

# Health and Human Services

20 N. Main St. Room 161  
Brooksville, FL 34601

352-540-4338 352-540-4339 fax

[www.hernandocounty.us/healthandhumanservices](http://www.hernandocounty.us/healthandhumanservices)



“January 2012”

A Publication of the Hernando County  
Department of Health and Human Services

Health Observances.....	Page 1
Housing Information.....	Page 1-2
Community Events .....	Pages 1-12
Food & More.....	Pages 7-8
Support Group.....	Pages 9-10
Helpful Information.....	Pages 1-12
Veteran Services.....	Page 11-12



## Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3

Hernando County has been awarded approximately \$1.95 million for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program 3 which may be utilized for down payment, mortgage buy down, minor rehabilitation, and related assistance to income-qualified households and individuals. Funding will provide homeownership opportunities at an affordable market rate.

Applications may be picked up at Hernando County Health & Human Services, 20 N. Main St., Room 161, Brooksville, FL 34601. Completed applications are to be submitted to the same location. To receive an application by mail, call (352-540-4338), or visit the website at: [www.hernandodownpayment.com](http://www.hernandodownpayment.com)

Applications will be received until all funds are expended.

## Health Observances

### National Birth Defects Prevention Month

National Birth Defects Prevention Network  
[nbdpn@nbdpn.org](mailto:nbdpn@nbdpn.org) [www.nbdpn.org](http://www.nbdpn.org)  
Materials available

### HERNANDO COUNTY FREE TAX PREPARATION !! Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA)

- This free tax preparation is available to those who:
- have a low-to-moderate income (generally, \$50,000 and below)
  - have no rental property
  - have no farm income

You may be eligible to receive the  
**EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT**  
WORTH up to \$5,751  
ALL TAXES PREPARED BY L.R.S. CERTIFIED VOLUNTEERS

Career Central-Spring Hill  
7361 Forest Oaks Blvd.  
Spring Hill, FL 34606  
352-200-3030 (Appointment Only)  
Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 12pm  
Open 1/24

Mid Florida Community Services-RSVP  
820 Kennedy Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Tuesday & Thursday 9am - 1pm  
Open 1/24

Spring Hill Library  
9220 Spring Hill Drive  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
Friday & Saturday 11:00am - 2:00pm (Fri)  
Open 1/27 10:00am - 1:30pm (Sat)  
(NOTE: Closed 4/6)

Thank you to all our  
Hernando County  
Departments and  
employees who generously partici-  
pated in the  
Salvation Army  
Christmas Angel Program.  
We all made a lot of little ones  
have a Merry Christmas!  
Thank you again!

# Housing Information



The federal government has allocated funding to help pay the mortgages of qualified homeowners who are unemployed or underemployed through no fault of their own.

Homeowners who qualify for financial assistance may receive up to six (6) months of monthly mortgage payments (including escrowed mortgage-related payments) and/or funds to pay past due mortgage payments to bring the mortgage current; these funds are paid directly to the loan service/lender.

## Current Programs

Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) was directed by the Treasury to use a portion of funds specifically for targeted unemployment programs that provide temporary assistance to qualified Homeowners.

- Unemployment Mortgage Assistance Program (UMAP) will provide up to 6 months of payments (with a cap of \$12,000.) to the mortgage lender to assist.
- Mortgage Loan Reinstatement Payment (MLRP) Program will be used to bring a delinquent mortgage (up to \$6,000.) for a homeowner who has returned to work or recovered from underemployment.

For additional information (including detailed eligibility criteria) and/or to apply for these programs, visit the HHF website at:

[www.FLHardestHitHelp.org](http://www.FLHardestHitHelp.org)

## **SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHOSE FAMILIES HAVE LOST THEIR HOMES TO FORECLOSURE**



**If your family owned its home and lost it to foreclosure, or if your family was renting a home and the landlord lost it to foreclosure, and you are now living in a temporary situation, your preschool-aged and school-aged children may qualify for certain rights and protections under the McKinney-Vento Act.**

Eligible children and youth have the right to:

- ☐ Go to school, no matter where they live or how long they have lived there.
- ☐ Continue attending their school of origin or be enrolled immediately in the local school where they are living, depending on their best interest; the school of origin is the school the student attended before losing housing or the school the student last attended; the student can attend the school of origin even if he/she now lives outside that district's lines.
- ☐ Receive transportation to and from the school of origin at no cost to the parent or student.
- ☐ Enroll in the new local school immediately, even if missing records and documents normally required for enrollment, such as a birth certificate, proof of residence, previous school records, or immunization/medical records.
- ☐ Enroll, attend classes, and participate fully in all school activities while the school gathers records.
- ☐ Have access to the same programs and services that are available to all other

students, including transportation and supplemental educational services.

