

Activity Report 2017-18

People Helping People

May 5

Family Renew Community

Introductory Letter

“We are a ministry that has been working with homeless families with children since 1989. Our services are designed to help families rise above their circumstances and develop new skills and confidence to find and remain in safe and affordable housing of their own. They can stay in our program up to 24 months while they must return to work if they are unemployed, increase their earning potential and obtain their GED or occupational training if needed. We currently operate three campuses, one in Holly Hill, Daytona Beach and one in Deland.

Operating a transitional program like ours is becoming increasingly difficult as sources of conventional funding begins to dry up. Instead, we must look to our local communities to help us especially for funds for the extras in the lives of our families. Currently we are looking to install a Gazebo to provide protection from the sun for our families on our Deland campus and are looking for some funds to help our families as they make the move from FRC to their own apartments.

I understand your organization routinely helps groups who work with those in need. I hope you would consider lending your support to Family Renew Community as we attempt to help changes the lives of those families we serve. Please let me know if you would like any additional information or if you have any questions.”

Response by Kate Pearce

“As you probably are aware, People Helping People has been pleased to provide financial assistance to Family Renew Community in the past and our organization would be glad to do so again.

We fund one-time expenses rather than on-going operational costs. I ask that you submit a proposal to me outlining a specific need and dollar amount. Below are the funding guidelines for our foundation:

Proposals are considered on the basis of the following:

1. Importance to West Volusia
2. Benefits to the poor, children and disadvantaged
3. Feasibility for the small grant to make an impact
4. Funding of capital projects or start-up costs

For more information, please check out our Website at: <http://www2.stetson.edu/helping/>.

When your proposal is received, I will share it with the Executive Committee of People Helping People. After everyone has had the opportunity to provide their feedback, I will share our decision with you. Please let me know if you have any questions.”

May 8

Interfaith Kitchen, First United Methodist Church of DeLand

Request: Repainting facilities used by organizations

Funding Request: \$700

Status: Funded at \$1200

“We are the Interfaith Kitchen at First United Methodist Church of DeLand. We serve dinner to the homeless and those in need four days a week. We are blessed with a wide variety of volunteers from many denominations and community organizations. We would like to be able to repaint our dining room, bathrooms and stairwell. I have researched the prices at Lowe's and the mid-grade paint plus the rollers, brushes, etc would cost approximately \$700.00. It would be a true blessing if you could help us with project. Thank you for your consideration.”

Lori Snook votes yes.

Mitchell Reddish votes yes.

Debbi Dinkins votes yes.

Kimberly Reiter votes yes.

Jane Bradford votes yes and recommends funding to \$1200. Kate Pearce, KC Ma, Nancy Barber concurs.

Status:

The request was funded at \$1200

August 8

Center for Community Engagement Meeting

All,

Kate Pearce “had a great meeting with four of the staff members at the Center for Community Engagement. Here are the results:

- They have made their selection for this year’s Greenfeather award. They will review the applications for the requests not granted and send us the ones from West Volusia in case there’s a match for us.
- I left copies of our brochure with them and our funding sheet since 2005. They will keep us in mind and distribute our brochures to their volunteers as appropriate.
- This year, they will be enhancing their web site to include a “funders” section and will add us to their site, along with our link.
- They have offered to build us an online application form that will have a link directly from our web site, if we want.

Also...I’m working with Maurin at the Print Shop to see if she can jazz up our brochure a bit. We can have it printed on color paper if we wish – maybe a light green? I’ll send you a draft of the revised brochure when she sends it to me.”

August 10

Great Kids Learning Center, Ormond Beach

Funding Request: \$909.90

Status: Request denied (see below)

As a nonprofit organization devoted to the advancement of children’s success in school and in life, Great Kids Learning Center offers a free afterschool program to help economically disadvantaged students in four elementary schools. Our target population is any child enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade living below the federal poverty level and experiencing personal challenges.

Research has shown that children born into poverty are likely to suffer a 6,000-hour learning gap compared with their middle and high-income peers. In order to reduce the learning gap and meet the academic, emotional and social needs of our students, Great Kids has developed a comprehensive and cost-effective model grounded in a theoretical framework for

children’s learning. We incorporate stimulating, hands-on learning, promote high-level moral reasoning, and integrate leadership habits throughout the curriculum.

Our academic framework includes a strong language and literacy program and a highly-engaging mathematics program to help children gain efficiency in math and a deeper understanding of foundational concepts. The focus of our academic programming is expanding to include inquiry-based investigations to challenge students to think critically, collaborate, and communicate. In order to capitalize on their deep-seated interests, STEM activities will expose our students to new ways of considering ideas, and inspire their curiosity and resourcefulness. We want all children to become healthy, well-adjusted, and well-educated adults. Much of the responsibility for educating children has been placed upon schools. Schools cannot succeed alone. As a supportive partner in education, Great Kids Learning Center expands opportunities for children by increasing learning time, engaging students in the community, and providing rich, cultural experiences.

