



Around the House

2484 SE Bonita St., Stuart, FL 34997-5004 ♦ 772-286-HOPE (4673) ♦ www.hohmartin.org

Meal or No Meal event gives House of Hope a hand

House of Hope's "Meal or No Meal" Poverty Potluck Dinner on Nov. 7 is more significant than ever.

The third annual event not only serves as a fund-raiser for the agency, but it also raises awareness about the extent of poverty in Martin County. With the economy in a persistent downward spiral since 2006, thousands have joined the ranks of the "working poor" and unemployed.

"We have had a significant increase in 'customers,' but donations have not kept pace," House of Hope executive director Patrick Slattery said. "That's why we must be successful with Meal or No Meal and other fund-raising efforts throughout the year."

The fund-raising goal for the event, co-chaired by Kerry Caruso and Judy Rosenthal, is \$45,000. The evening's meal will be prepared and served by volunteers from area churches and will reflect the menus of the community kitchens that operate in Martin County. The evening also will feature a first-ever silent

auction, and entertainment will be provided by the St. Joseph School Jazz Band. Tickets are \$100 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. Reservations can be made through Helena Valagao at HOH, (772) 286-4673 or helena@hohmartin.org.

Meal helpers

Participating churches, providing volunteers and meals:

- ♦ St. Mary's Episcopal
- ♦ Redeemer Lutheran
- ♦ Hobe Sound Community Presbyterian
- ♦ St. Joseph Catholic
- ♦ St. Martin De Porres Catholic

Sponsors (as of Oct. 23):

- ♦ Seacoast National Bank
- ♦ Senior Home Companions
- ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hudson
- ♦ Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cargill
- ♦ Also, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Graves, Madeline O'Neill, and Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers

Coming events

- ♦ **Meal or No Meal Poverty Potluck**
6 p.m.-9 p.m., Friday, Nov. 7
St. Mary's Parish Life Center
701 E Ocean Blvd., Stuart
- ♦ **Volunteer Meeting**
9 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18
House of Hope, Stuart office
- ♦ **25th Anniversary Celebration**
Watch for details!
- ♦ **10th Annual Fashion Show**
Watch for details!
- ♦ **14th Annual Golf Tournament**
11:30 a.m., Friday, April 17
Yacht & Country Club, Stuart

Have yourself a thrifty little Christmas



Volunteer Sarah Fuller

House of Hope's four thrift stores are full of great Christmas items and potential gifts at tremendous discounts. We resell donated items, and money we receive goes back to help others in Martin County.

The thrift stores also double as sites that provide food, clothing and household items, at no charge, to those in need.

Here are the locations:

- ♦ 2484 SE Bonita St., Stuart
- ♦ 1313 NE Jensen Beach Blvd.
- ♦ 15516 Osceola St., Indiantown
- ♦ 11760 SE Dixie Hwy., Hobe Sound

For free pickup of large household items you want to donate, please call (772) 286-4673.

Holiday stocking

House of Hope takes part in many holiday projects that support clients.

At Thanksgiving, HOH adds to the efforts of Food For Families and the Big Heart Brigade with about 100 Publix gift certificates (\$15 each) distributed to selected clients.

At Christmas, HOH has been the "safety net" agency for families needing assistance, especially after the application deadlines pass for the Salvation Army and the White Doves Holiday Project run by United Way.

Opportunities for donations and "adoptions" abound. Examples include the Magi Project by St. Andrew Catholic Church, which provides about \$7,000 worth of gift cards. Also, Mariner Sands Chapel adopts about 45 client families, and residents of Lost Lake plan to follow suit this year.

What would we do without volunteers?

Non-profit agencies, usually short on cash and long on client obligations, depend on the willingness of people in their communities to lend a hand.

These are the volunteers, those who arrive day after day to do whatever needs to be done. They do the work with love and without expectation of reward.

The question, then, is: What would House of Hope and other agencies do without volunteers?

Esther Brito, assistant director at House of Hope, said the answer is simple: "Without volunteers we could not serve Martin County's poor."

In an effort to attract more volunteers, Esther has streamlined the process for signing up. She gives each volunteer prospect a packet of information that includes an application, a list of volunteer responsibilities and even thrift store discount coupons.

Without volunteers, we could not fulfill our mission to serve Martin County's poor.

**— Esther Brito,
House of Hope
assistant director**

New recruits

Because so many regular volunteers head north for the summer, this year, House of Hope turned to high school students to fill in the vacancies. This recruitment effort brought 10 new volunteers to the team — that's 10 future adults who now know the importance of volunteering.



Scott Cloy

One of these students, Scott Cloy, 17, volunteers almost daily even though school has been in session for a couple of months. Scott spends his mornings taking classes at Indian River State College and then goes to Martin County High School in the afternoon. In between, Scott enters thrift store inventory and sales information into the HOH database so that the agency has a more accurate account of sales and support.



Terry & Jim Javois



Trudy Simone

Veteran hands

One volunteer has been with House of Hope almost from the start. Trudy Simone has been an active volunteer for almost 25 years. She arrives at the HOH pantry two mornings each week to sort, box, and distribute food. She seldom misses her shift.

"It's amazing how loyal the volunteers are," said Kathy Carmody, senior program manager at House of Hope. "Like Trudy, so many of them have been with us for years. We couldn't do this without them."

Jim and Terry Javois, both retired dentists, are one of several husband-and-wife volunteer teams. They are 12-year veterans at House of Hope.

Terry works in the thrift store and Jim works in the Food Pantry. In addition to serving clients and sorting food, Jim finds many other ways to help. On any given day, he might be painting a wall, fixing the plumbing, or completing a number of other odd jobs.

