

SUCCESS Stories

Successful Families and Successful Futures



A Quarterly Publication By **Helping People Succeed**

Camp Success For Area Students

Giving Young People New and Expanded Experiences

Thanks to the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County and to those individuals who gave private donations, we were able to provide a six week summer camp to 30 at-risk children. Excursions included a visit to the Vero Beach Aquatic Center, Fort Pierce's Art Mundo and Manatee Center, the Lion Country Safari and the Busch Wildlife Center.

The young people from St. Lucie County were able to attend the program at no charge – they otherwise would not have been afforded such an opportunity. Students between six and 12 years

old were able to maintain education, benefit from counseling and enjoy tours of area attractions which also included bowling and skating.

Camp Success has been underway for 12 years through Helping People Succeed. "The need for this camp continues to grow each year," said Ginny Jones, Clinical Director of



Behavioral Health Services. "We are thrilled to give these young people new and expanded experiences." ♥



Vans Essential For Work Opportunities

Programs we offer involve providing transportation services for the people we serve. This includes volunteering for Meals on Wheels, visits to local libraries and daily transportation to seek job opportunities throughout Martin and St. Lucie counties. Helping People Succeed is in need of new vans for its transportation activities. On an **average day** – approximately **50 clients utilize our services.**

These clients are enrolled in our

Community Connections program and participate in the community through work, volunteer and community activities. We coordinate the services for adults with disabilities, transporting participants from home to a variety of locations each and every weekday.

"Our vans are safe but are in constant need of repair. If we had new vans – more of our community dollars will go directly back to our much needed program as we serve those adults who have a disability and are unable to drive." – France Mason, Vice President of Community Services. ♥

Interested in helping out with the purchase of a van?

Contact Glenna Parris at 772.320.0778 or email Glenna at gparris@hpsfl.org.

Like Us On Facebook @ www.facebook.com/hpsfl/

Watch "Making A Difference" @ www.hpsfl.org

Click top right corner for videos

Your Donations Make A Difference Every Day!

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A Message From Our Chief Executive Officer

OCTOBER IS DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH



Suzy Hutcheson

Each October National Disability Employment Awareness Month recognizes the societal and workforce contributions of people with disabilities. Statistics show that 80.5% of the 39.9

million Adults with Disabilities in the United States are NOT working.

That's the bad news—what is the good news? More and more people with disabilities are appearing in the mainstream of life. They are featured in print advertising; and not only have parts in television series, but have a series of their own called "Born this Way" which was renewed for a second season. While the tide seems to be moving slowly in recognizing the abilities of all people, at least it's turning!

The other good news is that Helping People Succeed is increasing the number of adults with disabilities who are obtaining and maintaining employment. Our belief is that everyone regardless of disability should have the opportunity to work, live and play in our community.

The perception of many is that people with disabilities can only perform menial duties and this is far from the truth – it is important to remember that people with disabilities

represent a diverse group of workers.

Employers struggle every day to find qualified, good employees – please be aware that this is a huge talent pool just waiting to be tapped.

Since 1984, thousands of adults with disabilities, especially significant disabilities, have become productive taxpaying citizens with assistance from Helping People Succeed and we will continue that mission into the future.

The truth of the matter is that people with disabilities, just like everyone else, want the American Dream – they want a nice place to live with family and friends plus employment that provides a living wage.

If you need a qualified person who is ready and able to work, give me a call at 772.320.0777 or email me at shutcheson@hpsfl.org and we'll find the employee you're looking for!

A very special thanks to Senator Joe Negron for helping us receive legislative funding to develop an Adults with Disabilities approach to increase our job placement activities!

Suzy Hutcheson
President/CEO

IN MEMORIA – Remembering Reginald "Reggie" Ritchie who was one of the first people who found employment through Helping People Succeed in 1984. Reggie, who never expected to work, had his first job at JC Metal Spinning and after many years there finished his career at Publix. Reggie passed away on August 24, 2016 and will be remembered fondly for his contributions to our community.

Everyone's talking about it...

amazonsmile You Shop. Amazon Gives.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

What is AmazonSmile?

