

fall 2020



DOCK youth receiving school supplies and healthy snacks for virtual learning in March

The DOCK Responds to COVID-19

As a community developer, one of Neighbor Up Brevard's guiding principles is listening to the felt needs of the communities we serve. While everyone is feeling the effects of COVID-19, the effects are experienced disproportionately in vulnerable communities, such as the Booker T. Washington neighborhood – home of the DOCK and Greater Heights.

The DOCK typically serves 150 at risk youth per year – 100% coming from low income households. For many, that translates to families surviving on less than \$25,000 annually. The vast majority (87%) are single female-headed households. They strive to balance long working hours with care for their children. Some youth have parents absent from their lives, due to incarceration or other factors. These dynamics have negative implications on youth's academic careers. DOCK children often begin school already lagging behind their peers.

These factors which already present significant challenges to DOCK youth, have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis. Since March, 60% of DOCK families report some/all lost income. Additionally, not all homes were equipped with the technology to support online learning. Many parents are essential employees – unable to work remotely and therefore, unavailable to oversee and support online learning. In some cases, parents or grandparents raising grandkids do not have the educational background needed to guide their children or teens.

Since March, DOCK staff have worked quickly and effectively to respond to these needs as they evolve. Early on, this meant regular food distribution in the neighborhood and making sure DOCK youth had access to the technology

required for online learning. Over the summer, it meant working with each family to determine the greatest needs for childcare and academic assistance; and operating a 10-week summer camp at 50% capacity for those youth. Currently, the priorities have evolved again to serve both youth that are returning to in-person learning, and those who will attend virtually due to high risk health complications of their own, or someone in their household.

60% of DOCK families are experiencing some/all lost income

While there are so many unknowns this school year, we do know that whether our youth returned in-person or virtually, many face increased academic challenges as a result of school closures and online learning in the last nine weeks of the 2019-20 school year. A recent article in the New York Times estimates that “when all of the impacts are taken into account, the average student could fall seven months behind academically, while black and Hispanic students could experience even greater learning losses, equivalent to 10 months for black children and nine months for Latinos.”

In summary, the “summer slide,” a phrase used to describe academic losses over the summer months, has become the “COVID slide,” with minority youth experiencing greater academic losses. DOCK youth (of whom 78% are Black or Hispanic) – whether learning online or virtually – will require more academic assistance than ever to remain on target with their peers.

COVID-19 Response continued inside



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Visit www.neighborupbrevard.org

COVID-19 Response *continued*

"The average student could fall seven months behind academically, while Black and Hispanic students could experience even greater learning losses, equivalent to 10 months for black children and nine months for Latinos." – New York Times

Our overarching goal at the DOCK has always been, and continues to be, helping children to compete more effectively with their peers today and providing them with critical skills and knowledge they need for future success. We believe it is important to set measurable, time-bound objectives, and to challenge ourselves and the children to achieve even more each year. One critical metric is academic achievement – measured by report cards, advancing from grade to grade and graduation rates. Our goal is to maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher (the graduation requirement is 2.0).

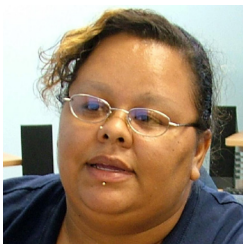
Eau Gallie High School Principal, Jeremy Salmon, sees the DOCK as a critical partner in mitigating the unfortunate statistics we expect to play out academically. He said, "The DOCK is a community resource that fills the gap in our students' lives that encompasses both academic and social emotional support. This new reality of the pandemic has in many cases broadened and increased the needs of

many of our most challenged and at-risk students. We value deeply the partnership that has been developed between the DOCK and EGHS because it is good for our kids."



Executive Director, Lynn Brockwell-Carey, and DOCK Director, Trevor Howard, preparing for COVID relief food distribution.

In Memory of Evelina Cruz

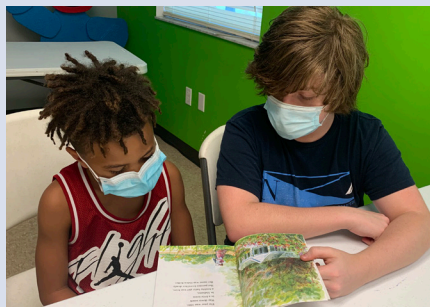


Evelina Cruz, beloved DOCK Youth Program Aide, lost her battle with cancer and went to the Lord in February of this year. "Miss Ev"

first came to the DOCK alongside her five-year old son, Travon, when he entered Kindergarten. She faithfully volunteered daily for three years. Evelina was a natural with the kids and well-respected by other DOCK parents, so when the DOCK numbers swelled and then-DOCK Director Botavia Jackson needed to hire an afternoon aide, Evelina was the natural choice! She was employed as the DOCK Youth Program Aide for 11 years. Evelina's love for children was evidenced not only at the DOCK, but also as she opened her heart and home, becoming "mom" to three other children.