- ☐ Receive free school meals.

If you believe your child(ren) may be eligible for the support provided by the McKinney-Vento Act, contact the school district's Local Liaison or your

Shanika Figueroa MSW  
Homeless Student Liaison  
Hernando County School Board  
919 N. Broad St.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
352-797-7008

If you need further assistance, call the National Center for Homeless Education at its toll-free Helpline:

1-800-308-2145



## **Florida Weatherization Assistance Programs & Energy Conservation** **A Free Service For Low Income Homeowners**

The following types of assistance may be available for your home, depending upon the results of the assessment. Minor home repairs will assist in lowering your electric bills.

- Address air infiltration, weather stripping, caulking, thresholds, minor wall, floor, ceiling repairs, and window and door replacement.
- Install attic insulation
- Repair or replace water heaters
- Repair or replace inefficient heating and cooling units

Please be aware that due to limited available resources, eligible households will be ranked according to need and placed on a waiting list for services.



MID FLORIDA COMMUNITY SERVICES,  
INC.  
P.O. BOX 896  
BROOKSVILLE, FL 34605-0896  
Office # 352-796-1427 Fax# 352-848-0808  
Toll Free 877-506-2731

## **Making Homes Affordable**

The Making Home Affordable © (MHA) Program is a critical part of the Obama Administration's broad strategy to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, stabilize the country's housing market, and improve the nation's economy. Homeowners can lower their monthly mortgage payments and get into more stable loans at today's low rates. And for those homeowners for whom homeownership is no longer affordable or desirable, the program can provide a way out which avoids foreclosure. Additionally, in an effort to be responsive to the needs of today's homeowners, there are also options for unemployed homeowners and homeowners who owe more than their homes are worth. For more information on mortgage help options and to determine which program options may be best suited for your particular circumstances, please visit the website at:

[www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov)  
**Click on Topic Area**  
**Avoiding Foreclosure**



**Happy New Year!**  
**All County Offices**  
**Will be closed on**  
**Monday, January 2, 2012**  
**For the New Year Holiday**



County Offices will be closed on  
**Monday, January 16, 2012**  
 to observance  
**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s**  
**Birthday**



## Hernando County Utilities Department

On January 2, 2012, Republic Services, Inc., also known as Seaside Sanitation will begin providing trash collection services for all subscribing Hernando County residents. Republic Services will replace Central Carting, Inc. (Choice Environmental) and Waste Management, Inc.

A public information meeting has been scheduled where residents may ask questions and obtain more information about the transition.

**Thursday, January 5, 2012**  
 6:00 pm

Hernando Beach Homeowners Association  
 Coast Guard Auxiliary Building  
 4340 Calienta St.  
 Hernando Beach, FL



Fliers and *Frequently Asked Questions* information sheets will be mailed or delivered to all customers by Republic Services in December. The information is also available now at [www.hernandocounty.us/utills/](http://www.hernandocounty.us/utills/) or call (352) 754-4112.

**Hernando County Public Library**  
**Read, Learn, Discover!**



### MOVIES AT THE LIBRARY

- No admission charge - movies are free!
- Free popcorn and beverages
- Large screen
- Surround sound
- Fun movie trivia



For more information regarding show times, please call Library Program Staff at

**(352) 540-6391**



IF YOU'RE READY TO...