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to **support your favorite charitable organization** every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at AmazonSmile you'll find the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization.

*We hope that you will think of **Helping People Succeed** in your on-line shopping experience!*

ANNUAL MEETING CHANGING OF THE GUARD



Beth Prinz Lowy,
Phyllis Gillespie and
Suzu Hutcheson.

With its new fiscal year underway, Helping People Succeed welcomed **Kathy Skryzpczak** of Martin Health System as its new chair at the Annual Meeting held at Northern Trust. Former chair **Phyllis Gillespie, Esq.,** of Gary, Williams, Parenti, Watson & Gary was commended for her service.

We are pleased to bring on new talent to the board and welcome **Chuck Gerardi**, Director of Sales and Marketing for Southeastern Printing and **Melody Floyd**, who has worked in the St. Lucie County School System as a clinical psychologist. Both bring programmatic, fund development and fiscal management experience to Helping People Succeed's board of directors.

Special recognition was given to the following retiring board members: **Jackie Holfelder**, Luminaries writer, businessman **Peter Kemp** and **Dr. James Vopal**. Each one of these individuals has been an incredible asset to Helping People Succeed in a variety of ways. They have exemplified dedication and commitment not only to our organization, but to our entire community.

Bliss Browne of Imagine Chicago has been appointed the Vice Chair, and **Dr. Kim**

Dettori will continue as Secretary along with **Kevin Burn** of Seacoast Bank as Treasurer.

Historically, the Annual Meeting has been a platform to bring special attention to a select group of community partners and advocates. This year, service recognition was given to **Pat Harvey**, retiring from the Martin County School Board as the Principal of Port Salerno Elementary School; **Diane Corson** who provides



Suzu Hutcheson, Pat Harvey and **Kathy Derringer.**

Occupational Therapy Services for the children we serve; **Bob Dobens** who generously gives of his photography services; and **Jim Vojcsik** who recently retired from the United Way. It was our honor to pay tribute to these fine individuals who have contributed above and beyond to serve local children, families and business partners in Martin and St. Lucie counties.

The highlight of the evening was a presentation given by **Dr. Lou Benson**, former CEO of Treasure Coast Hospice, as he creatively guided us through the process of Strategic Planning. We hope as a community – you embrace them, as we do, and walk beside us as we continue to provide impactful services to our most vulnerable populations. ♥

Colleagues Called **Dr. Marrero** “Gentle Giant”



Dr. Jose Marrero was a psychiatrist here at Helping People Succeed. He also contracted with Tykes and

Teens. Between the two nonprofits – Dr. Marrero had nearly 600 active

patients. A car accident took his life in May of this year. His colleagues called him a “gentle giant” whose broad stature contradicted the way he could approach children and make them comfortable in the counseling setting. ♥

The world is a better place to have had Dr. Marrero in it. He is missed!

STRATEGIC GOALS

Quality Services

We will help people succeed through **quality services** by developing, expanding and providing high-quality, accessible, personal development services that lead to healthy, productive and independent lives.

Community Engagement

We will help people succeed through **community engagement** by increasing community awareness of the services we provide and the critical needs of those we serve. We create opportunities to partner through volunteering, collaborating and philanthropy.

Fiscal Health

We will help people succeed by **improving stability** of support for our mission, and dedicated staff, by searching for and securing diverse and sufficient public and private revenue streams, and managing the resources in productive, innovative and accountable ways.

Mission Partnerships

We will help people succeed by **cultivating relationships** within and outside of the organization that enable us to accomplish our mission more effectively and to expand the culture of support for those we serve.

Volunteers

THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO.



Marybeth teaching a healthy life style!

Marybeth Pena is a **Nurse Program Specialist** at the Florida Department of Health and has been with that agency for ten years. Marybeth began volunteering with Community Connections in February and returns quarterly to conduct a nutrition and cooking hands-on demonstration. She states, "The participants inspire me with their warmth, enthusiasm and willingness to learn and try new things."