Evelina remains in the hearts of so many children, volunteers and staff whom she touched.

Leadership Development & Neighborhood Revitalization



A Junior Leader works with an elementary aged DOCK camper

The practices of hiring Junior Leaders at the DOCK and residents of the surrounding neighborhood at Evans Center is Christian Community Development in action!

According to the Christian Community Development Association, of which Neighbor Up Brevard is a member, the most effective way to stabilize a struggling neighborhood for the long term and fill gaps in spiritual and economic leadership is by raising up Christian leaders within the community who will remain there to live and lead.

For many young people living in struggling communities, success is often defined as being able to move away. Valuing escapism has created a talent drain on those communities. The CCDA website sites that, "Leadership development is possible only when there is longevity of ministry. All too often people are guilty of trying to have quick fixes in poor neighborhoods. Leadership development is of the highest priority in Christian Community Development."

The key to keeping local youth invested in their community is a dynamic youth ministry, like the DOCK, that is reaching young people with the good news of Jesus Christ and then equipping them to become faithful followers, and effective community leaders who love their neighbors, and have the skills and abilities to lead churches, organizations and other institutions that bring sustainable health to our communities.

"The task of leadership is not to

DOCK Teens Take on Leadership Roles

Neighbor Up Brevard staff is known to say, “The DOCK runs on volunteers!” In a typical week, about 35 volunteers deliver 100+ hours of service! When the COVID pandemic struck, we were faced with the dual challenge of students needing more academic assistance and a reduced volunteer corps. Many of our volunteers are of retirement age, and therefore, at greater risk of contracting COVID-19.

This situation called for DOCK teens to the rescue! We utilized 10 “Junior Leaders” to help staff the summer program. Junior Leaders are DOCK teens and/or DOCK graduates currently enrolled in college, who were hired to provide academics, character building and life skills programming. Funding for the summer was made possible through the Melbourne Police Department and CARES Act funds (via the City of Melbourne). Employing DOCK teens reduced risk of spread as several of the teens are older siblings of the youth. We experienced no cases of COVID among participants this summer. We also provided much needed employment for teens in the area!

One such teen is Tara*, a junior at Eau Gallie High School, who has attended the DOCK since she was 9. Tara lives with her mom and two siblings. She aspires to join the U.S. Army while continuing to cultivate her artistic skills. This summer, Tara had the opportunity to help her mom with household expenses and save a little money. She earned close to \$2000 by working at DOCK summer camp each day. Tara also went to another job from 5 pm to 11 pm, but she claims the Junior Leader experience was more rewarding. Her favorite parts were being rewarded with the kids’ smiles and learning how to transition a 6-year old on the verge of a meltdown to calm and relaxed.

Besides filling the vital function of supporting DOCK children academically, it should be noted that the long-term benefits of the DOCK Jr Leader program are immeasurable. College is not a foregone conclusion for DOCK youth. DOCK graduates who attend college are often the first in their families to do so. Children at the DOCK look up to their Jr Leaders and are watching as these teens and college students carve out their own career paths. Their example and mentoring will light a path out of poverty.

*name changed to protect teen’s privacy

“Have you ever needed someone to talk to? Someone you could confide in? Someone who could bring a smile to your face along with a comforting word of healing at a time when you need it the most. This is what makes Evans Community Market so unique, that someone named Hazel Walker.” -Art Derico

Evans Hires Neighborhood Leaders

Hazel Walker came to Florida from Chicago when a scholarship that would have yielded a degree in youth ministry fell through during her second year of college. While a more formal path in ministry training was no longer available to Hazel, her intentions to serve kept her on a ministerial path. From a position where she planned children’s after school programs to coordinating lunch programs at a local Christian school, Hazel says, “I believe in Jesus Christ and I just follow His voice.”

When Hazel heard that her neighborhood store was hiring, she followed that voice again, and was hired by Market Manager, Arthur Derico, as his Assistant Manager. Hazel says that the new skills she is learning are pulling her out of her comfort zone and forcing her to learn more about areas required to keep the store running smoothly – like inventory and accounting.

