

THE CATALYST



fall 2022

A Beacon of Hope

DOCK founding director, Sister Irene Summerford (1948 - 2008) knew firsthand the suffering born out of poverty, inequality, and injustice. Despite this reality, she would say, "Hope is one thing that no one can take from you." She chose to embrace the vision that, with God's help, she and her colleagues at Neighbor Up Brevard could be hope-builders for future generations. Today, inspired by Irene's legacy and fortified with a strong staff team and growing volunteer corps, we strive to run daily operations with excellence. Whether it's a child being tutored at the DOCK, a parent finding affordable housing for his family at Greater Heights, or a customer accessing healthy food at Evans Community Market, our programs offer vital resources and help. But those same programs have an impact that runs much deeper. Neighbor Up's programs offer a beacon of hope! Along with the practical help, there is inspiration, motivation, and encouragement!

Aleya and Elijah's story is a testimony to this. Elijah is a smart, cheerful, 9 year old who loves to play and participate in DOCK group activities. Elijah has an active imagination and is motivated – already having written a movie starring himself! Elijah is a lot like his mom. When we met Aleya and Elijah, Aleya was a 25-year old single parent bursting with energy and enthusiasm for the future. Aleya was working hard to break the cycle of poverty and provide Elijah the stability that she did not experience. As a child, Aleya was in and out of foster care. When her mom was diagnosed with cancer, Aleya left school at age 15 to care for her mom, and her niece and nephew. It was during this time that Aleya became pregnant with Elijah. Tragically, her mother passed when she was 18. Despite having very little support, Aleya was determined to be an involved parent, striving to raise Elijah and give him the opportunity for a promising future.

This is where the DOCK came in. The DOCK has been a key partner for Aleya, helping to provide academic and character support to Elijah and economic stability to Aleya. With encouragement from DOCK staff and funding from a DOCK donor, Aleya achieved her long-held goal of earning her GED. She did not waste any time enrolling at Eastern



Aleya and Elijah

Florida State where she is pursuing her AA. DOCK staff also helped Aleya land a job. When our friends at Orion180 reached out to ask if we knew someone who was looking for work, the DOCK staff recommended Aleya. She began in a part-time capacity, and is now working full-time at Orion180 as an accounting clerk.

Elijah is thriving in school and their family expanded as Aleya was married this year! Our DOCK staff and volunteers will continue to be role models and mentors for Elijah, and to be supportive of Aleya. Hope abounds!



Jobs (and Hope) for Teens!

This summer teens found employment at the DOCK and Evans Center. Thanks to a grant from L3Harris, four teens who attend the DOCK were employed as summer camp “Jr. Leaders”. Also, the Evans Community Market employed three teens as sales associates and as a cook. In addition to creating jobs in neighborhoods with virtually no first-time job opportunities (and where youth may not have access to reliable transportation), there is also evidence to support that teens who manage jobs in high school experience advantageous outcomes! Youth First reports that teens who are Hispanic (4% of DOCK youth), Black (71%), or economically-disadvantaged (100%), who balance school and a job are less likely to drop out of high school than those who do not work during their high school years. Additionally, having a summer job is linked to an increase in the chances of youth graduating from high school and reducing the risk for involvement in criminal activity and the juvenile justice system.



Summer camps always include “Brain Power Hour”.



A Jr Leader offers tips on putting.



DOCK Youth Program Manager Darius Clark and DOCK students enjoyed a trip to Universal Studios. A special thanks to Eckerd Connects and the Margaret Binz Foundation for supporting field trips related to STEM, college tours, and fun!



A glimpse of college life! Teen Program Manager Tammy Robinson took DOCK teens to see FAMU, FSU, and TCC in Tallahassee. Back in Melbourne there was summer fun in bumper cars.

Volunteer Spotlight

Faith (and Hope) for Youth!

Posted on Pastor Michael Carey's fridge is a cherished postcard that he recently received from DOCK student Jahlee. The message reads, "Thank you for keeping our DOCK grounded in faith"! There are two volunteers who have been mentoring DOCK children in JAM (Jesus and Me) sessions for many years. Mary Blucker joined the volunteer corps in 2009 and Michael followed in 2014. Each week they bring engaging lessons aimed at teaching Bible stories, helping the children explore how those stories are relevant for their lives, and modeling the joy and peace that comes when we have a personal relationship with Jesus. Mary was first connected to the DOCK through Ascension Catholic Church. As a leader of Ascension's Jr. High youth ministry Mary brought teens to the DOCK. Their outreach included leading high-energy VBS (Vacation Bible School) programs. The love that she felt at the DOCK spurred Mary to become a weekly volunteer. She says, "I admire the high bar that is always set for the students. The DOCK children are awesome and I always feel welcome. I love to find ways to present the Bible that the kids will enjoy. And I learn from them too!" This year Mary is a leader on the early elementary JAM team.