Quit Smoking **now!**

**FREE**

**Tobacco Dependence Program**

Facilitated by Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center

Tuesdays December 13-January 17  
 @5:30-6:30pm  
 Brooksville Regional Hospital  
 17240 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville, FL  
 (1<sup>st</sup> floor board room)

Wednesdays December 7-January 18  
 @3:30-4:30pm  
 Hernando County Health Dept-Spring Hill  
 7551 Forest Oaks Blvd, Spring Hill, FL

- Free counseling program
- Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy (gum, patch, lozenge)
- Group support and additional resources

To register, please call  
 813-929-1000 ext. 213 or visit [www.gnahec.org](http://www.gnahec.org)



The program sponsored by the Florida HEHC Network and the Florida Department of Health



GULFCOAST NORTH  
 AREA HEALTH  
 EDUCATION CENTER

**Hernando County**  
**Extension Services**

UNIVERSITY of  
 FLORIDA Solutions for Your Life

**Hernando County, Cooperative**  
**Extension Service (352) 754-4433**



**Spring Hill Branch Library**  
 9220 Spring Hill Drive  
 Spring Hill, FL 34608  
 No Reservations, First Come-First Seated  
 Wednesday Classes Start at  
**NEW TIME: 10:30 am**

Wednesday January 4, 2012

Jim Moll ***Caring for Cold Damaged Lawns and Landscapes***

Winter can be devastating for some of our landscape plants, especially after a cold snap. Learn what you should do to help your cold damaged plants recover

Wednesday January, 18, 2012

John Korycki ***Ridding Your Landscape of Weeds***

Now is the right time of the year to take action in preventing weeds in your lawn this summer. Learn what steps you can take, products to use, and practices that will keep weeds at bay without spending a fortune.

Wednesday February 8

John Korycki ***John's Favorite 50***

From touring our county and getting to notice plants that consistently fail or succeed in landscape, I've developed a list of 50 of the most hardy and diverse plants for successful use in your home landscape. Plant names, appearance, and growing conditions will be discussed.

Wednesday February 22

Jim Moll ***Springtime Vegetable Gardening***

Juicy vine ripened tomatoes, fresh picked green beans, and succulent summer squashes. These are just a few of the tasty vegetables you can enjoy once you learn the timing and proper care it takes for your Florida vegetable garden.



ASK YOUR PHYSICIAN ABOUT SCHEDULING YOUR FREE SCREENINGS.

**NO CO-PAY.**  
**NO EXTRA CHARGES.**  
**NO DEDUCTIBLE.**

**free**

**PREVENTIVE SCREENINGS**  
 They're part of your current Medicare benefits.

**Good news for Medicare beneficiaries:  
 You're entitled to free preventive care**

If you're thinking, "What's Medicare done for me lately," we have the answer. Medicare members are—by law—entitled to a series of free preventive screenings and services. And "free" means free, because no co-pays, deductibles or extra charges apply.

These services allow you to make more informed health decisions, and to find certain medical conditions early, when treatment can be most effective.

It's in your best interest to take advantage of these free services:

- "Welcome to Medicare" physical exam
- Annual wellness check

- Cardio screening
- Pap screening
- Diabetes check
- Mammogram
- Colorectal cancer screening
- Bone mass measurement
- Nutritional counseling\*

Other free services include vaccines for seasonal influenza, pneumonia and hepatitis B.

To maximize your Medicare coverage, contact your physician today to make appointments for these potentially life-saving—and free—services.

\*If you're at risk for diet-related chronic diseases such as diabetes.



## Free Medical Clinic in Spring Hill



### Crescent Community Clinic

Offers services in their primary health, dental and mental health clinics to uninsured, indigent or low to moderate income adults ages 18 to 64. New patients must go to their website at: [www.crescentclinic.org](http://www.crescentclinic.org) to download and complete an application.

The completed application will be evaluated for income eligibility. Patients will then be given an appointment to sign paperwork and for medical services.

Established patients must call the clinic at 352-610-9116 on Wednesday to request an appointment to be seen on the next available Saturday.

The Primary Health Clinic is open Wednesday and Saturday for **scheduled appointments only.**

Location: 5244 Commercial Way (US 19)  
Spring Hill 34606  
Phone: 352-610-9116

For more information visit:

[www.crescentclinic.org](http://www.crescentclinic.org)

## Readers' Corner Book Discussion Groups

Book Discussion Groups meet in three library locations:

- Main Library/Brooksville
- West Hernando Branch Library
- Spring Hill Branch Library



Main Library/Brooksville

238 Howell Avenue, Brooksville, FL 34601

MEETS THE THIRD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AT  
6:00 p.m.

