

## **Activity Report 2019-20**

### **People Helping People**

**May 2**

#### **Changes in Executive Committee**

Addition of Colin MacFarlane to Executive Committee

Addition of Lindsay Turmelle as a student representative

Follow-Up July 5. KC Ma confirmed to continue as Treasurer.

Follow Up August 12. Because of concerns about Ma's status, a search for a new Treasurer will begin.

**July 3**

#### **Thank You Note, Little House Next Door**

Receipt of Thank You Letter for 2018/9 donation. Photographs of the work done was included. Letter available on request.

**September 11**

#### **Students Reach Out**

**Funding Request: \$4933**

**Status: Awarded \$4933**

*To: The Board Members of People Helping People:*

*Students Reach-Out Inc. has been in existence for 28 years working with the schools in West Volusia County to help the needy families of our community. Each year we continue to make exciting changes to our program to help us better serve the families in our area. Students Reach-Out is a program that operates out of our local schools and is run by a small board of directors, students, teachers, and volunteer parents. With their continued support, and the support of many local businesses and organizations who contribute their time, money, food, clothing, school supplies and more, we are able to keep this vital program running year round.*

*For the past 28 years, Students Reach-Out has had a momentous impact on approximately 75,000 people in our community. The families that our program helps are supplied with bags of groceries, food certificates, school supplies, clothing, shoes, holiday assistance, and much more. It takes the dedication and commitment of all our local businesses and organizations, board members, teachers, parents, volunteers and most importantly our students, to achieve the work that has been done for so many disadvantaged families. Throughout the years, students have raised money for Students Reach-Out by doing car washes, bake sales, rummage sales, gala dinners, school dances, annual fish-fry's, and spaghetti dinners.*

*At this time, Students Reach-Out would like to ask if People Helping People would consider a donation of \$5000.00 to our organization in order to purchase new office furniture and equipment. Our organization is in dire need of updated office furnishings as we have not had the funds to update those since we moved into our current location 13 years ago. A lot of the items we are working with were pieces that were donated to us and are extremely outdated. Also a good majority of the items are starting to fall apart. If given the opportunity to receive a grant*

*from People Helping People we would earmark the money received to go towards the purchase of this new furniture and equipment. Attached is a summary of our most needed items and the approximate costs it would take to replace them.*

*The Students Reach-Out program would truly appreciate your consideration in choosing our program as a grant recipient. Thank you so much for your time and support of our program! Grant funds were requested for the child development playground.*

Jane Bradford supported the funding, with a request for more information as to what the organization does. Kate Pearce made further inquiries. The reply from Lisa Hoffman was:

*Here are the main initiatives of Students Reach-Out, Inc.:*

*Our #1 priority is maintaining our year round food pantry. This includes keeping our shelves stocked with non-perishable food items, toiletries, and school supplies. As well as being able to offer our families gift cards for any of their necessary perishable items. This pantry was started in 1991 by my father Tom Hoffman in a tiny little closet at an elementary school. Over the years it has grown so much from that little closet and we are so proud to still be able to maintain this pantry today.*

*A few years back we created a shoe club program, which offers brand new shoes for any child within our participating Volusia County schools. The parent of the child or the child's school guidance counselor can reach out to our organization at any time and let us know of a child in need. We will then specifically shop for a brand new pair of shoes just for that child.*

*Our third focus would be our holiday assistance program. We help local families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas with holiday specific foods so that they can have a meal on Thanksgiving and Christmas day. They are also provided with a holiday gift card with which they can purchase a turkey or any holiday meat of their choosing.*

*Finally, our most recent initiative is to grow our presence with the homeless population in our community. For the last few years, we have sponsored homeless teens in our area who have been unable to afford to go to prom. Along with other organizations in the community, we pool our resources and provide the teens with the money to purchase their ticket, as well as the clothes and shoes they will need to attend. This initiative also includes sponsoring anywhere from 5-10 homeless teens at Christmastime to help with gifts. We usually earmark about \$100 per teen and we are given a list of specific items the teen would like receive for Christmas. Our organization leaders then get together one day in December and shop for each teens wish list. This is actually one of my favorite initiatives we have started and it is heartwarming to see the impact our organization has had on some of those students lives!*

Colin MacFarlane asks for further information on how funding is processed and granted, but will support the request if it is considered reasonable. Lindsay Turmelle concurs.

Nancy Barber and Kimberly Reiter supported full funding, as did the remainder after further information.

## **October 3**

### **Benefits Fair**

**Next Meeting Called for 2:00 pm, April 6, 2020, by Virtual Platform**

Kimberly Reiter

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