Michael has been a cultivator of gardens and faith at the DOCK! Married to Lynn Brockwell-Carey, Neighbor Up's Executive Director, Michael had heard plenty about the DOCK. Knowing that male mentors were vital, and anticipating that he would benefit from spending time with the children, Michael volunteered to lead a garden club. Eventually his role expanded to include teaching JAM to the older elementary children. This year his focus is on teaching the 5th graders. We are so grateful to Mary and Michael for their long-time commitment and for being beacons of hope at the DOCK!

Related to hope, Michael has recently published a devotional book entitled [Build Hope: 40 Days with Nehemiah to Bless Your World](#). Readers are encouraged to explore how they are called to serve and given practical guidance for the journey. The book includes stories inspired by his connections at the DOCK. Check it out on Amazon!



Mary leading JAM



Michael and garden club

Evans Center Focuses On Health

This summer, Evans Center teamed up with the Powell Subdivision Neighborhood Watch to make sure that 177 children in SE Melbourne/NE Palm Bay were well fed and that they had books to read. In its 13th year, the summer "Read and Feed" program offered warm lunches each weekday. This resident-led program assured that children who would normally receive a free school lunch do not have to go hungry in the summer. The program also seeks to engender a love for reading by providing books to take home. Evans was a site each Monday and Friday. Partners who provided food on other days were Thy Kingdom Come Church, Scott Chapel UMC, and the United Way.

Evans also hosted "Cooking with Color" summer camps.

These programs stem from Evans Center's mission to eradicate food insecurity and raise the standard of health in the Powell-Driskell Heights area. This has never been more timely, especially for our youth. According to the Journal of Family Medicine and Primary Care childhood obesity has reached epidemic levels across the world. "Childhood obesity can profoundly affect children's physical health, social, and emotional well-being, and self esteem. It is also associated with poor academic performance and a lower quality of life experienced by the child. Many co-

morbid conditions like metabolic, cardiovascular, orthopedic, neurological, hepatic, pulmonary, and renal disorders are also seen in association with childhood obesity." Evans cooking instructor Talancia Pea of Every1Moves brings a wealth of knowledge about good nutrition and a high-energy, personable approach to teaching. She introduces children and teens to healthy food that is also yummy and fun to create! She said, "It is great to see the kids try foods that they have never eaten before! It is empowering to give children the knowledge and experience of healthy eating. I stress that they can control their decisions, for instance choosing green beans over french fries." Students leave her class more aware that they can choose their own health outcomes. Parents are always welcome to participate in the classes and pick up new insights also.



Talancia Pea is passionate about promoting healthy habits! Space Coast Health Foundation and Florida Blue Foundation are funding multiple camps in 2022. (Photos courtesy of Florida Today.)

LYNN'S LETTER



Hello Friends,

This Catalyst issue focuses on the hope that is built every day in the programs that fall under the “umbrella” of Neighbor Up Brevard. If you haven’t done so lately, come visit us and see for yourself! One wonderful way to see the impact of your support in the Booker T

Washington community is to attend the fall Friends Fest. The Fest will connect communities through an Old Timey Carnival where we enjoy classic carnival games & treats, live music, silent auction, and delicious BBQ from Georgianna Church’s BBQ Boys ministry. Evans Community Market will serve up scrumptious sides and the DOCK children’s cooking class is making festive, yummy desserts! Related to community spirit, I encourage you to visit Evans Center and the market which is open Monday through Saturday. At a recent Palm Bay City Council meeting, council members were effusive in their remarks about how important Evans has become as a community hub! Evans leaders are also planning a fundraiser that is top on my list for December fun. If you enjoy the smooth sounds of Motown, join us for a Motown Christmas Concert with former lead singers from the Temptations, Drifters, Platters, and Four Tops. However you chose to support Neighbor Up – from praying for our staff & board and those we serve, to making a donation, volunteering, and/or visiting – your support provides a beacon of hope!

Gratefully,

Lynn

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Scenes from last year's Friends Fest.