Hazel met her husband, Minor Walker, 22 years ago when their best friends were dating. Minor is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and an engineer by training, who eventually followed his heart to culinary school. Today, he teaches cooking classes at Evans Center and is the baker at Evans market. Ironically, this position is somewhat of a homecoming for Minor, as his childhood home was on site in one of the apartments above Mr. Ross Evans original grocery store.

Today, Hazel and Minor are fixtures of the community store and live out the store’s slogan, #communitystrong. Evans is more than a store. It is a place where homeless persons, seniors, and others received free meals and/or groceries during the COVID lockdown; where children have a safe place to visit and where teens find their first jobs. As Evans Center employees, Hazel and Minor embody what it means to lead and serve.

Gifts from the Heart

December 5th is the opening date for the 5th annual Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop. This year we have nine local nonprofit organizations partnering to create a unique,



Hazel lives across the street from Evans Center and has been employed there since opening in February 2019.

affordable, and dignity-affirming toy shopping experience for the parents of children in their respective programs. Partners include Neighbor Up Brevard, Club Esteem, Love INC, Community of Hope, Family Promise of Brevard, New Life Mission (formerly Brevard Rescue Mission), Eckerd Connects, Habitat for Humanity of Brevard, and the Children’s Home Society.

Joan Sorensen, Neighbor Up Brevard Board Member and GFTH organizer says, “With this challenging year, children will be especially looking forward to Christmas, but, with the economic impact and job losses associated with COVID, families will find it more difficult than ever to provide Christmas for their children without the GFTH Christmas shop. In response, we will be discounting prices even further in 2020 while maintaining the dignity affirming shopping experience we have always provided with the help of our caring staff and volunteers, many of whom are clients of our partner organizations.”



Carolina (center) with other 2019 shop managers

Carolina Delpree, a customer of the Gifts from the Heart Shop and client of New Life Mission, will be looking forward to shopping this year’s store. In 2019, she was one of two assistant managers at the shop and liked to tell her eight-year old daughter that she was “managing Santa’s Florida warehouse.”

Carolina came to be involved in the New Life Mission program in August 2019. She was recently separated from her husband, homeless, and shopping at a thrift store when an unknown woman tapped on her shoulder and told her about the program. Carolina said of the experience, “You don’t look for some people, but God puts them in your way. I had never even heard of New Life Mission, but I needed them.” As an employee of Gifts from the Heart Shop, Carolina was able to put her retail experience to good use. Her favorite memories of the job were setting up the store and “seeing the faces of the parents who wouldn’t have otherwise been able to purchase those gifts.” Carolina adds, “You could see the happiness on their faces!”

You can find more information about the program and how you can help at: www.giftsfromtheheartshop.org.

put greatness into people, but to elicit it, for the greatness is there already.” – John Buchan

Message from Neighbor Up Brevard's Board President



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire team at Neighbor Up Brevard, please accept my deepest thanks for your continued support of our mission to revitalize impoverished communities. It's my

hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy through all of the challenges 2020 has brought us. Neighbor Up has tirelessly led with resiliency throughout the pandemic, as well as during recent events across our country which have shed light on racial, social and economic inequality that many of those who we serve experience every day.

Throughout this issue of The Catalyst we hope you find inspiration in seeing so many of our DOCK teens stepping up as Junior Leaders over the summer, and through the work being done at Evans Center. We also strive to bring out the feeling of hope in all of you as you read about how the DOCK team has been working to combat the "COVID slide" as well as our work at Gifts from the Heart as we near this upcoming holiday season.

Whatever in your heart has drawn you to be a supporter of Neighbor Up, please know that you are so critical to the work we do every single day. Without your ongoing support, the growth and prosperity of our organization would simply not be possible. Stay safe and healthy, and know that you and your families are on the hearts and minds of all of our staff, board members and volunteers.

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Evans Center Hunger Relief Program "FOOD-2-GO"

25

**Number
of Days
(April 14 -
May 21)**



330

**Average
Distribution
Per Day**



8,429

Total Meals



6,119

**Melbourne
Residents
Served**



1,604

**Palm Bay
Residents
Served**



490

**Homeless
Served**



Thanks to Our Donors

Community Foundation for Brevard, Daily Bread, South Brevard Sharing Center, Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Second Harvest Food Bank, VOAD, Carroll Distributing, Kentucky Fried Chicken and many others.