I have included a brochure featuring our organization’s mission, core values, and learning programs. You may also visit our website, greatkidslearning.org to view our events throughout the year. We hope that these items confirm that Great Kids is making a difference in the lives of children and families in our community.

Sincerely,

Katie Morelli, Ed.D
Executive Director
Great Kids Learning Center

**Curriculum Tools to Advance Learning
Research-Based Instruction**

- \$100.00 Words Their Way (Word Study Program Materials)
- \$749.90 RAZ Kids, Reading A-Z, Science A-Z digital learning programs (subscription for one year)
- \$ 60.00 Science Informational Books (Readers’ Choice Awards)
- \$909.90 Total cost

Mitchell Reddish votes no: “While this sounds like a good project, since our guidelines say we support projects in west Volusia...”

Kimberly Reiter asked why we have supported in the past. The answer was that we supported a Deleon Springs center that no longer operates. GK now only works in the Ormond Beach area.

Reiter suggests we allow them to check back at the end of the fiscal year, if funding stays low.
Jane Bradford agrees.
Dinkins concurs.

Status:

The request was denied because of the geographical constraints in our mission.

August 17

Internal Activity

Brochures: \$252

Table at Faculty Resource Fair. Manned by Ma and Bradford.

Two brochure samples were evaluated by the committee. The better quality one was selected.
There was a request to add “retirees” to the language of the brochure.

November 2

Duvall Homes

Funding Request: \$10,000

Status: Funded in Full

Capital Project Assistance to Renovate Space for Welcome/Administrative Center

Submitted by: Duvall Homes

The Duvall Homes Mission*

(Full proposal available on request)

Duvall Homes exists for the benefit of individuals with developmental disabilities who require extensive services and care. We seek to provide the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence for each resident by creating an individualized plan that includes opportunities for personal growth. Providing social and vocational experiences in the community are key components in our effective program that leads to a life of dignity and independence for all our residents.

History and Principal Objectives

Licensed by the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, Duvall Homes is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation that provides quality residential care and adult day training for those with a broad range of developmental disabilities, such as Down syndrome, Autism and Cerebral Palsy.

A safe haven, fostering independence and self-determination, Duvall Homes offers a comprehensive range of services to help others achieve the fullest life possible - despite their personal challenges. We strive to create experiences that empower and inspire, nurture and promote dignity for all. Our work is centered on helping the more than 100 individuals in our care achieve their own unique success story.

Embracing Traditions

Duvall Homes has been a landmark-fixture and an integral part of the historical foundation of DeLand for decades - caring for people with mild to profound developmental disabilities - some of the most vulnerable and marginalized members of our society. Under-privileged and often forgotten, the developmentally disabled are given a voice at Duvall Homes. Since 1945, during an impressive history spanning seventy-two years, Duvall Homes has provided a critical service to disabled people, to their families and to our community.

Duvall provides 24/7 nursing oversight to residents currently ranging in age from 24 to 88. Our newest resident arrived just weeks ago, while more than 25 have lived at Duvall Homes for 40-50 years. Although most residents come from Florida, others have come from all over the United States and many different countries. Through the years, thousands of individuals have been served and thousands of lives have been improved.

Duvall residents live in one of sixteen state-licensed group homes with round-the-clock supervision provided by direct support professionals. Throughout the week, transportation is provided to and from the Opportunities Enrichment Center on our main campus in Glenwood, where residents participate in the Adult Day Training program (ADT). Community activities, volunteerism and leisure outings are a significant part of each week's agenda.

ADT is central to Duvall Homes' mission. Through a guided curriculum, it empowers developmentally disabled adults to reach their full potential as individuals and as members of the community. The program achieves this through educational, vocational, life-skills training and mentoring, both on the Duvall Homes campus and throughout Volusia County.

Pursuing Ambitions

Duvall Homes has entered a new era – one particularly focused on developing advanced educational and innovative programs – indeed one that will sustain us over the next seventy-two years. While we embrace our history and old-world traditions, we are at once pursuing new-world ambitions to offer the very best practices in care for the developmentally disabled....

Project Description

The Need: Capital Project Assistance for Renovation

Along with provisions for room and board and vital medical oversight, ADT programs like those noted are at the heart of Duvall Homes' success. Yet, decades-long attention first to the health and well-being of those in our care has often caused the set aside of capital improvements needed on our campus, causing deferred maintenance of our infrastructure. The

effects of recent Hurricanes Matthew and Irma have added additional stress to our already weakened Welcome/Administrative Center and the need to relocate our offices has become pressing.

