

Helping Seniors Elder Endowment - \$150

Recently I commented on the need for an Elder Endowment to assist seniors in Brevard County. Three days ago I picked up mail for Helping Seniors, and one envelope contained a \$50 check and a letter stating the following:

Dear Mr. Steckler,

I read your column in *Hometown News* each week, and truly appreciate what you are doing for seniors despite the hardships you face. I doubt, though, that 150,000 read your column, and I'll be pleasantly surprised if that many contribute to the endowment. But, how wonderful it would be. I'm praying for it and you, and including my \$50. If it doesn't pan out use the money as you see fit.

In the title of this article you will see the amount \$150. Each week I will post the amount of money contained in the Elder Endowment. No distribution will be made from the Endowment until it reaches \$100,000. Furthermore, a governing instrument for the Endowment will be drawn up and posted on our website for all donors to see how their monies will be used to assist those in need in Brevard County.



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD
JOE STECKLER

We will never know if we can build an Endowment until we try. A good starting point is to publicize our plan of attack in the 60,000 copies of *Hometown News* that are printed and distributed each week. Our readers can then spread the news to others. Helping Seniors has a caring and honest Board of Directors, which we plan to enlarge in order to reach the entire community. Can an Endowment solve all problems? No, it can not. But wisely used, it can provide breathing room to many in need so that long term solutions can be put in place.

Am I dreaming to believe that an Elder Endowment is possible? Not at all. In 2001 when I retired from the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation, I left them with a \$2M endowment. So I know our community can raise money to assist others. It

takes a plan, leadership, and people willing to support a cause they believe is wise and honestly managed to serve others.

Never before has the need been so great to do what I describe here. With the Brevard County Commissioners' act to defund local nonprofits and the unwillingness of bigger nonprofits to fund new, smaller ones, we will encounter more unmet needs.

For five months I have answered the phones for Helping Seniors and listened to pleas for help. Recently a 63 year old woman called. Put yourself in her shoes - you cannot walk and are dependent on an electric scooter for mobility. You live on disability and just received notice that in one month you will be evicted from your apartment. You know that the waiting lists for affordable housing in Brevard County are one to two years. That means living in your car (if you have one), or sleeping in the woods. Now imagine there is an Endowment that can temporarily pay for your hotel costs while you find living accommodations. What a blessing!

There are many stories to tell. While I

cannot cover them all, I can tell you that having a fund on hand, wisely used, can mitigate against many unplanned situations. Many new needs will emerge as we encounter larger numbers of seniors living on fixed incomes. The lack of family support and increased living costs make the establishment of an Elder Endowment more important to a stable continuum of care and the ability to age with dignity. What I am proposing can be accomplished, but it will take your support. What if for one year, 1,000 readers a month send me a check for \$50? What if we could convince our Commissioners to return a small part of what seniors give to the General Fund to build an Endowment? Think about my words and determine your ability to be part of the solution, not the problem.

Joe Steckler is president of Helping Seniors of Brevard, a nonprofit organization designed to advocate, educate, and fundraise on behalf of Brevard's senior citizens. Contact the group at info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org or call (321) 473-7770.

Calendar

From page 1

Beach. All singles and couples are welcome. "Visions" will provide the live music. Tickets: \$10 ea., are available at

the church office and at the dance. BYOB, beer, wine and setups will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit various charities. For table reservations and other details, call (321) 868-7775 or 783-4152.

Connecticut Yankee Club: Alternative to out of town, stay home and enjoy your

old and new Connecticut friends with the Connecticut Yankees Club friends who meet, Saturday March 9, at the Golden Corral located on 880 Palm Bay Road in Palm Bay. The club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. All are welcome. For more information, call

(239) 250-0152.

American Revolution Celebration: The Sons of the American Revolution will host an event commemorating the last naval battle of the American Revolution that was fought off the shores of the Atlan-

See CALENDAR, page 7

W. Cole Waggener, IV, MS DDS
Frederick (Rick) Waggener, DDS



CEREC
One-visit dentistry

With CEREC®, teeth can be restored in a single sitting!



We are pleased to offer our patients CEREC restoration services- a superior method of creating precisely-designed, color matched and highly durable ceramic restorations right in our practice. From simple fillings to full crowns and veneers, CEREC delivers the results you need in a single appointment.

Restorative, Cosmetic, Family & TMJ Dentistry

321-452-8190 | 115 Parnell St. • Merritt Island, FL
www.MerrittIslandDentist.com


Your Hospice Journey Should Focus On You....

You don't stop being yourself when facing an illness. At Wuesthoff Brevard Hospice & Palliative Care we get to know you and your loved ones, it is core to our philosophy of treating more than just your disease.

Our team of caring and experienced professionals work together with you and your family to provide comfort, disease specific care, pain management and symptom control.

If the next step in your journey includes hospice care, call us to learn how we can help.

We are here to serve the hospice & palliative care needs of Brevard County and have since 1984!



(321) 253-2222 • hospiceinfo@wuesthoffhospice.com

Tickets \$45 per person

Friday Night FUN!
March 18th, 6-10pm
Space Coast Convention Center

STOMPING OUT THE VIOLENCE

GUYS Walk In Her Shoes!

Participating Local Artists:

- Rick Keelan • Kyle Heiny
- Jeff Filipski • Russell Gulick
- Jill Collier • Kathleen Carreiro
- Cristina Lanken • Robert Busse
- Jayvo Scott • Peter Speach
- Sara McCoy • David Cruet
- Tim Shubert • ENJOY!!!!

Preview "Her Shoes" at **LIVING ROOM ART GALLERY & WINE BAR**

LIVE "Her Shoes" ART Auction

Event Sponsors

- Louise Jones and the Jones Foundation
- GILG-A-BLE**
- Collins Aerospace**
- The Remember To Share Foundation
- Hometown News Media Group**
- VOLK**

BIG 3 Lip Sync Competition

Vendors
50/50 Raffle
Homestyle Buffet
Bar • Dancing
DJ Timmy Vee

SPONSORSHIPS, VENDOR, TICKETS
Beverly DeMeyer at 321-728-0402
or beverly.demeyer@sarenaharbor.org