



# Hernando County Community Organizations Active in Disaster **COAD Meeting #80 NOTES**

Monday, June 17, 2024 @ 9:30AM via Zoom

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

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

- **Career Source Pasco/Hernando, Christina** – All internal job vacancies are now filled! Currently one job opening in Dade City due to a recent resignation.
- **Emergency Management, Erin: Hurricane and Safety Expo** – 2024 #HernandoPrepares. Estimated around 1,000 attendees and vendors in attendance! Good opportunity for facetime with residents and get them engaged.
- **American Red Cross, Kris:** Hernando County Fire Rescue is onboard to be a partner to assist with installing smoke alarms in local Hernando homes for FREE.

## **COUNTY UPDATES**

- **Emergency Management, Erin:** Disaster Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday just ended and will start up again in August. HERicane Camp is still taking applicants. Helps teach young lady leaders about leadership skills, Disaster Preparedness, Public Speaking, and so much more. Offered July 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. Easily sign up by visiting: [www.HernandoCounty.us/EM](http://www.HernandoCounty.us/EM) This is a FREE opportunity thanks to Duke Energy. It is officially hurricane season – keeping a close eye on low chance development over the next 7 days.
- **Long-Term Recover efforts, Angie:** Angie read the following [public service announcement](#) dated 5/10/24 for “**Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) Hernando County State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program State Fiscal Years 2023-2024,**” citing “*Hurricane Housing Recovery Program rehabilitation assistance for homes damaged as a direct result from Hurricane Idalia. Funding is available for unmet repair needs and the reimbursement of insurance deductibles for flood and homeowner insurance claims for eligible recipients due to Hurricane Idalia. Applications will be available beginning June 10, 2024 and will remain available until all funds are exhausted. The home must be homestead, primary residence. Applications will be numbered in the order received and assistance will be provided on a first qualified, first served basis.*” Angie requested **Haydee Padin-Alvarez from Hernando County Housing Services** to share more. It was stated that Applications will be made available beginning June 10, 2024, and will remain available until all funds are exhausted. For further detail, please contact Hernando County Housing & Supportive Services Department, 621 W. Jefferson Street, Brooksville, Florida 34601; by phone (352) 540-4338 or by email at [HousingandSupportiveServices@hernandocounty.us](mailto:HousingandSupportiveServices@hernandocounty.us). Haydee cant be contacted at 352-540-6316 [hpadinalvarez@co.hernando.fl.us](mailto:hpadinalvarez@co.hernando.fl.us) Website: [www.hernandocounty.us](http://www.hernandocounty.us) >Housing and Supportive Services >Affordable Housing >All available funding and applications are found on the site. **Angie** requested that for residents who may not qualify for this opportunity to please be referred to United Way for intake and assessments for additional Hurricane Idalia relief.
- **United Way, Angie:** Requested COAD Members who have yet to participate in the LTRG interest survey to please take a moment and complete it so we may meet for next planning stages. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TGNXJF6>
- **Department of Health, Jennifer:** Flyer attachment of all services, available at both Spring Hill & Brooksville. Breastfeeding support for WIC and non-WIC moms. Free immunizations for children

up to 18 years old. Free NARCAN. Smoking Cessation courses available in Brooksville. Tampa Bay Health and Medical Preparedness Coalition available to sign up, every two months. Special needs registry link: <https://specialneeds.hernandocounty.us/> DOH Job Openings available: <https://jobs.myflorida.com/> **Brooke:** Save the Date for July 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm for HIV Testing Day.

- **211, Kip:** Just signed contract for both grants, caregiver services & state grant. Allows us to continue funding [Senior Directories](#) (printing, editing, distributing for FREE)! Specific language will also allow us to work closely with Amy Peterson to work hand-in-hand with seniors and provide NEW resources. Still transitioning to [new online platform](#) for 211 Health and Human Services Database. Can always be found by visiting [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/211](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/211) Be on the look out for a workshop in the near future, and streamlined New Agency sign-up and revision tool.

## **MEMBER SPOTLIGHT**

- **Better Together, Cassidy Vaughn, Partnership Manager:** (see attached PowerPoint slides) Better Together is designed to prevent the need for Government Foster Care. We want to be the solution or families in crisis. From homelessness due to job loss, addiction and recovery, etc. One mission made of two programs. **Better Together Family Side:** We want to step in before the neglect and abuse happens. Neglect can be seen as mental and physical. We want to connect our families to the community, advocating the available resources in their community. **Better Jobs:** Restoring hope and dignity through their work. We find out the root cause for homelessness and prevent them from getting back in that situation. We've helped over 7,000 children to date. **Always seeking volunteers:** host families, job coaches, and family advocates. We are different from the foster care system because we're preventative. We step in before child abuse or child relocation does. 100% privately funded. When we step in to help families, we want the parents to know that there is hope and light at the end of the tunnel. When they contact us, we start searching for a host family and can then solely focus on the parents. Let's apply for ELC or looking for jobs or writing a resume. Being their community when they feel like they have no-one. Always reach out, we may not be the solution for that family but can connect them to a resource that can be. Website: <https://bettertogether.us/> After Hours Phone Number: (239) 470-2733

## **RESOURCES & UPDATES**

### **SUPPLIES**

- **United Way, Angie:** County-wide [Hurricane Supply Drive](#) season began 6/1 (the kick-off to Hurricane Season). United Way is accepting Hurricane Supply donations at local office, Comfort Control Specialists, & Emergency Management. (See attached flyer)
- Pre-packaged toiletry kits can be picked up at the United Way Hernando office M-F 9:30am-4:30pm, thanks to Students & Families in Transition donating 174 bags! These could be used for homeless outreach efforts, shelter welcome kits, or for underserved clients in need.