Built in 1885, the Duvall Homes Welcome/Administration Center is now 132 years old. Over decades, countless add-ons and structural modifications have been made to the existing wood frame building. Faced with roof leaks and other types of deterioration common to a structure of this age, we are continually making repairs. Funding is always an obstacle, and as is often the case, a patchwork of Band-Aids is applied where major repair is called for. Air quality is compromised inside the building and HVAC systems are no match for age-old windows that let warm air out in winter/cool air out in summer.

Aging structural elements in portions of the building have restricted use to only half the available space and we are no longer able to utilize the second floor. Offices once located there have moved to the first floor and for a time created crowding and workflow inefficiencies.

As part of an overall growth strategy, Duvall Homes is preparing to streamline operations beginning with the relocation of its administrative offices, currently located in the deteriorating Welcome/Administrative Center. Having researched multiple options, including leasing space off campus and constructing a new building, we have determined the best course (logistically and financially) is to move into the Opportunities Enrichment Center (OEC) where unused space already exists. Before this move can take place however, some renovation and repair to OEC is needed.

The Solution: Restore Existing Unused Space in OEC

Physical space is readily available in the east side of the OEC building... We have consulted with a builder and architect and their assessments have helped us plan for office relocation there. We would like to start with essential improvements to accommodate our offices as soon as possible and have already begun to prepare the building by clearing out spaces previously used for storage. The next step will be to re-roof the east side of the building.

Startup costs are the primary obstacle slowing our progress, and we respectfully request \$10,000 from The People Helping People Foundation to help facilitate this repair to move forward with establishing our office space here.

Summary

As we set out to relocate our offices to OEC, a lead gift from The People Helping People Foundation will be a tremendous help. Beyond the obvious advantages that accompany the financial support, recognition of the Stetson University name will bring an additional level of visibility and respect to the project.

Building community relationships is vital to informing and educating the public about the value of accepting and engaging the developmentally disabled. These collaborative partnerships help spread awareness and help integrate the disabled into our general community, giving them a productive, meaningful part to play and an important story to tell. Embracing all its members is

evidence of a strong community and your willingness to recognize the needs of the people served by Duvall Homes will clearly demonstrate your active involvement in extending opportunities to a segment of our population all too often left behind. We sincerely thank you for your consideration.

Kimberly Reiter votes yes.

Jane Bradford agrees: "I don't remember any other big donations in 2017, and 2017 is almost over, so I would go for the full amount. K.C., would awarding the full amount (\$10,000) strain our resources? The application says, if I'm reading it correctly, that a large donation such as ours would sort of jump start their fund-raising efforts. I think it would be great if Stetson led that effort. As Kimberly said, the Duvall Home has done such wonderful work (and much of it at a time when the options for mentally challenged persons were horrific, in my opinion) that I think they deserve our full support." KC Ma affirms the money is there, but will leave us with \$2069 in the account (with possibility of adding \$500 by end of 2017 calendar year).

Lori Snook agrees: "This is a worthy organization and a request for capital improvements which fits our mandate. If full funding is possible, let's do it."

Nancy Barber votes yes

Debbi Dinkins votes yes: "I am impressed by how well the grant proposal is written. And it seems like a worthy project to me. I don't think we have given to the Duvall Home recently."

Status:

Funded in full

Postscript: Storms this fall damaged the Duvall Home roof and caused collapse. The Home expressed gratitude in December 2017 that repairs could be undertaken because of the donation.

December 6

Spring Hill Community Garden Greenhouse

Funding Request: \$5000

Status: Funded at \$2500

Spring Hill Community Garden Narrative

Stetson University and the Florida Department of Health conducted a Public Health and Community Needs Assessment in Spring Hill in 2016. This assessment found that 90.5% of Spring Hill residents were most concerned with their lack of access to fresh produce and three of the four top health concerns identified by residents were all directly related to diseases of obesity and poor nutrition. Additionally, 78% were "very dissatisfied" with the lack of community gardens in Spring Hill. Creating a large community garden was a need that was identified by the

Spring Hill community. The Greater Union Life Center (GULC) became aware of this study and began trying to figure out how best to address top identified needs.

Soon a coalition of partners including the Greater Union Life Center (GULC), the University of Florida's Institute for Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS), the USDA, the Stetson Center for Community Engagement (CCE), and the City of DeLand emerged to combat nutritional insecurities in Spring Hill. A community garden was decided to be a great first step in addressing some of these issues. The city graciously donated a plot located behind the Chisholm Community Center, the USDA developed the irrigation and construction plan, UF/IFAS committed master gardeners and nutrition experts, the CCE committed volunteers to facilitate construction, and GULC agreed to fund the construction of the garden and take over long-term management responsibilities.