15th Annual ANCHOR BREAKFAST



Save the Date!
(Tentatively)

April 9, 2021

Since our 10th annual Anchor Breakfast in 2016, we started the tradition of recognizing the loyal donors who have given faithfully for 10 consecutive years. Regrettably, we were not able to thank them in a proper fashion since the event was virtual due to COVID-19. We would like to take the opportunity to do that now! Each donor received an Anchor plaque uniquely designed by a DOCK youth.

Mary Baldwin
Jack & Sherry Ryals
Mary & Patrick Blucker
Sandi Scannelli
Hartley & Brenda Caldwell
Shein & Wente
Kathy & Mark Cobb
Naomi Shuler

Mariel & Jeff Simon
Community Foundation
for Brevard
Anthony & Melinda Thomas
Rita & Jessie Hewett
Sandra & William Wunderly
Kim & Nat Miller

DOCK Class of 2020

Thanks to our staff, loyal volunteers, visionary Board of Directors, and donors, these bright young men and women have had a safe place to envision and prepare for their futures. They are now setting an aspirational example for youth in their community. Jeremy Salmon, Eau Gallie High School Principal and Neighbor Up Brevard Board Member said of the graduates, "I am so proud of these kids because they set a goal to graduate and followed through to achieve their goal. The example they set for others to follow has had such an impact on the community! The DOCK is the cornerstone that supports these students' endeavors both in the classroom and in the community. I wish them well as they move on to the next chapter of their lives."



Isaiah Elam is pursuing a career as an entrepreneur and taking business classes at EFSC.



Michael Walker is attending EFSC with the goal of becoming an EMT.



Tyliyah Bursey has begun classes at EFSC. Her plan is to pursue paralegal studies at UCF followed by a law degree at FAMU.

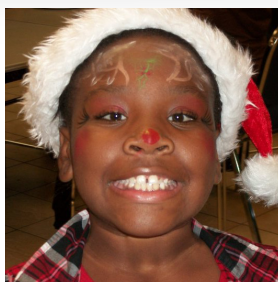


Tionna Maynard is pursuing a career in nursing.

STARS Scholarship Program

When Carol Dana had a milestone birthday, she told her husband Mike that in lieu of a gift for herself, she would like their family to seed a Florida Pre-Paid scholarship for a DOCK student. They had already begun to designate gifts to the DOCK for college scholarships, in loving memory of the DOCK's founding director, Irene Summerford. Carol also did research and discovered that Florida's Stanley Tate STARS program would match their donations! Thanks to the Dana's generosity and the STARS match, we are able to award six to seven students with full funding for 60 credits (which amounts to an Associate's Degree).

The first scholarship recipient is Tyliyah Bursey. The other DOCK scholarship recipients have been chosen. These scholarships will be awarded over the next seven years. Knowing that they have this wonderful future opportunity is a great incentive for them as they pursue their junior and senior high school studies.



Tyliyah's elementary years at the DOCK

Volunteer Spotlight



Kerry Johnson (left) volunteering at Neighbor Up's 2019 Friend's Fest, also shown with Neighbor Up accountant, Nancy Cox, and Executive Director, Lynn Brockwell-Carey

Keith and Kerry Johnson became aware of Neighbor Up Brevard years ago when they learned about this mission through their church, Trinity Wellsprings. (Trinity has been a mission partner since 2001 when Neighbor Up was launched!) Keith and Kerry recall helping with projects at Greater Heights apartments, such as power washing and painting.

Kerry, an avid reader and serious organizer, then made her way across the street and got involved at the DOCK library. For the past several years, she and some other Trinity women have been creating systems to keep our books organized by reading level. As summer approaches, Kerry even recruits prizes from local businesses to incentivize the kids to read. Recently, Kerry and the DOCK staff recognized that the library should also be organized so that Accelerated Reader (AR) books are easy to identify. AR is a system used to track kids' reading and comprehension skills. Kerry recruited a local Girl Scout troop to help with the task, and they were able to earn their Silver Award, which entails identifying a project they care about and spending a minimum of 50 hours to see it to completion.

When COVID struck and a need presented itself in the neighborhood surrounding the Evans Center, Keith and Kerry both jumped into action to deliver weekly groceries to the elderly. This translated to 110+ deliveries over the course of eight weeks and 20 volunteer hours. When the Evans Community Market re-opened, both were on the scene again to employ their retail skills and stock shelves in preparation.

