



Why Help Others

by Joe Steckler, President

For two months, Helping Seniors has been working with A.J. Hiers and the Boniface Hiers Automotive Group to promote the raffle of a 1969 Plymouth Road Runner to benefit the Brevard County Sheriff's Office Charity. You may ask why a nonprofit would help a car dealer run a fundraiser for another nonprofit. The answer is simple – by helping Boniface Hiers, we ensure the capability of the Sheriff's Office Charity to assist first responders. And, we may encourage our readers to become donors to another valuable nonprofit in our community.

The increasing numbers of seniors in Brevard, coupled with declining financial resources, will necessitate that more nonprofits work together if they are to exist to fill a void that should be served by dedicated tax payer dollars. Since seniors do pay taxes, would it not make more sense for our County Commissioners to become better informed about nonprofits so intelligent funding decisions can be made? Instead they have voted to defund local nonprofits, at the same time that United Way has closed its door to new funding applications.

That is why it is so important for local businesses like Boniface Hiers to commit to help nonprofits. Aa.J. Hiers has stepped up to the plate by donating the 1969 Plymouth Road Runner from his personal collection for the raffle. Numerous pictures of this classic muscle car can be seen at www.HemisforHeroes.com. Be sure to look at the video of the Sheriff and A.J. doing some stunts with the car.

Tickets are one for a \$25 donation or six for a \$100 donation. You do not need to be present to win, but are invited to enjoy the festivities at the drawing starting at 4 PM on July 7 at Boniface Hiers Mazda, 625 E. Nasa

Boulevard in Melbourne. There will be an ice cream truck, muscle cars from A.J.'s private collection, animal shelter pets available for adoption, and Sheriff's Department SWAT gear. You can also see the entire collection of beautiful new Mazda cars.

Speaking on behalf of the many nonprofits in Brevard, I encourage you to be as generous as possible in your support to local charities. These organizations do a tremendous service that often goes unrecognized, but they are greatly needed. Most of us do not even know of the existence of these charities until a real need exists. So many services are available and should be publicized so that they can be used by those in need.

There also are many businesses that help charity organizations, too many to list in this article. You can rest assured that the proceeds of this raffle will be used to help people who serve us in Brevard County. Check the whole event out by going to www.HemisforHeroes.com. Tickets are available online or at all Boniface Hiers dealerships. We do need your support. Please make a donation, come eat a hamburger, and take a chance to win a beautiful car.

Joe Steckler is the President of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a non profit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Feel free to contact us at: info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or calling: 321-473-7770. **SS**

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for other TV or film work have been limited. He did accept a role as John Jacob Astor in James Cameron's "Titanic" in 1997.

"I didn't want to do it since it was such a small part, but my wife and son convinced me because they had so much respect for Cameron," said Braeden. "James expanded the role a little for me but there were a number of scenes I couldn't be in because I had to be available to go back for the Young and Restless if I was needed."

Even though his commitment to the show limited other opportunities, Braeden has few regrets.

"Had I done nighttime TV or film, I would be directing them by now," says Braeden, who published his autobiography last November (www.ericbraeden.com). "But I get to work every day at something I enjoy doing."

Nick Thomas teaches at Auburn University at Montgomery, Ala., and has written features, columns, and interviews for over 700 magazines and newspapers. **SS**

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By Linda Thistle

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DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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