

Activity Report 2020-21

People Helping People

April 2020

Annual Meeting

With only three member of the Executive Committee present, the meeting was adjourned for rescheduling.

Follow-Up April 14. The officer for 2020-2021 were unanimously re-elected: Kate Pearce, President; Kimberly Reiter, Vice President and Secretary; KC Ma, Treasurer.

September 2020

Arc of Volusia

Funding Request: \$997

Status: Awarded \$997

I represent The Arc of Volusia, Inc. We are a 501c3 non-profit that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in both east and west Volusia County with campuses in DeLand and Daytona Beach. When our census is full, we serve 200 individuals daily. Our services include Adult Basic Education, Transportation, Adult Day Training, a vocational employment center and Supported Employment. Our organization was started in 1962 by a group of parents who could not find educational services for their children with disabilities. Our mission is to provide the opportunity for hope, growth, and change to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our community. The Arc of Volusia fosters respect and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through our value of insuring that everyone is a contributing member of his or her community. Our vision is that one day people with intellectual and developmental disabilities will participate as full members of their communities throughout their lives.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, our facilities were closed from March 20th through August 31st. In an effort to maintain safety and cleanliness in our facilities, we are engaging in several projects to support social distancing, increase our disinfecting and cleaning practices, and promote health and well-being of the individuals we serve each day.

To support us in reaching those outcomes, it is our desire to purchase and install Automatic Touchless Bathroom Sink Faucets for our bathrooms at our DeLand facility (located on 1738 Patterson Avenue, DeLand, Florida) in order to promote sanitation, cleanliness and safety for the individuals and staff we support each day. We would like to purchase 10 of these for our DeLand Campus which house multiple bathrooms. I am enclosing an estimate as to the cost which is \$99.70 per unit. We would like to submit this proposal for a total of \$997.00 to assist us in purchasing these units.

Jane Bradford supported the funding, as did Lori Snook, Kimberly Reiter, Lindsay Turmelle, and Colin MacFarlane.

Changes in Executive Committee

Transition plan developed for President Kate Pearce to step down. Colin MacFarlane to fulfill duration of term through 2021 Annual Meeting.

October 2020

Changes in Executive Committee

Addition of Rajni Shankar-Brown to Executive Committee.

MainStreet DeLand Association

Funding Request: \$8,935

Status: Denied

As you may know, MainStreet DeLand Association is a designated 501(c)3, non profit organization. It is our mission to "support and enhance the continuing economic development of downtown DeLand while protecting and promoting its historic heritage." a big part of how we do that is with the organization of large scale events. Events like the DeLand Craft Show, DeLand Bike Rally & Monsters on MainStreet, just to name a couple, bring thousands of people to our downtown, historic district and directly to the doorsteps of our retail shops, cafés, pubs/bars and restaurants.

Attached is the list of items that as an non profit organization moving forward in the age of COVID-19 and beyond, we feel are vital in allowing MainStreet to not just meet the basic level of responsibility as event organizers, but to continue to set the gold standard as true partners in our community. We aim high to address the needs of the current climate and asses those same needs as they continue to shift and evolve.

We are passionate about our work and the positive economic effects of what we do are a noticeable asset to our community. We hope that the foundation will see the benefit of supporting our request and in turn continuing to support our local economy.

Jane Bradford expressed appreciation for the work of the MainStreet DeLand Association, but questioned whether their mission was in alignment with the mission of People Helping People, Inc. Mitchell Reddish concurred. Kimberly Reiter offered concerns about the goals of the requested funds in light of the pandemic and guidance to limit large group interactions instead of facilitate them. Rajni Shankar-Brown and Colin MacFarlane concurred. Kate Pearce informed MainStreet DeLand Association their grant request would not be awarded and encouraged them to submit again in the future should the project be in more alignment with the mission of People Helping People, Inc.

Thank You Note, Arc of Volusia

Receipt of Thank You Letter for 2020-2021 donation. Letter available on request.

Duvall Homes

Funding Request: \$10,000

Status: Awarded \$5,000

Our Mission

Duvall Homes exists for the benefit of people with developmental disabilities that require extensive services and care. We strive to provide the highest quality of life and greatest level of independence for each person in our care, 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 help lead to a life of dignity and independence.

Our History

Duvall Homes has been a landmark-fixtue 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, Duvall has provided this critical service to disabled people, to their families and to our community. This year, we are proud to be celebrating our 75th Anniversary!

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 work to create experiences that empower, inspire, nurture and promote a sense of pride and well-being. We center our work on helping the ninety individuals in our care achieve their own unique success story.

Duvall provides 24/7 nursing oversight to residents currently ranging in age from 24 to 88. Our newest resident arrived just months 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. (These activities are currently suspended due to safety protocols demanded by COVID-19.)*

**This year Communitas Awards honored ADT participants for "Excellence in Community Service and Social Responsibility". [Communitas Awards honors Duvall Homes Residents.](#)*

Our Need

Five years ago, as mandated by federal law, Duvall Homes began the monumental task of relocating residents who remained living on its main campus in Glenwood to individual group homes. The move involved establishing new homes for about sixty people who had been residing in McGaffin Hall, a congregate, nursing home-style facility. The transition was completed in 2017 and Duvall Homes has operated group homes exclusively ever since. We currently operate sixteen homes, throughout West Volusia County in Glenwood, DeLand and Deltona, and have another nearly ready to open. Take a look at some of our group homes below and at <https://www.duvallhomes.org/residential-services/> for more.