## Report Abuse - Online

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) now has two reporting systems for your convenience to report non-emergency concerns of abuse and/or neglect.

Use the **“Report Abuse Online”** icon on the Website at:

[www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/abuse/report](http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/abuse/report)

The traditional **Abuse Hotline** remains available at **(800) 96-ABUSE** or **TDD (800) 453-5145**.

*The Department of Health & Human Services wants to remind anyone 6 months of age or older to get their Flu shots to protect themselves and loved ones. For a complete listing of Flu Shot Locations near you visit:*

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

### Winn-Dixie

1230 S. Broad St., Brooksville  
352-799-1832

### CVS/Pharmacy

20019 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville  
352-796-7261

### Walgreens

20020 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville  
352-799-9545

### Publix Pharmacy 1132

19390 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville  
352-796-2928

### Walgreens

7305 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill  
352-688-5242

### Winn-Dixie

2240 Commercial Way, Spring Hill  
352-666-4600

### Walmart

1485 Commercial Way, Spring Hill  
877-279-3588

### Sam's Club

13360 Cortez Blvd., Brooksville  
877-279-3588

**Call each pharmacy for more Information.**





**Hernando County, FL  
Free Discount Prescription Card**

- Save up to 65% on prescriptions
- Individuals or families can use
- 59,000+ participating pharmacies
- All chain pharmacies in network
- Most independents are in network
- Cards are ready to use
- No paperwork to fill out
- No limits on usage
- No health restrictions
- Can be used immediately
- Everyone is accepted
- No fee ever charged for the card
- No expiration date
- Save on brand and generic drugs
- Covers drugs not covered in health plans
- Covers many pet prescriptions
- Save 50% to 80% on lab & imaging tests (call 1-800-903-3921 to schedule and pre-pay for these tests or go to the website listed below)

Go to [www.coast2coastrx.com](http://www.coast2coastrx.com) to print a card and for more information.

**TEAR OFF THE CARD BELOW  
AND BRING IT INTO YOUR  
PHARMACY TO START SAVING  
ON YOUR PRESCRIPTIONS!**

**Coast2Coast Rx Card – Hernando County**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Member ID:** Use customer's 10-digit phone # or any 10-digit number. Note: add 01, 02 or 03 for primary, spouse and dependents after 10-digit #) **Processor NetCardSystems/RxWest**

**Bin#: 008878 Group#: HERNANDO**

**Coverage: Individual & Family PBM is WelldyneRx**

**This Plan is NOT Insurance**



The Department of Children & Families, ACCESS Florida Program has several programs that can help Florida families. They include Food stamps, Cash Assistance, Low or No Cost Health Care, or Help paying for Medicare Premiums. Each program has its own eligibility rules, but you may apply for one or all using the same application. Simply log onto ACCESS Florida at any time from any computer at: [www.myflorida.com/accessflorida](http://www.myflorida.com/accessflorida). For questions, please call the customer service call center at **1-866-762-2237**.

Computer access, assistance with the online process, copying and faxing can also be obtained from any of the ACCESS Community Partners listed below or visit the website for a complete list.

**Customer Service Center-Store Front**  
Department of Children and Families  
661 S. Broad Street, Brooksville

Health and Human Services  
20 N. Main Street, Rm 161, Brooksville

Career Central  
7361 Forest Oaks Boulevard, Spring Hill

All Hernando County Libraries

**American Senior Financial \***  
4026 Commercial Way, Spring Hill  
Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon

**Mid Florida Community Services \***  
RSVP Building  
820 Kennedy Blvd., Brooksville  
Monday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



**Crescent Community Clinic \***  
5244 Commercial Way (US19)  
Spring Hill, FL 34606  
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- highlighted sites also provide a direct line for telephone interviews.

# Food & More!



**St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church** offers “In His Footsteps” soup & sandwich outreach program lunch from Noon to 2:00 p.m. the second Thursday of every month in the Parish Hall of the Church located at 13485 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill. The meal is **free** of charge. For more information, please call **352-688-0663**



## *First United Methodist Church of Spring Hill*

serves a hot, nutritious meal from 4:30 to 6 p.m. every Tuesday at the church, located at 9344 Spring Hill Drive, Spring Hill. The meal is for all those in need. For information, call **(352) 683-2600 Ext. 1**

## People Helping People in Hernando County



has expanded its Blessing in a Backpack program for elementary school students for the duration of the school year. Backpacks filled with food are delivered to the schools on Fridays for children to bring home for the weekend and then they are picked up on Mondays.

