercial Way, Spring Hill, FL 34613 @ where this will be discussed more.
- **United Way, Angie:** A reminder that Hernando County was awarded \$61,900 through FEMA's Emergency Food & Assistance Program (EFSP) for Phase 41. Deadline for organization applications was Thursday, 5/16 @ 5pm. The EFSP Local Board will be meeting today to determine allocations. More on this initiative can be found at [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/EFSP-41](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/EFSP-41)

#### FOOD AND DISTRIBUTION:

- **Salvation Army, Gene:** Food distribution every Tuesday 8-10am, food pick up Monday – Friday (closes at 12pm) Must pre-register in person with Photo ID and electric bill.
- **You Thrive, Alison:** Fresh produce food distribution 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month 10:30am, no pre-registering needed at Vine Life Church in downtown Brooksville. Serves approx. 400-600 HH. Partnering with Farm Share to distribute 7-10 thousand pounds of food, including fresh produce, seafood and meats. Any non-perishables items leftover can be donated to local partner agencies if needed.
- **Jericho Road, Bryan:** Food distribution is every Tuesday 9am-12pm. Stamp Out Hunger postal food drive went very well and collected over 1,000 pounds food.

#### EMPLOYMENT

- **Career Source, Donna:** Servicing Pasco/Hernando residents in need of employment. Services include assisting veterans & single mom/dads that are transitioning back into the workforce. Successful Job Fair at Jerome Brown Center, over 140 customers served.
- **Department of Health, Jennifer:** Several positions open locally - OPS, clerical, & nursing positions. Visit <https://peoplefirst.com/> for more listings.
- **Vincent House, Karis:** Looking to connect with local employers to hire clients 18 & over with severe mental illness. These opportunities will help clients with goals of getting entry level jobs, job readiness and skills sets. Client will be fully trained & coverage will be provided by VH staff if client is unable to report to work.

#### VOLUNTEERISM

- **American Red Cross, Kris:** Looking for volunteers for the summer months.
- **Better Together, Caitlin:** Looking for Host families, mentors and job coaches. Professional training as well as a level 2 background check will be provided to volunteers. For more information contact [caitlinlloyd@betteryoutogetherus.org](mailto:caitlinlloyd@betteryoutogetherus.org)
- **You Thrive, Alison:** Hernando County meal distribution sites looking for volunteers to serve seniors Monday–Friday 9-1pm at 4 different locations. Duties include serving meals, bingo arts and crafts. If interested please reach out to [awhiting@youthrivefl.org](mailto:awhiting@youthrivefl.org)
- **United Way, Angie:** For organizations looking to recruit volunteers, a gentle reminder that needs & opportunities can be posted for free on **Lend a Hand Hernando**. Online portal, reporting, automatic reminders, and more available features. (See attached LHH Agency Profile flyer) [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/Volunteer)