## **CHILDCARE & SCHOOLS**

- **Students & Families in Transition, Cindy:** Cindy Knowles is the new student liaison. Please feel free to contact her at [knowles\\_c@hcsb.k12.fl.us](mailto:knowles_c@hcsb.k12.fl.us)
- **United Way, Justine:** The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Stuff the Bus School Supply Drive will be Saturday, July 13 & Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>. [Sign up to volunteer](#) at one of the 9 Hernando Publix/Walmart locations, become a drop off location, and donate supplies to help stock up classrooms for teachers before the new school year. More information can be found at [www.UnitedWayHernando.org/StuffTheBus](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org/StuffTheBus) (see attached flyer)

## FOOD AND DISTRIBUTION:

- **People Helping People, Kendra:** Monthly mobile Food Distribution on Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> @ 10am at the HELP Center on Kass Circle
- **Jericho Road, Bryan:** Food distributions take place every Tuesday at the Food Barn from 9am-12pm. Serving approximately 40-50 families per week.
- **United Way, Angie:** UW's 5 DAYS OF CARING & annual "[GIVE THANKS, GIVE FOOD](#)" Drive will take place in October and November 2024. For pantries and shelters interested in receiving food, please contact either Angie or Justine at UW to be added to the distribution list for non-perishable food items.

## EMPLOYMENT

- **Career Source, Christina:** Servicing Pasco/Hernando residents in need of employment. Physical location off of Spring Hill Drive Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Welcomes walk-ins. Services even include assisting veterans & single mom/dads that are transitioning back into the workforce. Currently over 217 postings for both Hernando and Pasco County. Sign up to receive direct monthly job listings. [CSowers@careersourcepascohernando.com](mailto:CSowers@careersourcepascohernando.com) **Endeavors, TaVon:** Has 2 clients she is looking to assist. Had a question regarding individuals with criminal backgrounds. **Christina:** Yes, CS provides ReEntry into Workplace, assisting those with criminal backgrounds as well as bad credit.
- **Urban League Senior Training Program, Warren:** Will place seniors in part time jobs and/or if any non-profit needs volunteers, ULST will pay them to work for your organization. Contact [wthomas@pcul.org](mailto:wthomas@pcul.org)

## MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- **Vincent House Hernando, James:** Looking to collaborate with organizations that can help their members transition back into the workforce. Can schedule a discovery tour the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 1:30pm-2:30pm.
- **Hernando Community Coaliton, Tresa** – up to 41 overdoses and 9 deaths. Very heavy in Brooksville but slowly trickling into the Spring Hill area. FREE NARCAN and NARCAN trainings. Last call for [Hernando Cares](#) update, last date to update your organization's information will be June 30<sup>th</sup>! (**see attached Agency form**)

## SHELTERS & HOUSING:

- **Dawn Center, Shannon:** No current updates. 24/7 Helpline always available: 352-686-8430 (call or text) for a range of services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault
- **Mid Florida Homeless Coalition, Barbara** – Learn more about MFHC opportunities during Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> Agency Workshop at the Department of Health from 1pm, grant walk-through.
- **Jericho Road, Bryan** – Currently 3 spots available in men's center and 2 beds available at women's center. Jericho's Executive team had the opportunity to attend City Gate National Conference. 300+ Rescue Missions towards recovery and homeless individuals. Had the opportunity to see the pre-screening of a documentary called "Americans with No Address". Went to different organizations across the country to see firsthand what homeless individuals are going through. Will be available in the Fall/Winter of 2024, <https://www.noaddressmovie.com/> .
- **United Way, Angie:** [Hernando Homeless Initiative](#) meeting on 6/26 4pm @ Nativity Lutheran Church.

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE:

- **Endeavors, TaVon (Resource Coordinator):** Funded by FEMA. Covers 8 Counties and helps assist individuals with various home issues, mold, roofing, AC, etc. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for new office in New Port Richey on Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup>. <https://endeavors.org>

## VOLUNTEERISM

- **Disaster Relief Volunteers:** Streamlining and Revamping online platform through United Way's Lend a Hand Hernando. Will be encouraging pre-registration.
- **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)

**Next Meeting:** Monday, July 29, 2024 via Zoom at 9:30am

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:** Mid Florida Homeless Coalition (Point in Time Count Results)

**Adjourned Meeting at 11:13 AM** - COAD NOTES respectfully submitted by United Way