PHP will provide the service at: Spring Hill Elementary, Deltona, Brooksville, and Pine Grove elementary schools. It will provide weekend food for approximately 200 children.

For more information, please call, **352-686-4466** or visit the website at: [www.phpinhc.org](http://www.phpinhc.org)



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**, 2301 Deltona Blvd., Spring Hill, provides a **free** bread and pastries giveaway for those in need from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Saturday in the Parish Hall (side entrance) of the church. For information, call the church office at **(352) 683-2010**.



## **Auro Community Garden, LLC**

“Growing Food for Hernando County”


**Location:** 4095 Broad St., Brooksville

A non-profit whose purpose is to build and reconnect the local community back to its natural resources. Local fresh food is grown for ACG members to fund garden operation and distribute excess produce to those in need. Residents are invited to become part of their “Community of Growers.”

For more information, please call **352-238-9091** or visit the website at: [aurocommunitygarden.com](http://aurocommunitygarden.com)



**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED** 




**HOW TO LIVE UNITED  
IN HERNANDO COUNTY!**

**JOIN HANDS**  
OPEN YOUR HEART.  
LEND YOUR MUSCLE.  
FIND YOUR VOICE.

**GIVE 10%.  
GIVE 100%.  
GIVE 110%  
GIVE AN HOUR.  
GIVE A SATURDAY  
THINK OF WE BEFORE ME**

REACH OUT A HAND TO ONE AND  
**INFLUENCE**  
THE CONDITION OF ALL

**GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
LIVE UNITED** 



**PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE  
OF HERNANDO COUNTY**

PHP is a program established to help feed those homeless and hungry on the west side of Hernando County. For more information, contact Ron Van Matre at **352-686-4466**

**Date:** Every Sunday  
**Time:** 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Hernando County Senior Citizens Club  
7925 Rhanbuoy Road  
Spring Hill, FL 34606

**Cost:** **FREE to anyone hungry**



*Sunday Dinner*


**Location:** Rising Sun Café  
10 S. Main St., Brooksville

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Date:** Every Sunday

**Cost:** **FREE to anyone hungry**

Local restaurants join together to offer meals to those on fixed incomes, single parents, homeless, or "anyone that's hungry". Sponsored by numerous businesses and organizations throughout Hernando County. For more information about Love Your Neighbor, please contact John **352-428-9434** or Lisa at **352-428-9275**.



**DOING THE MOST GOOD**

**“Salvation Army Mobile Hot Meal Canteen Service”**

**Date:** Every Friday  
**Time:** 5:00 p.m. to 5:40 p.m.  
**Location:** Hernando Park  
205 E Fort Dade Ave.  
Downtown Brooksville

**Free** to anyone who is hungry or homeless


For more information please call, **352-796-1186**

**“ Pay What You Can Donation Station Thrift Store”**

*A distribution center and food pantry organized to supplement the needs of the less fortunate in the community.*

The store is open Thursday through Saturday from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** Open Sundays from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** A bag of food is donated on the 1st & 3rd Mondays of the month depending on their donations.

Love Your Neighbor Thrift Store  
408 West Jefferson St.  
Brooksville  
Contact Cheryl at **352-573-8756** for more information.



# Support Group Information & More!



Volunteers helping seniors with their health insurance option choices. Please call toll free **1-800-96-ELDER**

Spring Hill Regional Hospital/Medical Arts Building  
10441 Quality Drive  
Spring Hill, FL 34609  
**352-684-7568**  
Thursday 11:00 a.m. to Noon

Brooksville Regional Hospital/Medical Arts Building  
17222 Hospital Drive  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
**352-544-6022**  
Tuesday 11:00 a.m. to Noon

Ridge Manor Library  
6457 Windmere Road  
Brooksville, FL 34602  
**352-754-4443**  
Wednesday 12:00 p.m. Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Quarry Golf Course Enrichment Center **NEW LOCATION**  
800 John Gary Grubbs Blvd.  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
**352-544-5900**  
Wednesdays 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