Spring 2022 Anchor Breakfast.





Motown Magic Moments

WINTER CONCERT

Featuring
Voices of Classic Soul

ENJOY CLASSIC SOUNDS OF LEGENDARY SOUL WITH FORMER LEAD SINGERS OF THE
TEMPTATIONS, DRIFTERS, THE PLATTERS & THE FOUR TOPS.

Save the Date!

December 8th, 2022

GLEASON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
AT FLORIDA TECH, 7:00PM
150 W UNIVERSITY BLVD, MELBOURNE, FL 32901

Gifts From the Heart offers Hope at Christmas

December 3rd is the opening date for the 7th annual Gifts From the Heart Christmas Shop. This year we have eight local nonprofit organizations partnering to create a unique, 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, Eckerd Connects, New Life Mission, and Women's Center of Brevard. Highland Avenue Fellowship Church and Rockledge United Methodist Church graciously serve as hosts, as their fellowship halls are transformed into seasonal toy stores! Last year 589 children received gifts that their own parents had the joy of purchasing for them. Donors received something too. As they gave new toys to stock the Gifts from the Heart Christmas stores, there was joy in knowing that they helped make Christmas possible for the children, by making Christmas shopping affordable for their parents. For more information about the program and how you can help this year: giftsfromtheheartshop.org.



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!

Andre Family Foundation

Bank of America

Community Foundation for Brevard

Eau Gallie Rotary Charities Corp

Florida Blue Foundation

L3Harris Foundation

Renaissance Charitable Foundation

Space Coast Health Foundation

United Way of Brevard

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

Angie Barber

Mary & Rick Blucker

Linda & Tom Brandon

Stephanie Brinson

Michael Carey & Lynn

Brockwell- Carey

Ryan Brown

Rev Cynthia Brust

Tyrone & Denise Carter

Jordin Chandler

Mark & Katherine Cobb

Joseph & Michelle

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Ernest & Ashlee Davidson

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Methodist Church

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Rita Giuffrida

Greater Ward Chapel AME

Church

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Carol Sanchez

Luis & Lori Santiago

Kim White & Booker

Schmidt

Steven & Tiffany Sergis

Slug-a-Bug Inc

Kenneth Stackpoole

Rebekah Tanner

Foster Thayer

Leslie & Tim Tibbetts

Trinity Wellsprings Church

Brian & Amy Turner

Mark & Judi Wallace



Evans Center partnered with Powell Subdivision Neighborhood Watch leaders, the police departments at both the City of Melbourne and the City of Palm Bay, and area church volunteers for a very successful summer Read and Feed program.



The DOCK teamed up with Hey Blue!, the Melbourne police, and attorney Alton Edmond. Positive connections were made with our youth, including this training on “what to do when you get pulled over”.

GIVE WITH CONFIDENCE!



Neighbor Up Brevard is proud of our Guidestar platinum seal.

Recent Donors Contributing \$500 or more*:

We focus on:

Kevin & Christine Arter

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L3Harris Corporation

Christine Lance

Macedonia Missionary Baptist
Church

Peter & Jenna Mannino

Robert & Jenifer Marx



Education

The DOCK's goal is to enable children and teens to compete more effectively with their peers today and provide them with critical skills and knowledge for the future.



Health & Wellness

Evans Center is eradicating food insecurity and raising the standard of health in the community.



Affordable Housing

Greater Heights recognizes that housing is a human right and provides pleasant, affordable housing to workforce families and the elderly.

Our Guiding Principles are:

Listening Well

to the collective voices of Neighborhood residents as they share their hopes, their dreams, their ideas and their wisdom.

Empowering

through Development over Betterment because betterment does for others and development enables others to do for themselves.



Staying the Course

by making a deep and abiding commitment to the neighborhoods we serve. Neighbor Up is Celebrating 20 years in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood.

River Tree Builders

Wendy Romeu

Cindy Ross

Jack & Sherry Ryals

Dan & Diane Scheuerer

Jeff & Mariel Simon

Scott & Joan Sorensen

Southstatebank, N.A.

St. Davids By The Sea
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*donations received between 3.2.22 and 10.1.22

Save the Date, November 12

2 to 5 p.m.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

neighborupbrevard.org/friendsfest

FRIENDS FEST 2022

LIVE MUSIC
SILENT AUCTION

BBO & PARADE
GAMES & PRIZES

Hope inspired. Community driven.