Philip Paxhia has been volunteering for Helping People Succeed for more than a year now. He helps out administratively and does numerous projects on a weekly basis. There is no job too small (or too large!) for Philip. We have become spoiled having Philip around and are thankful he found us. He calls our office the "**Happy Place!**"



Philip is hard at work!



Darcy Weir has been volunteering with Community Connections for over seven years. Most recently, she has been walking the Palm City Bridge with our participants and has developed meaningful relationships while setting an example of health and fitness. She reports, "The best part is being with the participants, who are so refreshingly themselves, without masks or filters. Their grace and patience is always inspiring, and gives me a much better perspective on life."

Patty Pollak is one of those volunteers who will come to your aid at the drop of a hat. She is shown here sorting out much-needed donated baby items. This is one of her favorite jobs as her "babies" are all grown up!



Patty makes herself comfortable any where!

Meet **Lou Benson** – Strategic Planner extraordinaire – here with some of our board members and CEO. A successful **Strategic Plan** is a methodical process. We were fortunate to have Lou at the helm as he led us to realize four meaningful strategic goals. The end result? Improvement of services for the children, families and adults we serve!



Around the table... **Lou Benson, Bliss Browne, Kathy Skrzypczak, Lee Borellis and Suzy Hutcheson.**



Everybody has talent! Do you want to share your talent with us?

Contact Glenna Parris at gparris@hpsfl.org or 772.320.0778 and Helping People Succeed will find a perfect volunteer "home" for you. *We treat everyone here like family!*



SUCCESS Story Martin County Project | SEARCH

A true **Success Story** for one of the Project SEARCH interns has been working at a car wash. If it weren't for his grandfather, who taught him how to wash cars, this young man may not have a job today and one that makes him happy.

Kendall Cook filled out several applications to many car washes in the area and was offered a job at Team Blue Hand Car Wash, located at 1761 NW Federal Hwy in Stuart near the RaceTrac gas station, north of the Roosevelt Bridge. Kendall has mastered the skills for washing cars and is interested in becoming a detailer in the near future. He also hopes that one day he may be a supervisor for the Team Blue Hand Car Wash. ♥



Kendall is just one of many success stories as a result of this collaborative program.

Project SEARCH is an international program that teaches adults with disabilities employability skills and how to become professional employees within the community. The project has been underway locally for six years organized by the Martin County School District, Martin Health System, Helping People Succeed and ARC of Martin County. The U.S. Department of Education has paved the way for students between 18 and 22 years old to participate. Florida's Vocational Rehabilitation program supports the activities for the participating high school clients.

Our Music & Movement class is a blessing to these young moms

"This program taught us how to better interact with our son. The rituals we have learned from class help us at home with transition time for naptime, bedtime, car rides, etc. This has also reassured me with my parenting skills. I truly don't know what I would do without this class!" ♥
– Parent



Sporting New Shoes

Meet **Oralia De Leon**, a proud mom who is sporting her new pair of shoes donated by **Village Bootery**. Oralia and her daughters are enrolled in our **Healthy Families Program**. Healthy Families is a preventative program and has a 98% success rate of no known occurrence of abuse or neglect. ♥



Rob Ranieri Executive Director of the House of Hope presenting the "Best Team" award to our **Community Connections** volunteers, **Trisha Overton, Julie Medeiros, Maureen Britt** and **Dana Jamison**.



Giving Back to the Community

One of the goals of our **Community Connections** program is giving back to the community. The participants in this program were recently awarded "Best Team" at a volunteer appreciation event hosted by House of Hope. Just last year Community Connections' participants logged in over 575 volunteer hours at the House of Hope Thrift Store! The current Independent Sector rate of a Volunteer Hour is \$23.56 per hour. This equates to over \$13,500 of nonprofit labor hours in volunteer activity.

The group began by volunteering one day per week and recently added an additional day due to personal and professional growth that the volunteers have demonstrated throughout the year. Learning responsibility and gaining independence in the workplace is being achieved on an ongoing basis.