<http://www.alzheimersfamily.org>

**Alzheimer's Family Support Groups meet at the following locations:**

**Spring Hill Regional Hospital**  
Medical Arts Building Suite 105  
10441 Quality Dr. Spring Hill, 34609  
Every Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.  
Leader: Marlu Gibson (352) 688-5758

**Brooksville Regional Hospital**  
Medical Arts Building Suite 120  
17222 Hospital Blvd., Brooksville, 34601  
Every Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m.  
Leader: John Winans (352) 232-0081



## AUTISM

Community Support Group for families of children on the Autism Spectrum. Please join **BayCare Behavioral Health Institute** in an effort to create awareness in Hernando County.

Date: 1st & 3rd Fridays of the month  
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
Date: 3rd Wednesday of the month  
Time: 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm  
Location: BayCare Behavioral Health Institute  
7074 Grove Road, Brooksville, FL

For more information, please call **352-346-1677 or 352-544-6233.**



### Wellness & Recovery Support Group

**Dates:** Every Monday  
**Time:** 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm  
**Date:** Every Wednesday  
**Time:** 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm  
**Location:** Beautiful Mind Center  
10554 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill

For more information, please call **352-684-0004**



### Family Support Group

**Date:** Every Wednesday  
**Time:** 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Beautiful Mind Center  
10554 Spring Hill Dr., Spring Hill

For information please call: "Beautiful Mind Center"  
@ **352-684-0004**

### SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAM

This fall marks the third anniversary of the start of Devereux Florida's renowned substance abuse program. A specialty program offered at the Viera campus, the comprehensive program helps children and teenagers with drug and alcohol issues work toward recovery. Individual therapy and group meetings focus on drug education, personal therapy and relapse prevention. "Because they are still growing and developing, children are 10 times more susceptible to addiction than adults," says program leader Steven Wollman. "The key is to engage kids, help them own their problem, then show them that together we can overcome it." For more information, contact the Central Referral Unit at 800-Devereux (1-800-338-3738 ext. 77130).





*Life South Blood Bank  
January 2012*

**Date:** Sunday, January 1, 2012  
**Time:** 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** 3 Seasons Mobile Home Park  
 20153 Yontz Road  
 Brooksville  
**Free Panera Bread & Pastries**

**Date:** Sunday, January 15, 2012  
**Time:** 8:00 am to 1:00 pm  
**Location:** Nativity Lutheran Church  
 6363 Commercial Way  
 Weeki Wachee  
**Free Chick-Fil-A Coupon**

**Date:** Thursday, January 19, 2012  
**Time:** 12:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Oak Hill Hospital  
 11275 Cortez Blvd.  
 Brooksville  
**Free 6" Subway Sandwich**

For a complete calendar, please call  
**(352) 596-2002** or visit the website at  
[www.lifesouth.org/schedulehernando.html](http://www.lifesouth.org/schedulehernando.html)



**Family to Family**  
 Education program

**Date:** Starting Thursday, January 12, 2012  
 Every Thursday for 12 weeks  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free  
**Location:** NAMI  
 10554 Spring Hill Dr.,  
 Spring Hill

Registration and 12 week commitment required. The course is taught by experienced, trained family members and significantly improves coping and problem solving abilities of family members and individuals.

For registration please call: Mariann at **352-683-1350**  
 For more information about this and other programs provided by NAMI, please call **352-684-0004** or visit the website at [namihernandoff.org](http://namihernandoff.org) or [nami.org](http://nami.org)



For parents of children without health insurance, there is something that can be done: Apply for Florida KidCare, an affordable, comprehensive health insurance for uninsured children under age 19. Services include doctor visits, shots, surgery, vision and hearing screenings, mental health, checkups, hospitalization, prescriptions and emergencies. KidCare monthly premiums are based on household size and income. Most families pay \$20 a month or less while some pay nothing at all. Enrollment applications can be downloaded from the internet at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org). Families can also call toll-free **1-888-540-5437** to receive the enrollment application by mail. To complete your application, you will need to have your most recent federal income tax return, wages and earnings statements or your last four weeks of pay stubs. You can check the status of your application and make a payment at [www.floridakidcare.org](http://www.floridakidcare.org). KidCare applications are also available at all three Hernando County Health Department locations. Assistance is also available for families with filling out the application

