ISSUE 51

BOCA HELPING HANDS

Quarterly Newsletter



BHH volunteers take the field at the 5th Annual Tackle Hunger Game to be honored for their hearts of service

Thanksgiving Came Early This Year

By Andrew Hagen, Chief Executive Officer

My Thanksgiving began early this year. A team member shared that individuals, groups, and organizations have been calling earlier and requesting more boxes for our Thanksgiving Box Brigade than she can remember. Watching the community step up even before the holiday season has a chance to begin reminds me how eager our community members are to pitch in and support one another. This early outpouring of generosity made me pause and feel a deep sense of gratitude, not just for the help, but for the spirit of kindness and connection that defines our community.

We have much to be thankful for this year! Reflecting on this year, I've seen that generosity again and again. Even as inflation stretches household budgets, people are choosing to give more, not less. I began the year worried we might have to turn away seniors and working families seeking assistance. Instead, your generosity has helped us meet their needs.

Another reason for thanksgiving is our upcoming Food Center renovation. Originally designed for indoor dining, our facility switched to drive-through distribution during COVID. The renovation will make distribution more efficient and improve the experience for our wonderful volunteers and clients.

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Chief Executive Officer Letter Continued

It's a meaningful step forward as we continue adapting to meet the changing needs of those we serve.

Finally, I'm thankful for the generous donors supporting our Annual Matching Campaign beginning in November. This campaign is our most important source of program support. Every dollar you contribute will be matched from November 1 to December 31, making your impact in the community go twice as far! Whether you've supported us for years or are thinking about contributing for the first time, please know your gift, big or small, truly matters. Each donation helps us support our clients and strengthens our community in meaningful ways. Please consider a year-end gift to help us continue offering a helping hand to our neighbors in need.

In this time of togetherness and gratitude, I'm grateful to be reminded of our dedicated community, which never fails to show up when people need us most. Thank you for giving us so much to be thankful for!



Andrew Hagen, Chief Executive Officer

The $75 That Made All the Difference

By Alana Chiyembekeza, Workforce Development Coordinator



"For want of a nail, the kingdom was lost." Sometimes, the smallest things can stand between someone and a life-changing opportunity.

Recently, one of our new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) students faced one final obstacle before beginning her career: a $75 fee to update her license. After completing our job-readiness classes and six weeks of truck-driving school, she was ready to put her training to work but needed a little extra support to take that final step.

As a mother of two, she was determined to build a career that would allow her to become financially independent and provide a better future for her family. Unable to afford truck-driving school on her own, she turned to Boca Helping Hands. She applied to the program, completed an interview and our job-readiness classes, and successfully finished her training. Now, she has the opportunity to pursue a career with an estimated annual salary of $45,000 to $60,000.

Thanks to our generous supporters, that $75 fee won't stand in her way. This is what makes our Workforce Development Program so impactful. We provide scholarship-based vocational training in in-demand careers while helping students overcome the unexpected barriers that can keep them from securing employment.

Whether it's a licensing fee, a uniform, or transportation, we're committed to helping students turn their hard work into meaningful career opportunities. With your support, we're expanding beyond training alone to help students cross the finish line and build brighter futures.

Because sometimes, $75 is more than a check. It's the final step toward a career, financial independence, and a brighter future.

Bowling for Bread: A Strike for the Community

By Kori Ernst, Development Manager

Boca Helping Hands' Bowling for Bread was an afternoon filled with strikes, smiles, and generosity, all in support of the KidsPack Weekend Meals Program. With 150 children from local nonprofit organizations celebrating alongside volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, the event united our community to help local kids facing hunger. The fun continued with a children's raffle, where kids took home exciting prizes!

Special thanks to our generous sponsors: The Lee Pearlson Steinberg Foundation (Event Sponsor), Gary Peters Family Foundation and Mary Moriarty (Strike Out Hunger Sponsors), Ovation Home Insurance Exchange and the Lawrence A. Sanders Foundation (Ten-Pin Sponsors), Waypoint Residential (Children's Raffle Sponsor), Rotary Club of Boca Raton (Perfect Game Sponsor), Debby Glick and Florida Power & Light (Kingpin Sponsors), and Lucky Strike (Food Sponsor).

The KidsPack Weekend Meals Program ensures children have nutritious food when school meals aren't available. Thank you to everyone who made Bowling for Bread a success!



Bowling for Bread tournament champions from Cornett Health LLC





Our Perfect Game Sponsor, The Rotary Club of Boca Raton



Local charity kids celebrate their raffle prize wins

Boca Helping Hands and FAU Team Up to Tackle Hunger

By Lance Anderson, Director of Food Assistance Programs



BHH volunteers join T.A. Walker to promote Tackle Hunger



Supporters donate cereal boxes



Honoring BHH volunteers on the football field

Boca Helping Hands joined FAU football fans, students, volunteers, and community supporters for the fifth annual Tackle Hunger event at the FAU vs. FIU game this September, collecting cereal to help fight food insecurity in Palm Beach County. We cheered on the Owls while collecting cereal for those in need, and we could not be more thankful to the community for proving that every ounce of support and cereal box donated makes a difference. Our volunteers were also honored for all that they do to keep our mission alive on the football field during the game!

Founded by twin brothers Luke and Jett Justin, Cereal4All began when the brothers were just eight years old after discovering that cereal was one of the most-needed, yet least-donated, items in Boca Helping Hands' grocery-filled pantry bags. Now in its fifth year, Tackle Hunger continues to collect breakfast essentials to help local families access nutritious meals.