Kerry recognizes the value of volunteerism in the life of the volunteer and those served. She said, "Volunteering translates to impact for everyone... seeing the kids be successful, and eventually graduating; knowing that you help put kids on a path and gave them a good foundation is so rewarding."

If you are interested in making a book donation to the DOCK library, Kerry suggests multiple copies of series so that the kids can participate in book club discussion, and easy readers for early elementary children. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please email volunteers@neighborupbrevard.org or complete the form at neighborupbrevard.org/give-your-time



JUICES / \$5

SMOOTHIES / \$7

Swiss Beets

A blend of kale, swiss chards, lemon, lime, green apple, beets and ginger as a refreshing detox that also strengthens the immune system and heart health.

Ginger Shot

A shot of ginger, turmeric, cinnamon and honey every morning fights inflammation and revs your mind and body for a fabulously healthy day.

20/20

Switch up your regular orange juice for this blend of carrots, freshly squeezed lemon, green apple and ginger.

Banana Mango

Creamy, sweet and basically sunshine in a cup. Take this with you when you are traveling around town or just have it for breakfast.

Simply Summer

We gathered together your favorite fruits and threw in the kitchen sink! If you like, crumble a multigrain bar on the top. Yummy!

Tropical Strawberry

This creamy smoothie is a great way to give you a little pick-me-up on those hot summer days. Always a favorite!

Donations sustain the mission of Neighbor Up Brevard —

To plan, facilitate and implement solutions for the revitalization of impoverished communities.

Neighbor Up Brevard has been blessed with generous grants from the following sources since the last issue of the Catalyst. Thank you for your support!

Bank of America

Collins Aerospace

Community Foundation for Brevard

Eau Gallie Rotary

Margaret Heins Foundation

The Margaret McCartney & R Parks

Williams Charitable Foundation

Melbourne Police Department

PNC Foundation

Seacoast Bank

Truist Foundation

United Way of Brevard

Walmart

Wells Fargo Foundation



Thank you to Elevation Church, Butterflies of Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, Glen Outlaw's "Tied Together" Corporation, & Prestige Title of Brevard for outfitting DOCK kids with backpacks and school supplies.

Mr. Howard and the rest of the DOCK staff working hard to keep our facilities safe and germ-free.

Christmas came early when Sun Nuclear donated 14 new laptops - a super help to our kids going back to school virtually.



Look for our new promotional video with DOCK teen, Emilianette, courtesy of Next Level Marketing.

Special thanks to our Community Partners — donors who make a monthly pledge to Neighbor Up Brevard and provide necessary operating funds for the organization:

Mary & Rick Blucker

Tom & Linda Brandon

Ryan Brown

Michael Carey & Lynn

Brockwell-Carey

Denise & Tyrone Carter

Karen & George Caruso

Susan Crowder

LeRoy & Arlene Darby

Ashlee & Ernest Davidson

Pennie & Joe Di Prima

Arturo & Susan Echarte

Melissa & Michael Euziere

Lisa & Dave Farrall

Georgianna United

Methodist Church

Rita Giuffrida

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Valerie & Darrell Holloway

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GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE!



Neighbor Up Brevard is proud of our Guidestar gold seal.

YES! I would like to "Neighbor Up"!

Name_____

Address_____

Email_____ Phone_____

One-time Donation to Neighbor Up Brevard \$_____

Designate my gift to:

_____ General fund _____ DOCK _____ Greater Heights _____ Evans Center

I would like to join the Community Partners by pledging \$_____ on a monthly basis. Please invoice me.

_____ I would like to sponsor the Phone-a-Thon and have enclosed \$_____.
(visit www.neighborupbrevard.org/phone-a-thon for details)

_____ I would like more information about planned giving.

_____ I would like more information about volunteer opportunities.

A big thank you to Sutton Properties (\$25,000) and an anonymous donor (\$10,000), whose match challenge resulted in our most successful Anchor Breakfast to date!

Recent Donors Contributing \$500 or more*:

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Neighbor Up Brevard is a proud United Way agency.

*donations received between 2.4.20 and 8.28.20



Hope inspired. Community driven.

HAVE YOU HEARD?

Neighbor Up Brevard will be hitting the phones to accept your donations and “dial for dollars” on November 12, from 4:30 to 5 pm. Join us for an energetic Phone-a-Thon on Facebook Live.

Visit neighborupbrevard.org/phone-a-thon to sponsor the event or give today.



Hope inspired. Community driven.

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