

# Renting rooms helps homeowners and seniors

For months, years in fact, we have discussed ways to provide affordable housing. Many articles, including mine, look at the big picture – housing projects, low cost homes, older homes, and the need for subsidized housing for low income people. Currently there is no Section 8 housing available in Brevard County and very limited Section 202 housing with 2-3 year waiting lists.

However, some cases require a different resolution. Remember the old saying, “different strokes for different folks”? At Helping Seniors, we receive many calls for assistance regarding housing of a different type. In this situation, an older man or woman who is still physically independent needs to rent a private room with either shared or included bath facilities. It would be ideal if the arrangement would include cooking privileges or use of a microwave.

One case we are currently working



**HELPING SENIORS  
OF BREVARD**  
JOE STECKLER

involves an 87-year-old veteran who rented for ten years in Palm Bay and paid his bills on time but was forced out of the house when it was sold. He has a steady monthly social security income and is debt free but cannot find a simple, private room with bath and cooking privileges where he can live. Instead, this man has lived in his car for over 30 days while we have tried to help him find housing.

It is ironic when we have also received calls for roommates to share the cost of living because a single renter cannot afford the cost. If our elderly caller could team up with a person of similar needs, they could

share the cost of the rental. Instead, in a county of about 750,000 people, this gentleman, and others like him live in a car or in the woods for there is no other place for them to go. We have no shelters except on cold weather nights or for women with children or those with substance abuse problems.

This is a situation that needs resolution. Helping Seniors has just been given space by OMNI Health Care to start a senior resource center, and one office will be dedicated to identifying affordable housing.

There is a growing number of seniors searching for a home in Brevard they can afford. There are also many homeowners struggling to pay their utilities, homeowner's insurance, property taxes, and home upkeep. Consider a great solution for all – a homeowner willing to rent out a room in their home to an independent senior who does not require anything from the

landlord. This would provide affordable housing to many seniors while helping homeowners offset the ever-rising costs of homeownership. There are many seniors in Brevard who can afford to pay \$500, \$600, \$700, \$800, and even \$900 per month for a room in a house.

It is unthinkable for a senior man or woman with arthritis or other joint ailment to live in a car (if they have one) or in the woods. Consider my words and, if you have a detached suite of rooms or a single room that you could rent out or in some way meet the intent of this article, please call 321-473-7770 or email [info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org](mailto:info@helpingseniorsofbrevard.org) and talk to us about the assistance you might be able to provide. Even in Florida it does get cold in a car or the woods.

Contact Helping Seniors at 321-473-7770, at [www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org](http://www.HelpingSeniorsOfBrevard.org), or at P.O. Box 372936, Satellite Beach, FL 32937.

## Calendar

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Monday, January 9

Money Management & Budgeting Workshops: by the United Way of Brevard. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., CareerSource Brevard – Rockledge, 295 Barnes Blvd. Learn the

basics of money management, budgeting, debt, identity theft, and retirement plans. Free. To register visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897)

Tuesday, January 10

Money Management & Budgeting Workshops: by the United Way of Brevard. 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., CareerSource Brevard

– Palm Bay, 5275 Babcock Street N.E., Suite 8B. Learn the basics of money management, budgeting, debt, identity theft, and retirement plans. Free. To register visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897)

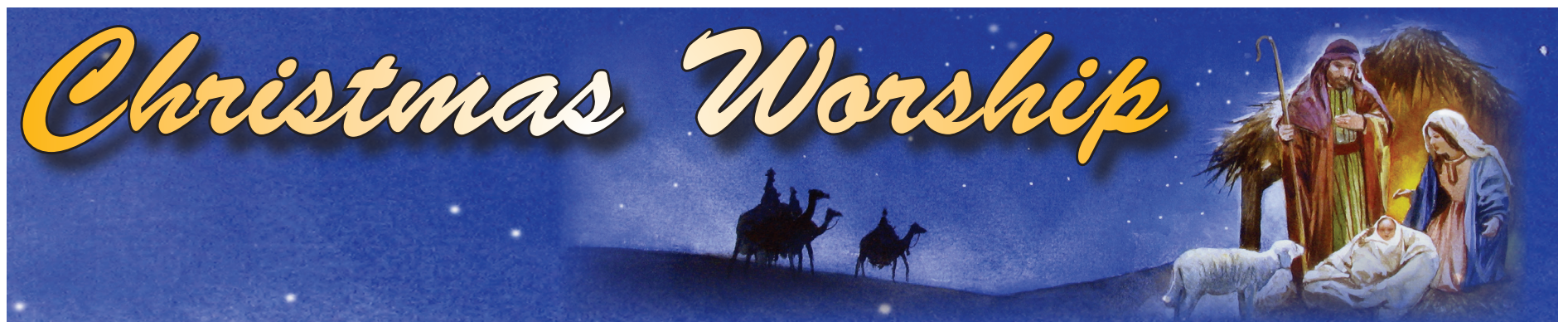
Thursday, January 12

Money Management & Budgeting Workshops: by the United Way of Brevard.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., CareerSource Brevard – Titusville, 3880 S. Washington Ave., Suite 214. Learn the basics of money management, budgeting, debt, identity theft, and retirement plans. Free. To register visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/money-management-budgeting-palm-bay-tickets-200541122897)

Saturday, January 14

Fight Child Hunger 5K run/walk: 8 a.m.





**Christmas Eve Candlelight Services**  
 5:00pm Outdoor Contemporary Service  
 7:00pm Indoor Traditional Service  
**EVERYONE WELCOME!**  
**Lutheran Church of the Resurrection**  
 525 Minutemen Causeway, Cocoa Beach, FL  
 321-783-0852 | [goresurrection.com](http://goresurrection.com)



**You're Invited to our Christmas Masses**

**Advent Penance Service**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 21st 7:00pm

**Christmas Eve**  
 Saturday, Dec. 24th  
 Children's Mass 4:00pm  
 Vigil Mass 6:00pm  
 Midnight Mass 12:00am

**Christmas Day**  
 Saturday, Dec. 25th  
 Masses 8:00am, 10:15am & 12:15pm

**Church of Our Savior**  
 5301 N. Atlantic Avenue, Cocoa Beach  
 321-783-4554