The event was promoted through a TV segment featuring a visit from Owsley, a cereal-toss competition with BHH volunteers, and a special sticker added to FAU's football helmet recognizing Boca Helping Hands as an official FAU partner. Thank you to WPTV, WFLX FOX 29, and T.A. Walker for highlighting the initiative and helping spread the word! Boca Helping Hands also welcomes Robes Law as a sponsor of the Owls this season. Through its Robes Law Tackle Hunger, Tackle for a Loss campaign, the firm will donate $26 to Boca Helping Hands for every Owls tackle for a loss this season, celebrating FAU's 26th season of football.

Thank you to all who volunteered, donated cereal, and supported this initiative to help tackle hunger in our community!

July's Community Impact Recap



Celebrating our July Summer Challenge!

By Steve King, Chief Advancement Officer

In July, Boca Helping Hands' Summer Support-a-Thon united our neighbors in a powerful demonstration of compassion and solidarity, rallying together to uplift those facing food insecurity across Palm Beach County as every donation was doubled up to a total of $35,000 thanks to Lyn and Barry Chasen. As summer brings heightened challenges for many families, consistent community engagement is vital to ensure that everyone has access to nourishing meals and the resources necessary for a brighter future.

This initiative shined a spotlight on the power of generosity, fueling Boca Helping Hands' dual mission: alleviating hunger and empowering lives through Food Assistance and Workforce Development. Whether it's placing wholesome groceries in the hands of a family or opening doors to career training, each act of kindness leaves an enduring mark on our community.

We are deeply grateful to every supporter who contributed, amplified our message, or championed our mission. Because of you, Boca Helping Hands can reach over 40,000 neighbors annually and build a foundation for a more hopeful Palm Beach County.

Corporate Challenge Packs a Punch

By Lance Anderson, Director of Food Assistance Programs

During Boca Helping Hands' Third Annual Corporate Challenge, 14 local businesses rallied together in a spirited workplace food drive, stocking pantry shelves with much-needed non-perishable goods. This year's friendly competition awarded the coveted boxing-style champion's belts based on employee count and total food collected by weight.

Together, participating companies donated an impressive 22,195 pounds of food, equivalent to 18,495 meals and valued at $51,270. Their collective effort showcases the power of community partnership and corporate responsibility in addressing food insecurity across Palm Beach County.

This year's champions are:

- Heavyweight Champion (101+ employees): ADMA Biologics — 16,418 pounds
- Middleweight Champion (51-100 employees): Woolbright Development — 1,073 pounds
- Lightweight Champion (50 or fewer employees): SouthState Bank — 966 pounds

Their generosity will help provide nutritious food to our neighbors facing food insecurity throughout Palm Beach County. Thank you to each company for putting your commitment to our community into action.



ADMA Biologics celebrates its first-place finish



SouthState Bank celebrates its lightweight victory


Woolbright Development proudly claims the middleweight title

Volunteer Spotlight: Celebrating Katie Cane's Impact Behind the Scenes

By Kori Ernst, Development Manager



When Katie Cane moved to Boca Raton, Florida, from Kansas City, Missouri, in 2020 for her husband's job, she was eager to find a meaningful way to get involved in her new community. Having previously volunteered in clerical roles, Katie was looking for an opportunity to put her time, talents, and energy to good use. It didn't take long for her to become an invaluable asset to the Boca Helping Hands Development team!
Over the past six years, Katie has generously dedicated her time to supporting the Development Department, becoming an essential part of its day-to-day operations and special events. For the past five years, she has played an especially important role in the success of our Hands & Hearts Gala (formerly MONOPOLY Casino Night). From stuffing envelopes and preparing mailings to making phone calls to secure auction items and assisting with countless behind-the-scenes details, Katie is always willing to lend a helping hand.

Katie's dedication goes far beyond the tasks she completes. Her positive attitude, dependability, and willingness to take on any project make her someone our team can always count on. Whether she is helping with a major fundraising event or tackling the smallest administrative detail, Katie approaches everything with enthusiasm and care. Simply put, we couldn't do what we do without her! She has become such an important part of our Development team, and her contributions help make so much of our work possible.

Outside of her time at Boca Helping Hands, Katie has lived in various places around the world and is an avid traveler who enjoys exploring new destinations and experiencing different cultures. When she's not traveling or volunteering, Katie enjoys spending time with her dog, Vivian, whom she trains for agility competitions. Whether she's exploring the world, working with Vivian, or lending a hand at BHH, Katie brings the same dedication and enthusiasm to everything she does!

We are incredibly fortunate that Katie chose to share her time and talents with Boca Helping Hands. Her unwavering commitment and generosity have made a lasting impact on our organization, and we cannot thank her enough for everything she does.

Rock the Relief: Holiday Giving Celebration

Celebrate the holiday season while making a difference in the community at Boca Helping Hands' Rock the Relief: Holiday Giving Celebration on Sunday, November 29, 2026, from 6–9 p.m. at Crazy Uncle Mike's.

This festive evening brings the community together for a great cause, with all proceeds supporting Boca Helping Hands' Annual Matching Campaign. Every contribution helps put food on the table and open doors to employment opportunities for individuals and families throughout Palm Beach County.

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer, live music by King's Highway, and community giving as we come together to spread joy, create opportunities, and make the season brighter for our neighbors in need.



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BOCA HELPING HANDS

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Support the 2026 Annual Matching Campaign

From Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, any unrestricted contribution you make will be matched up to $200,000, thanks to the Gary Peters Family Foundation. Your gift will support Boca Helping Hands and the 40,000 lives we touch each year through our programs.

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