



Housing & Human Services Department

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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HELPING SENIORS: Bare Essentials Fundraiser

Due to recent program cutbacks across the State of Florida, the Collier County Council on Aging and Naples Interagency Council will host its first annual ***Bare Essentials*** fundraiser to benefit Collier County Housing and Human Services (HHS).

Bare Essentials will be held at the Summerville Senior Living Center located at 26850 South Bay Dr. in Bonita Springs on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The fundraiser will allow Services for Seniors case workers at HHS to purchase nutritional and incontinence products to serve seniors in need.

So far during fiscal year 2007, Housing and Human Services' (HHS) staff served 18,454 clients. **Of those 18,454 customers**, 7,947 visited hospitals or physicians by referral, 4,668 people received prescription assistance, more than 200 have connected with the Physician Led Access Network for free care referrals and more than 350 individuals benefited from Affordable Housing assistance or programs.

The Senior Services Program allows for aging seniors to maintain their dignity while linking seniors with personal services including in-home assistance such as securing health products for patients or senior meal programs. This is a critical part of HHS's mission, because of Southwest Florida's aging population. The Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging provide grants to Collier County in the sum of \$1.8 million with a \$140,000 ad valorem match from Collier County.

The fundraiser is still seeking raffle table donations to assist in raising funds to benefit seniors in need. All funds will be used to purchase items for local seniors in need of nutritional products and other at home hygiene needs.

Housing & Human Services is proud to sponsor this event and asks the public to remember those in need during this time of year.

Media may contact HHS Director Marcy Krumbine for information at (239) 252-CARE.