

LIFE notes

LIFE prides itself on helping those in need and for being the champion for those who cannot speak but who enrich our lives and everyday make us a little more... human.

Issue 69 April 17, 2020

Help for Our Heroes



Dear Friends,

I hope you are all staying safe and staying well.

A few months ago, at the outset of this horrible COVID-19 pandemic and when we were all starting to understand the new current normal of social distancing and home isolation, I was reading about how The Breakers had donated truckloads full of unused and perishable produce, dairy, juice, bread, meat, as well as other non-perishable foods, to the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

It was an eye-opener, and not just because I only had peripheral knowledge of the organization. Rather, it was because I did not have a clear and full understanding of the tremendous food insecurity right here in Palm Beach County.

Indeed, there are some 200,000 hungry individuals and families in the county and the total continues to rise because of business closures, worker furloughs, and food shortages. One in five children go to bed hungry each and every night. More than 60% of school-age children receive free or greatly reduced-price breakfast and lunch each and every school day.

I'm sure you will agree with me that no child should ever go hungry. Children need food. They need proper nutrition to learn and to thrive. But now, during this pandemic, when they are not in school, they are especially at-risk of going hungry.

I reached out and invited Karen Erren, the executive director of the Palm Beach County Food Bank, to my home to learn more about the organization and the severe food issues in the county. Then I spoke to Marti LaTour, the organization's president, and other community leaders and government officials.

From them, I came to find out that, prior to this current crisis, the food bank was already providing meals to more than 3,000 kids at 45 sites during the summer and on weekends. Now, that need has increased exponentially because the kids need to be fed during the week as well.

Exacerbating matters is the fact that because of the pandemic the supplies of donated foods from local groceries and businesses, as well as manufacturers have been drying up. Now, the food bank is having to purchase a lot of food. Still, of the food bank's 125 food pantry partners, 50 have had to cease operations for now because of lack of supplies.

The more I came to know, the more I knew I had to do something.

So this week, I announced I was donating \$1 million to the food bank, specifically designating the funds to its Food4OurKids initiative. Food4OurKids is a year-round weekend and summer feeding program designed to help fill nutritional gaps that children face during those times. While in school, these children receive free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch, but with schools now closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic, those meals are now less available and, as a result, there is an enormous need to fill their food gap.

Because I have lived here in Palm Beach County for many years, I feel it was my responsibility to make this new contribution and help children here in our own backyard.

In gratitude for my gift, the food bank has decided to rename the program as Lois' Food4Kids. But, really, these children are all of ours. So I invite all of you - in fact, I urge all of you - to join me in this vitally important, essential effort by making your own donation to the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

Love,

Lois

Upcoming Events

TBD

American Military Hero Dog Monument Dedication

Tri-County Animal Rescue, Boca Raton, FL

12:00 noon

Light lunch to follow

By Invitation Only

February 19, 2021

Lois Pope and LIFE's Board invite you to

LIFE's 27th Annual Lady in Red Gala

The Breakers Palm Beach

6:00 pm

To learn more or to donate,
visit www.life-edu.org or call 561.582.8083.