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More on education, information, awareness

e just completed our 2019 Car Raffle and with your support it was our largest fundraiser ever. On behalf of our Board of Directors, thank you to those who made ticket donations and provided refreshments. We are so appreciative of our host, Mark Pieloch, owner of the American Muscle Car Museum, and his wonderful staff and volunteers. Thank you also to A.J. Hiers, whose year-long support from Boniface-Hiers made three clean new cars available to display all over town. Our 2019 winner, Rhonda Lee, chose the Dodge Challenger. It was an exciting and wonderful evening, with 50 new muscle cars on display since our last raffle. Visit us at Helpingseniorsofbrevard.org to see pictures.

The effort needed to do such an event underscores the difficulty many nonprofits face raising money. Putting on paper the amount needed to provide services is one thing, developing the cash another. Fundraisers do not just happen - they take work and money. Sadly, we will see more nonprofits that serve the elderly fail, decreasing the services people need to keep their loved ones at home. The recent State of Florida budget saw minimal improvement in financial support of the elderly. There are still 64,000 people in Florida waiting for elder services, which says little for legislators and a Governor who want to attract new residents to our



HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD JOE STECKLER

state.

I have been involved in the care of seniors since 1996, helping develop and fund programs for many elderly and frail elderly. I assure you that such help is needed, as is education to make people aware of services. I recently received a call from a family in Pennsylvania who had a family member in Lake County. I told them we were in Brevard County and, after hearing about their difficulty finding elder services, I agreed to help them. My next question was how they found out about us. The reply was a Google search that led to our web site, where they watched some of our television shows and decided to call us. We can and are assisting them.

Years ago when I was Director of the Brevard Alzheimer's Foundation, a man from Baltimore offered us a million dollars if we could match it. We did that, but it was not easy and took a lot of local help. If you could hear some of the stories I hear on our helpline, you would support See SENIORS, page 12



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