Congratulations and great job for all the hard work and dedication giving back to the community. The House of Hope merely represents a small segment to the overall economic impact of Helping People Succeed's Community Connections department which works with many other business partners in similar services. The total volunteer hours of the entire program is estimated at 3,000 hours, almost \$71,000 annually! ♥

SAVE THE DATES

Pinot & Picasso

**Hosts Bill Lichtenberger
& Bill Crandall**

WHERE: Harbour Ridge Yacht
& Country Club

WHEN: November 19, 2016

TIME: 6:00 to 9:00 pm

COST: \$200 per person

Calendar Signing

2017 Art for Living Calendar Signing

Two Dates & Two Locations

WHEN: December 3, 2016

WHERE: Backus Museum and Gallery

TIME: 10:00 am to 1:00 pm

WHEN: December 10, 2016

WHERE: Barnes & Noble

TIME: 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Art Sale & Show

*Proceeds of Art Show to Benefit
Helping People Succeed*

WHERE: Sandhill Cove Retirement
Community

WHEN: March 18, 2017

TIME: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm

April Showers

*Donate much-needed baby items
to the families we serve*

WHERE: Helping People Succeed
Offices, Stuart or Okeechobee

WHEN: April 1 - 30, 2017

TIME: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

White Shirt Night

WHERE: Taste Casual Dining

WHEN: June 10, 2017

TIME: 6:00 to 9:00 pm

COST: \$50 per person

SNEAK PREVIEW *VIP Reception*

TIME: 5:00 to 6:00 pm

COST: \$100 per person

3rd Annual *Pinot & Picasso* Gala

AN EVENING OF FINE WINE AND ART

Thanks to two remarkable men, hosts **Bill Lichtenberger** and **Bill Crandall**, the local community is invited to Helping People Succeed's 3rd Annual Pinot and Picasso evening reception, featuring the artists of the 2017 Art for Living Calendar.

The special evening, planned for Saturday, November 19th at Harbour Ridge Yacht and Country Club, will offer guests calendar art selections and other available art on display at the clubhouse in this popular community. Pinot and Picasso, an amazing evening of fine wine and art, is the primary fundraising event to support Helping People Succeed's diverse programs and services critical to local families it serves.

What can you expect? Upscale wine-tasting, festive food stations, live entertainment, extraordinary silent and live auctions; and an opportunity to "meet and greet" with the talented artists of the Treasure Coast. Tickets are only \$200.00 and sponsorships are certainly available. The event will be from 6:00 – 9:00 pm. Purchase tickets online at www.hpsfl.org.

The 13 selected and featured artists for the 2017 calendar include: **Kevin Hutchinson, Marian Vitale, Chris Kling, Cristina de la Vega, Carol Baehren, Dan Mackin, Sue Ann Mosley-Saleeby, Val Lally, Karen Leffel-Massengill, Julia Kelly, Robin Makowski, Mimi McCallum** and **Pam Patterson**.

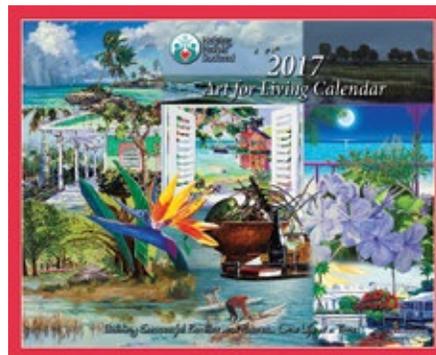
Their calendar paintings depicting tropical or local scenery and historical sites will be unveiled at the November event. ♥

Our gracious sponsors for the calendar and the event are:

Bill Lichtenberger, Bill Crandall, Sandee & Al Ragl, Kathy Skrzypczak, Water Pointe Realty Group, Seacoast Bank, Stuart Business Systems, Ross Mixing Inc., Mark Brechbill CPA, E.W. Consultants, Inc., NISAIR Air Conditioning and Heating, The Retina Institute of Florida, Publix, Martin Health System, Dave's Plumbing, Mary Kay Buckridge, Stuart News TCPalm.com, Photo Fantasies/Bob Dobens Photography, Wilson Photography, Sandhill Cove Retirement Community, Lauri J. Goldstein and Associates PLLC, and Southeastern Printing Company.

They're Here

Pick up your **2017 Art for Living Calendar**.