# Veteran Services



## Hernando County Veteran Services

**Hernando County Veteran Service Officers will be available at the following locations:**

**West Hernando Government Center**  
 Monday ~ Friday 8:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.  
 7479 Forest Oaks Blvd.  
 Spring Hill, FL 34606  
**(352) 754-4033**

**Health & Human Services “Appointments Only”**  
 Every Friday 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
 Hernando County Courthouse  
 20 N. Main Street, Room 161 (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)  
**(352) 540-4338**

For more information, please visit their website at: [www.hernandocounty.us/veteran\\_services/](http://www.hernandocounty.us/veteran_services/)



## **Veteran Services:** Operation Family Assistance Network

### **Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services**

- Case management & Resource Coordination
- In Home Individual, Couples, Children and Family Counseling
- Assessment and Planning
- Group Counseling
- Veteran & family Support Groups

The Fan Program is available in Hernando and Pasco County.

Meetings: Thursdays  
 Times: 5:30 to 7:00 pm  
 Locations: 7074 Grove Rd. Brooksville  
 14527 7th St., Dade City  
 8002 King Helie Blvd., New Port Richie

For more information, please contact:

**Cindy Lapidus, MS**  
 Cell Phone: **352-428-6631**  
 Alison.lapidus@baycare.org

**352-232-4770 & 727-420-7943**  
**(Alternate numbers)**

**Veterans  
Crisis Line**



**1-800-273-8255**  
**PRESS 1**

• • • • Confidential chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net) • • • •

**Hernando County Veteran Services** is looking for Veterans to volunteer to lead the County in reciting the **“Pledge of Allegiance “** at the Board of County Commissioners’ meetings.

Please contact **Matt Peters** at **352-754-4033** if you are interested.



**Caring for a Veteran?**  
 Call VA's Caregiver Support Line for help toll-free:

**1-855-260-3274**  
 Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 11:00 pm ET  
 Saturday, 10:30 am - 6:00 pm ET







## More News For Veterans



**Keith Growe, LISW**  
Brooksville Social Worker  
14540 Cortez Blvd. Suite 108  
Brooksville, FL 34613  
**352-597-8287**  
**352-597-9816 Fax**  
[Keithgrowe2@va.med.gov](mailto:Keithgrowe2@va.med.gov)

### **New Law Permits Veterans Designation on Florida Driver License**

Governor Rick Scott signed House Bill 1165 to recognize and honor Florida veterans who honorably serve their nation. Veterans who live in the Sunshine State can now add a veteran designation to their driver license or identification card. Go to [www.GatherGoGet.com](http://www.GatherGoGet.com) to ensure they have all of the documentation required.

#### **IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS FOR VETERANS**

Education Benefits **1-888-442-4551**

Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)

**1-800-829-4833**

Gulf Way Helpline **1-800-749-8387**



### **Cell Phones for Soldiers Announces 2011 Goals**

Cell Phones for Soldiers recently announced it's commitment to provide 750,000 communication tools in 2011 to troops stationed around the world, fulfilling a financial and emotional need of deployed armed forces.

The average roaming fees from Afghanistan are \$3.00 a minute, making a call home a rarity for many military professionals. Help connect military families, donate today!

For every phone donated, a soldier will receive one hour of phone time to call home. You may drop off the phones anytime during regular business hours.

**Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

#### **Cell Phone Drop off locations:**

**Veteran Services: 7479 Forest Oaks Blvd,  
Spring Hill**

**Health & Human Services: 20 N. Main St., Rm.  
161, Brooksville**



For more information about cell phones for soldiers, please visit their website at:

<http://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/index.html>

## Veterans' Newsletter Available Electronically

The Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs publishes a monthly electronic newsletter called *eFloridaVetsNews*. This informative newsletter is distributed to more than 40,000 subscribers, who receive it via email as a PDF file attachment. If you would like to subscribe to the *eFloridaVetsNews* or wish to view archived issues, visit the Department's website at [www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org) and click on the "Néws" tab.

**e-floridavets News**  
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS