

LIFE notes

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.

Issue 74 September 14, 2020

Back to School Edition



Dear Friends:

It's September and that means schools are back in session. The traditional 9 am to 3 pm day, however, has been significantly altered by the COVID-19 pandemic in ways very few could have ever imagined - children, teachers, administrators, and parents are wearing face masks, desks are set apart at least six feet, and deep cleaning is happening on a regular basis. And those are just some of the guidelines that have been implemented for in-person learning; many schools are still only offering remote virtual lessons.

All this has a profound impact on children, and especially those from under-served communities. Notably, their access to nutritional meals on a daily basis has been limited. While in school, these children receive free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch. But when schools closed, first because of COVID-19 and then when the school term ended for the summer, those meals were less available. As a result, there was an enormous need to fill their food gap. Even before the pandemic, one in five children in Palm Beach County was going to bed hungry on a nightly basis.

Thanks to all of you, and so many others, we have been able to help mitigate this problem. Indeed, I am pleased to tell you that we have successfully completed the \$50,000 social media campaign we launched in the summer to benefit the Lois' Food4Kids initiative at the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

As you may recall, I had pledged to donate \$1 each time an individual shared a social media post I originated about the PBCFB and specifically the Lois' Food 4Kids program, the year-round weekend and summer feeding program designed to help fill nutritional gaps children face during those times. The goal was to achieve 50,000 shares in six weeks; amazingly, we reached our goal in just four weeks!

Hundreds of children are benefitting as a result. The PBCFB currently has six year-round partners in the LF4K program, through which 600 food packs are distributed each week at four Boys & Girls Clubs, one partner pantry, and, coming shortly, the West Palm Beach library. Moreover, during the summer, there were 17 sites where 1,165 packs were distributed each week, and three of those sites are continuing through September.

Of course, there is so much more to do. Palm Beach County is home to the 10th largest school district in the U.S. More than 60% of school-age children in the county are already eligible for free or reduced-price meals, and the need is increasing very quickly and greatly because of the pandemic's effect on the economy. In fact, last year the food bank partnered with seven schools providing 540 packs each week. This year, it is hoping to partner with 10 schools and be able to provide 800 packs each week to the schools.

To learn more or to donate, visit
www.life-edu.org or call 561.582.8083.

(Dear Friends continued)



All of us can agree that no child should ever go hungry. So while I thank you so much for participating in the social media campaign, I also ask that, if you are able, to please support the Palm Beach County Food Bank and the Lois' Food4Kids program. I promise you that as you help fill the stomachs of these disadvantaged children, you will fill your hearts with joy and pride.

Love,

Lois

Upcoming Events

February 19, 2021

Lois Pope and LIFE's Board invite you to

LIFE's 27th Annual Lady in Red Gala

The Breakers Palm Beach

6:00 pm

TBD

American Military Hero Dog Monument Dedication

Tri-County Animal Rescue, Boca Raton, FL

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