Stop by our office at
1100 SE Federal Highway
in Stuart.

Showing Off Artists' Talent at the 2016 White Shirt Night



Kevin Staten Bank of America Sponsor, **Dan Mackin** Artist and **Gina Staten**.

Special recognition goes to Artist **Dan Mackin** and to **Craig** and **Karen Kingston**, owners of The Taste, for their many years of support! ♥

Our Community Making A Difference!

Thanks to the generosity of the **PNC Foundation** and its *Grow Up Great initiative*, Helping People Succeed's **Baby Steps Program** received a \$5,000

grant to benefit children from birth to age five, helping to prepare them for success in school and life. For several years PNC has awarded this grant to Helping People

Succeed. PNC's Grow Up Great initiative is a bilingual initiative that began in 2004 and has benefitted over 2.3 million young children and their families nationwide.

Helping People Succeed utilizes PNC's funding by purchasing educational materials, primarily books, for enrolled

families in Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties. Developmental Specialists bring books on educational home visits and teach families the

importance of reading to their children every day from the very start. Up to 4,100 families will benefit from PNC's generosity this year.

"We couldn't be more grateful for the opportunity

to partner with PNC to help children get the best start possible," said Kathy Derringer, Vice President of Baby Steps. "Their generosity provides much needed educational materials for families who might not otherwise be able to afford books and developmental toys." ♥



Kathy Derringer, VP Baby Steps; **Kathleen Strother**, Senior VP, Senior Relationship Manager, PNC Bank; **Cindy Pilloni**, AVP, Client and Community Relations Manager, PNC Bank and CEO of Helping People Succeed **Suzy Hutcheson**.

We are *Thankful* for this Generous Gift

The Royal Palms of St. Lucie County presented Kathy Derringer with a donation of iPads to be used during home visits in the **Infant & Toddler Social-Communication Program**. The goal of

these services is to enhance optimum developmental functioning leading to resiliency, school readiness and future independence. The Development Specialists will have the opportunity to use the electronic media with toddlers who are more difficult to reach with typical developmental toys or books in a play setting.



The Royal Palms of St. Lucie County is a group of women who come together and host events throughout the year to raise money for organizations within the local community. We are thankful for their generosity! ♥



Charitable Donations

A special thank you to local artist **Susan Roberts**. When making a purchase on her website, **www.TurtleLady.com**, Susan is donating 10% of each purchase to Helping People Succeed.

In addition to original tropical paintings – her site features greeting cards, coaster sets, cutting boards, pot holders, jewelry, luggage tags and even phone cases! Great place to do a little holiday shopping and give back at the same time! ♥



Tim O'Brien, General Manager and **Ben Shoemann**, Owner of **The Village Bootery** donate over 50 pairs of shoes to our clients served through the Healthy Families Program.



Tim and Ben are seen here with our Family Support Workers who delivered the shoes to each client in their home. For some of the moms we serve – this is their very first pair of new shoes! Thank you Village Bootery for your steadfast support! ♥



Helping People Succeed

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Our Supporting Partners



♥ **MISSION** Helping People Succeed provides opportunities and choices that help children, families and adults improve their quality of life through education, counseling, training and employment.

♥ **VISION** Our vision is to help each person, no matter what challenges he or she faces, to achieve success and thereby enrich not only his or her own life, but also the community in which we live, work and raise our families.

♥ **VALUES** we believe

- in the ability, dignity, diversity and value of each man, woman and child;
- all children should live a life free from abuse and neglect but through nurturing, love and education;
- everyone should have the opportunity to actively participate in all facets of life especially in areas of employment, education and training;
- focusing on an individual's assets and strengths leads to success;
- a person-centered approach to goal setting, service planning and delivery systems lead to individual success;
- employment is the key to inclusion, participation and access to community life;
- a collaborative approach with partners leads to success;
- the community at large should be included and considered in development, implementation, quality and expansion;
- the provision of services must be ethical, principled and fair and provided in a manner with integrity, compassion and competence.



Helping People Succeed

Children, families and adults, achieving success and enriching their own lives!