COVID-19 has delayed the opening of Nunn Cottage (our seventeenth group home), but we are in motion again to complete final touches on the project. Funding is always a major hurdle and without donor support, it would be difficult to provide the comfortable residences we offer. Through the years, donors have helped with major renovations and upgrades to our existing homes, and have even donated new homes to us.

For this particular project, a \$417,000 grant from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation provided funding for the project, which was then executed by local builder, Camelot Custom Construction, Inc. (See The West Volusia Beacon article [here.](#))

Construction is complete, an enclosed porch and special walkways to accommodate wheelchairs have been added and interior spaces are set with bathroom and kitchen features and appliances. Rough landscaping is also done. Donations from the parents and guardians of our residents, along with several local businesses, have helped bring us to this final stage where the only pieces left are the furnishings for the dining and living rooms.

Our Request

We have established a years-long partnership with a local community retailer, which helps to keep costs down, and can reasonably outfit Nunn Cottage for about \$10,000. Our hope is that People Helping People will recognize our need and help to fund this last piece of a lengthy project, begun more than a year ago.

*Monies needed (in full or in part) for interior furnishings for the common area living and dining rooms:
Living room - \$5,000 three piece seating collection, side and coffee tables, and lamps
Dining room - \$5,000 six piece table and chairs collection, and server/hutch*

We are constant in our dedication to enriching lives; nurturing the greatest level of independence and helping others live life to the fullest. As the cornerstone in our foundation, family and friends have been at the forefront of our mission. From new roofs to special vehicles, from educational materials and medical supplies, our supporters have helped us accomplish great things on behalf of the developmentally disabled people we serve.

This year, Duvall Homes marks 75 years of service... to thousands of people with developmental disabilities and to their families. From our early beginnings in 1945 - to this day, Duvall Homes continues to remove barriers for others. A commitment to best practices is foremost in our vision, as we focus on

helping this vulnerable segment of our community attain quality of life, personal success, and the greatest independence possible.

We hope People Helping People will recognize the value in the work we do and help us with the final touches that allow for the opening of our newest group home here in DeLand. Thank you for your consideration!

Lori Snook supported partial funding to furnish one of the two requested rooms at \$5,000. Kimberly Reiter, Jane Bradford, KC Ma, Colin MacFarlane, Mitchell Reddish, Lindsay Turmelle, and Rajni Shankar-Brown agreed.

November 2020

MainStreet DeLand Association

Funding Request: \$8,750

Status: Denied

MainStreet is working with other community leaders on a initiative to bring; among other components, a certified Diversity and Inclusion training for our downtown businesses and merchants. We are collaborating with many key community members with the hope that with awareness will come understanding and in turn healing.

We are working with leaders in the Spring Hill community to appropriately identify key issues, biases and generational tensions so that we can be most effective in our work to build bridges and close the gap in the community divide.

MainStreet is requesting assistance so that we can offer those professionals in the fields of Education and Racial Justice who have agreed to work with us to construct content for the diversity training, a stipend for their intellectual collaboration. We have five professionals we would like to offer a \$750 cash stipend for their work, totalling \$3,750.

MainStreet is also requesting assistance to help us provide an adequate platform for the training. We are looking at the potential of platforms like Blackboard as the host. We would like for the platform to also be integrated with current web formats, either the MainStreet DeLand Association website or any website the we procure as this initiative develops into a more substantial entity. We are asking for a base of \$5,000 to help us secure the platform and a minimum of one year of IT service and technical assistance.

Colin MacFarlane commended the efforts towards community healing but questioned the strength of the connection between the proposed use of the requested funds and the mission of People Helping People, Inc. Kate Pearce concurred. Rajni Shankar-Brown shared some additional insights about the project, disclosed her involvement with the project, and inquired whether she should recuse herself from the vote on funding. Jane Bradford suggested partial funding for the capital improvement portion of the request and shared she did not believe the by-laws prohibited voting on a request from an organization with which one is involved. Rajni Shankar-Brown recommended that partial funding not be restricted, allowing the organization to prioritize within the project as needed. Colin MacFarlane reiterated concerns about the indirect connection between the requested funds and the mission of People Helping People, Inc. Kate Pearce informed MainStreet DeLand Association their grant request would not be awarded

January 2021

News Article

Stetson Today published an article highlighting the work of People Helping People, Inc. Article available upon request.

April 2021

Organization Status

KC Ma resolved issues of the status of People Helping People, Inc. with the Florida Division of Corporations resulting from an unfiled annual report.

Next Meeting Called for 1:00 pm, May 3, 2021, by Virtual Platform
