

# We need your help

This could be one of the most important articles that I have ever written. I say that to let you know that I am asking for your help. On April 27, we are holding our 3rd annual car raffle from 6-9 PM at the American Muscle Car Museum on Sarno Road. Your donation of \$25 for one ticket or \$100 for five tickets includes your admission to the event, refreshments, and a chance to win a car. This year, the lucky winner gets to choose one of three cars – a Dodge Challenger, a Mazda convertible or a Dodge Ram truck – all vehicles made available by Boni-face-Hiers dealerships. What is more important is that your donation will help support Helping Seniors of Brevard. Here is one reason why we need to keep this organization alive.

On March 12, two seniors in Dallas called us seeking assistance for their two elderly family members here in Brevard, one of whom is being treated for brain cancer. Both families were



**HELPING SENIORS  
OF BREVARD**  
JOE STECKLER

distraught because they were so far apart, but were able to locate Helping Seniors from an internet search. I called the local family and learned that one member had suffered seven strokes, chemo had been stopped, and that a case worker was going to call them later. I contacted the social worker and encouraged a live versus telephone assessment, which helped both families relax a little bit and gave the social worker a much better appreciation of the situation. Still, there are significant financial, health, and emotional issues involved which will require major adjustments for both families.

A second case involved a disabled lady who has been living in her home for 30 years without complaint. Her margin of home payment when compared to her fixed income is \$197 to pay for transportation, food, clothing, and personal needs. She also gets \$108 in food stamps. How many reading this article could live on such an income? I talked with someone about the case who asked why she didn't sell her home and move into Trinity Towers. She would if there wasn't a two-year waiting list, as is the case for almost all affordable housing in Brevard. The lady has never been able to work and until now has struggled to make her way. I directed her to assistance she did not know about, such as help with cleaning, Meals on Wheels and other programs for people who cannot perform a certain number of activities of daily living.

Why is this important? Why is Helping Seniors important to many of the

thousands of seniors in Brevard who face similar situations? These are real life examples, not some case study in a social worker class. Most importantly, these are examples of people we assist through your support of our car raffle and sponsorship of our programs.

If you look in the title of this article you can see how the endowment is progressing since my last article. I hope you will see from my article today why your support is so important to many in our community and how an endowment could be a major factor in helping our neighbors.

*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](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) or call (321) 473-7770.*

## Tax Prep

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an estimated community-wide impact of \$2.1M.

United Way of Brevard funds large scale collaborations, individual agencies and specific programs focused on

the building blocks of a good life - education, financial stability and health along with a safety net of health and human services.

United Way also oversees and effectively deploys resources through VITA Tax Preparation Assistance, Financial Education, Healthy Families, Gifts in Kind and the Benefits Connection pro-

grams.

Through United Way, the contributions of thousands of individual donors become a force for change in the community. United Way of Brevard was established in 1957.

Tax prep locations are available among the following:

Mondays - CareerSource Brevard,

295 Barnes Blvd., Rockledge, from noon to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays and Thursdays - Palm Bay City Hall, 120 Malabar Road, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturdays - The Salvation Army, 1080 S. Hickory St., Melbourne, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**LIVE Public Auction!**  
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