The garden itself will be used as a means to not only increase access to fresh produce, but also as a space for people to go and socialize, exercise, learn from each other, learn from experts, and feel empowered to take control of their health. It currently is comprised of 39 4 ft X 12 ft raised garden beds with drip irrigation installed and is centrally located between three community organizations; the Chisholm Community Center, the Delta House, and the Electrolytes Club. The garden opened to the public on October 28, 2017.

We want the garden to be a space where people can feel welcome, build a community with each other, engage in the physically and spiritually rewarding practice of gardening, and learn more about food, nutrition, and cooking. Part of the goal of this garden is to get people to start looking at food differently. Not only as something you eat, but as something that effects your long term health, the environment, and the local economy.

Unmet Needs

While we have a robust coalition dedicated to helping the garden flourish, one last piece of the puzzle is missing. To ensure the sustainability of the garden, a greenhouse must be built. Since the community members that need the garden the most do not have the resources to pay for plant transplants, GULC plans to have a greenhouse where we can propagate seeds into seedlings. This will increase the survivability rate of all plants and because seeds are inexpensive, we have necessary funds to front that cost indefinitely at no cost to gardeners themselves. If we want to ensure the success of each garden bed without a greenhouse, we would have to purchase transplants from stores each planting season. While the greenhouse will cost \$5,000 to build, the cost of purchasing transplants for one planting season alone would exceed \$8,000.

The greenhouse would not only significantly cut down on operational costs, it would also allow community garden members, with guidance from master gardeners, to grow experimental varieties of fruits and vegetables specifically bred by UF to thrive in central Florida. These are varieties not available in stores and only available for the garden because of GULC's partnership with UF/IFAS.

GULC also plans to open up the greenhouse to tours by local schools and afterschool programs. This partnership with UF/IFAS will also extend to growing plants for all of Volusia

County Schools through the School Gardens program. In this way, the greenhouse will serve as the supporting pillar of two large gardening programs. It will help in alleviating nutritional insecurities in Spring Hill through the community garden and it will serve to increase educational opportunities for elementary school students in Volusia County through the School Gardens program.

Cash (or cash equivalent)		
	Greater Union Life Center	\$4,000
In-Kind		
	Stetson Center for Community Engagement	12485
	Greater Union Life Center	\$227
	Volusia County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$500
	City of Deland	\$9,123.80
	University of Florida IFAS Extension	\$1,610
	United States Department of Agriculture	\$1,243
TOTAL SOURCES		\$29,188
PROGRAM EXPENSES		2017
Materials and Garden Infrastructure		
	Community garden supplies and irrigation system	\$4,500
	Greenhouse restoration	\$5,000
	49ft X 122.5ft vacant lot	\$9,123.80
Staff and Administration		
	Garden construction and maintenance laborers (550 hours @ \$22.7 an hour)	12485
	Financial consulting (10 hours @ \$22.7 an hour)	\$227
	Landscape project manager (70 hours @ \$23.00 an hour)	\$1,610
	Agricultural engineer (30 hours at \$35.50 an hour)	\$1,243
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$34,188
GRAND TOTAL (SOURCES LESS EXPENSES)		(\$5,000)

Jane Bradford would like to support in part: “There’s an article in the Nov. 20-26, 2017, Beacon about this. I know Stetson’s Center for Community Engagement is spearheading this movement. The newspaper article mentions a substantial gift from the Greater Union Life Center, “a nonprofit in Spring Hill that awarded a \$10,000 grant to Stetson’s Center for Community Engagement to construct the garden, and refurbish a greenhouse to grow seedlings for it.” [quote from the Beacon article] So I think we’re just really contributing to the total project since (in theory) they already got some money to refurbish the greenhouse. That doesn’t bother me much. I still think it’s a worthy project. I would like to support our students’ initiative in this area of DeLand, so I would be in favor of supporting this after the first of the year...”

Nancy Barber, Debbi Dinkins votes yes.

Lori Snook suggests giving a smaller amount. Mitchell Reddish suggests \$2500. Kimberly Reiter agrees.

KC Ma agrees with \$2500, as long as the gift was made after January 1.

Status:

Request was funded at \$2500

January 25

Internal Activity

Mailings: \$56

As there was an oversight in mailing out promotional fliers in the fall, that was rectified at the beginning of the new year.

Jane Bradford asked if there was a way to track interest from the mass mailing. Kate Pearce will have that information at the March annual meeting.

Next Meeting Called for 12:00 pm, March 23, 2018, DeLand Hall Board Room

Kimberly Reiter