Because volunteers — like Jim — usually step in wherever they are needed, Stuart retail manager Nancy Metzler said that the volunteers "complete our team."

Jensen Beach branch manager Kathy Foster knows well the value of good volunteers. Without them, she said, "We would not be able to provide food, clothing, and emergency financial aid to our most vulnerable Martin County residents."

Join the team!

For more information about volunteering at House of Hope, please call us at (772) 286-4673.

Team leaders

Another part of the House of Hope volunteer team is the board of directors. The 14 members never hesitate to share their time and expertise in support of the work of House of Hope and its staff. Some, like board vice president Frank Doyle, are even part of the regular weekly volunteer schedule.

- ♦ Marc Baldinger, president
- ♦ Frank Doyle, vice president
- ♦ Robert Berg, treasurer
- ♦ Judith Rosenthal, secretary
- ♦ Bonnie Brown-Boucher
- ♦ Terry Carder
- ♦ Marian Carpenter
- ♦ Cherise Chesney
- ♦ Charlie D'Agata
- ♦ Valerie Graham
- ♦ Barrett Jones
- ♦ Sue Kinane
- ♦ The Rev. Noel McGrath
- ♦ David Seyffart

By the numbers

Through September, **95 House of Hope volunteers had logged an astounding 8,001 hours of service** this year. Based on an estimated dollar value of volunteer time of \$19.51 per hour, that means our volunteers have put in **\$156,100 worth of time**.

The dollar value is estimated by The Independent Sector (www.independentsector.org), a leading coalition of charities, foundations and corporate giving programs. Each year, the group estimates the dollar value of volunteer time as a way to quantify the enormous service volunteers provide.

House of Hope volunteer hours are tracked by Martin Volunteers (www.martinvolunteers.org), a program of United Way of Martin County. If you are an HOH volunteer and don't think you are registered with Martin Volunteers, contact Helena Valagao at (772) 286-4673.

"We need you now more than ever."

I cannot count the number of times I have used that phrase in the past year and a half when talking or writing to our supporters. It is the essential truth of the situation in which we find ourselves.

Since 2006, our economy has been caught in a persistent downward spiral. Thousands of people have joined the ranks of the "working poor" and unemployed. As more and more families struggle to make ends meet and provide even the most basic necessities, House of Hope has experienced a growing demand for services.

For example, during the first nine months of this year, House of Hope provided food to 35% more families this year than last as well as 62% more families than in the first nine months of 2006! Likewise, this year there has been a 31% increase in requests for help in our Emergency Financial Assistance program over 2007, and a 82% increase over the past two years.

At many other agencies, the number of clients served stays the same regardless of the economic times. Not so at House of Hope. During tough times, House of Hope's client base expands greatly.

Our mission is to offer help and hope to all those who find themselves on the economic edge. Unfortunately, as the economy struggles, so do our donors. None of us has been left unscathed by the economic events of the past two years, but some of us are still holding our lives together financially. While it is asking a lot, I believe it is a moral imperative for those of us who can to share what we have with our neighbors who have been hit hardest by this "perfect economic storm."

We do need you now more than ever. Your continued support, at whatever possible level, is essential.

— Patrick Slattery, executive director

Giving tip

If you're at least 70^{1/2}, new tax legislation allows you to give a charity up to \$100,000 directly from your IRA without triggering federal income taxes. The gift will also satisfy the rules for required minimum distributions for the year. Please consult your financial advisor for details.

Please Give Hope a Hand

Yes, I would like to make sure House of Hope has the resources necessary to help my Martin County neighbors in need.

My check for \$ _____, payable to House of Hope, is enclosed.

Please charge \$ _____ to my credit card.

Visa Master Card

Number: _____ Exp. _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Please complete, clip and return this form to House of Hope, 2484 SE Bonita St., Stuart, FL 34997. THANK YOU!



Bright ideas feed HOH programs

Here are just a few recent examples of creative and effective food- and fund-raising efforts by local businesses and organizations.

The Seacoast National Bank branch at U.S. 1 and Cove Road is holding a food drive and recently gave House of Hope \$400 raised by selling stuffed animals. ♦ Armellini Express Lines held a “Jeans Day” that raised \$260 for House of Hope. ♦ Employees at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court are holding a food drive for their dress down days. ♦ The Martin County High School Thespians plan to “Trick or Treat So Kids Can Eat” during the week of Halloween. ♦ Horsefeathers Sports & Spokes in Hobe Sound “charges” canned goods to enter its monthly car show. ♦ Gated communities get in the act, with the Women’s Club of the Retreat and the Lost Lake Golf Club conducting food drives.

The Martin County Library System is holding a two-phase project called Hungry to Read. The first phase is a food drive, and Phase 2 will be an orientation event in January for House of Hope clients who would benefit from learning more about library resources — ranging from looking up a book to attending citizenship classes, English lessons, activities for children and computer training.

To coordinate ways to help House of Hope, please call (772) 286-4673.

2008 HOH Service Statistics

Through September

Food Pantry Program

- ♦ Families served: 2,485
- ♦ Requests for food: 7,106
- ♦ Food distributed to clients: 89 tons
- ♦ Estimated meals: 211,699

Clothes Closet Program

- ♦ Families served: 265
- ♦ Requests for assistance: 396
- ♦ Total garments & household items distributed: 24,465

Emergency Financial Assistance Program

- ♦ Families interviewed: 741
- ♦ Families receiving financial assistance: 313 (42% of families interviewed)
- ♦ Financial assistance provided: \$74,752.48 (average per family = \$238.83)

A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION #CH2044 AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLLFREE 1-800-435-7352 WITHIN THE STATE OF FLORIDA. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. THE ORGANIZATION RETAINS 100% OF ALL CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED.



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