



Cars & Cuisine & Community

By Kerry Fink, VP/Exec Director,
Helping Seniors of Brevard

Often said that “it takes a Village to raise a child” - and we agree and, actually, have learned along the way, we are ALWAYS much better together than trying to do things on our own. Therefore, “it takes a Village” applies to almost everything we try to accomplish in our Helping Seniors organization.

When retired Navy Captain Joe Steckler launched Helping Seniors 15 years ago, his words to all of us were “it’s never easy to raise funds to keep a non-profit going” and so he always looked for fun ways that people could get involved and share in work of the organization, but also in a fun and rewarding way.

With that in mind, on June 27th, we are celebrating with a special “Open House” event at our Senior Resource Center, located at 1344 S Apollo Blvd - Melbourne FL. We decided to open up on that Saturday, 10am-2pm, with a free-to-attend Car Show outside and a free-to-attend Open House inside on the 2nd Floor, where our center is. (It is also a fundraiser for Helping Seniors - more on that in a moment!)

Cars - Our great friend and car show organizer extraordinaire Bill Antonetz, known for Praise & Pistons Car Show at Calvary Chapel and much more, is inviting all of his car show friends to present a free car show for fun on the grounds of the Senior Resource Center outside. We’ll also - of course! - have a few of the great cars you can select from when you win in our 10th Annual Helping Seniors Car Raffle October 25th at the American Muscle Car Museum!

Cuisine - Here’s the fundraiser fun that day: Celebrity Chef Jillian Zebris, of Chefs for Seniors, is gathering a dozen TOP NAME chefs in the Brevard area - including Stuart Borton, of the amazing Yellow Dog Café, who are bringing some of the best tastes in Brevard out to our Center. Affordable Taste Cards (for donation) offer up the opportunity to sip and stroll your way through some wonderful food experiences - complete with entertainment and more that Saturday!

Community - In addition to the Cars & Cuisine, many great Community Partners will be on-site at the Senior Resource Center at our free open house. Visit us and check out where our monthly education programs happen, see the Helping Seniors Helpline Center, and even record your own greeting in our state-of-the-art Podcast studio! It is free to visit and get good information for your Aging plan too!

We hope you will join us for a good Saturday for the Community on June 27th! Learn more by calling (321) 473-7770 or visit us online at our website HelpingSeniorsofBrevard.org. Let’s enjoy our time together “in the Village!” ☺



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SENIOR SCENE MONTHLY TRAVEL TIPS

Cruise Line Gratuities: Where Do Your Tips Really Go?



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We know at Senior Travel we might disturb our cruise line vendor family, but we feel it is important to give you important information that reflects our passion for traveling on cruise ships and with tour operators.

When passengers set sail on a cruise, they often leave gratuities to show appreciation for the crew's hard work and hospitality. However, few realize that these tips don't always go directly into the pockets of

the staff members who provide service (cabin stewards, waiter staff etc.).

In fact, on

most cruise lines, gratuities are pooled and distributed among various crew roles all over the ship or land operator rather than being handed straight to individuals that made your trip wonderful!

Some of you might remember in the past when taking a cruise, you were handed envelopes from the cabin steward, the assistant cabin steward, the head waiter and the assistant waiter and possibly the Maître D' in the restaurant. That was it. You put cash in the envelope and in person you gave each cruise member the envelope with a hardy "thank you."

Not so anymore. The cruise line has now enacted a daily charge on your cruise account the gratuities of between \$16-\$22 per person per day.

According to industry practices, a portion of the gratuity is used to supplement the actual pay of all of the crew, not just the staff that work for you personally. This means that your daily charge contributes to the overall compensation package rather than serving only as a bonus.

In some cases, cruise companies retain a share of the gratuities to cover administrative expenses or balance pay structures across all departments. While this system helps ensure that all staff receive fair compensation, it also means guests' generosity is shared among many employees, not just those they interact with directly.

Cruise Line Gratuities... continued on page 45

Understanding How Cruise Companies Allocate Passenger Gratuities

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THE 7TH ANNUAL FOUNDATION CRUISE HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD

Jan 9th-16th 2027 - 7-Night Cruise Round Trip Port Canaveral

Sail with Brevard Friends to Ocean Cay and More!



Meet your Helping Seniors friends back on the luxurious MSC Grandiosa for our 7th Annual Helping Seniors Foundation Cruise - and bring the whole family! Make January 2027 special on our 7-night Bahamas & Mexico sailing! We look forward to welcoming you on board!



7th Annual Helping Seniors Foundation Cruise

- Pricing shown includes:
- * Cabin * All Port Charges * All Taxes
 - * Gratuities * Meals * Beverage Package
 - * Wi-Fi * Special Events
 - * Travel Insurance
 - * Donation - Helping Seniors of Brevard

Balcony - As low as \$1,402 pp including Gratuities
Outside - As low as \$1,341 pp including Gratuities
Inside - As low as \$1,182 pp including Gratuities
Yacht Club - \$3,586 pp including Gratuities
 (based on double-occupancy)

Contact:
Helping Seniors of Brevard Travel Club
Chris Morse 818-430-1480 Cell



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THE ALASKA CRUISE HELPING SENIORS OF BREVARD

Jun 2026 - 7-Night Cruise Round Trip Seattle

Sail with your Brevard Friends!



Let's explore the Majesty of Alaska together June 2026 as you sail with your friends - and bring your whole family! Meet your Helping Seniors friends from Brevard County on the luxurious MSC Poesia for the Inaugural Alaska season. With our 7-night Round-Trip Seattle sailing, we'll call on Ketchikan, Alaska, Juneau, Alaska and Icy Strait Point, Alaska well as Victoria, Canada - plus cruising the Tracy Arm Fjord.



The Alaska Helping Seniors Foundation Cruise

- * Cabin * All Port Charges * All Taxes
- * Gratuities * Meals * Drink Package
- * Wi-Fi * Special Events
- * Travel Insurance * Admin Fee
- * Donation - Helping Seniors of Brevard

(Round Trip Seattle)

Deluxe Balcony - \$1821 pp including Gratuities
Standard Balcony - \$1741 pp including Gratuities
Inside - \$1401 pp including Gratuities
 (based on double-occupancy)

Contact:
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