

News Release

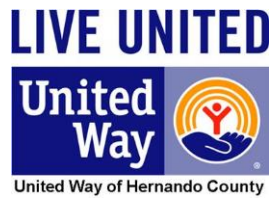
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Brookville Team Takes Home Championship

United Way Hosts 5th Annual "KICK" Start to Early Literacy Kickball Tournament

Spring Hill, FL – (February 26, 2020) – [United Way of Hernando County](http://unitedwayhernando.org) proudly hosted their 5th Annual "KICK" Start to Early Literacy Kickball Tournament at Anderson Snow Park on Saturday, February 22, 2020. Every year, local companies compete in single elimination rounds to win United Way's Ultimate Traveling Trophy in support of their early literacy program for Hernando pre-school children. At the end of the day, Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative's team "WRECing Crew," the previous year's champions, went head to head with Publix 1132's "Brooksville Bombers". In the end, the "Brooksville Bombers," led by Celebrity Coach Jeff Rogers, Hernando County's Administrator, were crowned the 2020 Kickball Champions.

The following businesses competed in this year's event:

- Accuform
- Barrette Outdoor Living
- Keller Williams The Plumadore Group
- HCA, Oak Hill Hospital
- (8) Publix Stores
- Target
- Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative

Celebrity Coaches represented:

- John Allocco, BOCC District 3
- Doug Chorvat Jr., Comptroller Clerk of Circuit Court
- Dr. Brian Dahmer, Family Chiropractic
- Dr. Joanie Davis, Davis Family Hearing
- Nicholle Fernandez-Shute, Owner of Coffee News
- Gus Guadagnino, Hernando County School Board
- Jeff Holcomb, BOCC District 4
- Jeff Rodgers, Hernando County Administrator
- Mike Steele, Florida Cracker Kitchen

Publix's Plato the Dinosaur was also crowned the winner of the inaugural Mascot Fun Run. Other mascots represented were Andy the Armadillo from Texas Roadhouse, Pikachu, Carey the Cow, and Tommy the T-Rex.

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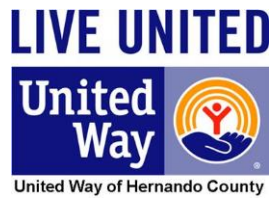
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United Way has been the sole provider for the [Dolly Parton Imagination Library](#) program in Hernando County for over 10 years. Every enrolled child receives a free book every month until the age of five. These books are distributed at no cost to the families, regardless of their economic status. Currently, the program serves 1,100 children every month, and as its popularity continues to grow, so does Hernando’s wait list and need for additional funding. All event proceeds benefit the Imagination Library. Child sponsorship opportunities are also available.

A special thank you to kickball sponsors “Base Run Ballers” from Family Chiropractic Family Wellness, Carter Foreman PLLC, PED-Stuart Corporation. And supporting sponsors Simply Healthcare, Centennial Bank, Hernando County Parks and Recreation, Texas Roadhouse, SunTrust Bank, and Sam’s Club.

Thank you to United Way’s Proud Partners at the Boys & Girls Club, Dawn Center, Lighthouse for the Visually Impaired and Blind, and NAMI Hernando for coming out and supporting the Kickball Tournament by providing local resources for families. Family Chiropractic offered free massages, LifeSouth Community Blood Centers had their Bloodmobile on site, Sam’s Club, and the John Allocco Campaign and Mid-Florida Community Service’s Early Start and Head Start had tables shared resources and information as well.

Food trucks on site were the Sunshine Nut Company’s Peanut Shack, BrainFreeze Italian Ice, and Texas Roadhouse, who grilled hotdogs and hamburgers for the players, volunteers, and attendees.

PJ the DJ from The Arc Nature Coast provided upbeat music all day for attendees. Local businesses also donated hundreds of give-away items for the 208 team players: Tropic Shores Realty Agent Toniann Ciappetta, Simply Soothing Bug Soother, Ackley Dental, and LifeSouth. United Way would also like to thank national anthem singer and D.S Parrott Middle School teacher Nichelle Mohre-Cassidy, volunteers, Board Members, and Kickball Planning Committee for donating their time and efforts to help make this event such a success.



2020 Kickball Champs: Team “Brooksville Bombers”
Celebrity Coach Jeff Rogers and team players Ryan Caplan, Kyle Bonack, Dan Peters, Matt Clark, Drake Hedgewick, Casey Jones, Steven Palma, Logan Braun, Niki Burns, Becca Harvey, Drake Johnson-Adams, and Cody Goldsler

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For more information on sponsoring a child on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, call the United Way office at 352-688-2026 or email impact@UnitedWayHernando.org.

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United Way of Hernando County, Inc.:

[United Way of Hernando County](http://www.UnitedWayHernando.org) (UWHC) was established as a 501c3 organization in 1987, and since then has continuously focused on creating partnerships and mobilizing our community to seek sustainable solutions to some of the most pressing local needs. UWHC strategically allocates Community Investment Funds in Health, Education, & Financial Stability programs with proven results and local impact. UWHC works hard to balance the growing demand for basic services such as food, utilities, and rent assistance, with our ongoing commitment to tackling the underlying causes of complex issues. United Way partners with businesses and organizations that share our vision for improving lives through the power of collective impact and working together. Our support for long-term commitments are essential to addressing key social issues, such as helping children, youth, adults & elders, encouraging health and wellness, including physical and emotional care, promoting financial stability and self-sufficiency, and crisis intervention. For more information on how YOU can **LIVE UNITED**, visit www.UnitedWayHernando.org.