



Community and Human Services Quarterly

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Making our Community Stronger: One life, one home, one project at a time



Director's Note



Making our Community Stronger: One life, one home, one project at a time.

How fortunate our team in the Community and Human Services Division is to work toward achieving this mission every single day.

When senior citizens are able to live in their home longer as they age, we have added strength to our community. When storm drains are constructed or repaired we reduce flooding and other potentially disastrous outcomes from occurring in our neighborhoods, and we have added strength to our community. When we assist one family with rental assistance or purchase assistance, when

we help fund construction of a community center or a not for profit service center, we provide places for people to commune and receive assistance or enrichment; and we add strength to our community.

We add strength to our community when we run a program to facilitate senior volunteers giving hundreds of hours of service back to the people in our community. We are stronger when housing needs are met, when those in need of legal services or domestic violence services or special needs services are able to obtain them through the funding we allocate. When someone has no health insurance and we can provide treatments for life threatening cancer, we have made our community stronger. We add strength to our community when we divert someone from the jail system into proper

mental health or substance abuse treatment programs.

When safety is improved at intersections and children are safer in supervised visitation settings, or when seniors are able to receive a nutritional meal and socialization at one of our meal sites, our community is stronger. Our community is stronger when we invest in the community redevelopment areas and build sidewalks, improve the fire suppression systems, or invest in rental unit rehabilitation.

We love what we do, and we love that it matters to the individuals directly affected and to our entire community. By becoming more aware of what we do, you will share in making this community stronger.

Kim Grant, Director, Community and Human Services

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Naples Equestrian Challenge is Expanding with CDBG grant funds!

In January of 2016 a 2.5 million dollar expansion project began at the Naples Equestrian Challenge facility in Naples, Florida. Funding for the project has been provided by private donors and partially provided by Collier County Community and Human Services Division, using 1 million in federal Community Development Block Grant funds. The expansion to the facility includes a 80 ft. covered round riding arena with observation deck, a 4,000sf multi-purpose room, stables, stalls, tack room, feed room, paddocks, and bridle path. Construction activities at NEC should be completed by April of 2017.

Naples Equestrian Challenge (NEC) is a non-profit 501©3 organization that provides equine-related activities and

therapies that address the physical, mental, and social challenges of adults and children with disabilities. Participants range in age from 4 to 87 years old. The therapeutic riding programs offered at NEC foster growth and confidence, empowering riders living with cerebral palsy, Down's syndrome, ADHD, autism spectrum, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, stroke survivors and a wide range of emotional, learning and developmental disabilities. Naples Equestrian Challenge (NEC) serves more than 600 individuals per year through its various therapeutic riding and Equine-Facilitated Psychotherapy programs. Programs have been operating at capacity and NEC currently has a wait list of therapeutic riders with special



needs. The expansion to the facilities will allow NEC to expand its herd of therapy horses and increase the number of riders they serve.

Lisa Oien, CHS Grant Coordinator has worked on this project for two years. The fiscal team includes Blanca Aquino-Luque and Jose Alvarado.

To learn more about NEC go to: <http://www.naplesequestrianchallenge.org/>



Collier County RSVP Program Hosts Annual Recognition Luncheon



On Thursday, March 9, 2017

Community and Human Service hosted the annual Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) appreciation luncheon. The event was held at North Collier Regional Park and had a Mexican Fiesta theme. Commissioner Penny Taylor, District 4 welcomed all

of our volunteers to the event and thanked them for their countless hours of services to the most vulnerable in our community.

The RSVP volunteers heard our guest speaker Ashley B. Jones, Director Social

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Services, Salvation Army of Naples speak about the advantages of volunteering not only from the hours of endless service but also the health benefits from it. Entertainment was provided by folk singer Carlene Thissen, who performed a medley of songs including one of her original songs.

A raffle was held and over 25 gifts were provided to our volunteers and the raffle prizes were made possible by donations from Publix, Naples Princess, M Waterfront Grille, Conditioned Air, Texas Tony's



Rib House, Pure Florida, Naples Zoo, Naples Botanical Garden, Goldies Restaurant, Naples Historical Society, 21 Spices, Naples Transportation and Tours and Naples Cupcakes.

Recognition events are held several times a year and are

one of the many ways Collier County thanks those who provide a tireless and thankless commitment to our community.

If you are interested or know someone who is interested and is 55 or older, and wants to make a difference in Collier County, please call Dawn Whelan, RSVP Coordinator at 239-252-4230.

Dawn Whelan is the RSVP Project Director and Blanca Aquino-Luque is the accountant.

Focus on Safety

Collier County Community and Human Services is focused on all aspects of safety. Each month our team is educated on a new safety topic. Sharing this information with our partners and the community is important to us.

Illicit Discharge

Collier County prohibits illicit discharge and dumping through two ordinances:

Water Management Ordinance No. 1990-10 prohibits discharge of industrial or commercial waste or public, municipal or private sewage effluent into surface waters.

Litter Ordinance No. 2005-44 widely defines litter to include "any liquid other than uncontaminated water", and includes "plant and yard waste", and prohibits disposal of litter on publicly owned right-of-ways

and dedicated easements.

Operators of construction activities must obtain a NPDES stormwater permit and implement a stormwater pollution prevention plan to address hazardous and toxic chemical discharges. Discharges from construction sites can be a potential source of pollution due to erosion, trash and debris and the chemicals associated with using materials and equipment at the site. Some examples of illicit discharge include: septic tank seepage, pesticides and fertilizers and improper disposal of hazardous waste such as paint and oil or radiator fluid. These pollutants can impair local waterways resulting in drinking water contamination, decreased recreational use and interference with natural fish and wildlife.

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as any discharge to a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is not composed entirely of stormwater, with some exceptions. These exceptions include: discharges from any National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)-permitted industrial source and discharges from activities that have to do with fire-fighting.

To report dumping contact Collier County Pollution Control and Prevention 239-252-2502.



Social Services



Our Social Services program assists adults ages 19-64 who are low income and uninsured. Services include shelter assistance, medical specialties surgery, testing and treatment

and medical prescriptions. Clients pay \$5 per voucher and can receive up to \$200 per month of prescription medication coverage. Medical coverage such as surgeries, testing and treatment can be done on an outpatient basis for \$10 per procedure. Clients can seek care from any doctor who accepts state reimbursement rates for Medicare. Funding for these programs come from Ad valorem funds.

Potential clients are seen daily at the Health Building on Collier Government Campus, and at the Marion E. Fether Clinic in Immokalee every Monday and Wednesday.

Our two case managers are Marco Chouinard and Zena Sellers. Georgia Regis is the accountant.

To apply for Collier County Social Services program call CHS at 239-252-2273.

Hatcher's Preserve Units Near Completion with HOME & CDBG grant funds

Hatchers Preserve is Rural Neighborhoods' most recent rental affordable housing development located at 3180 Westclox Street in Immokalee and includes 18 newly-constructed, single-family units. Seventeen of the eighteen units are completed and have received Certificates of Occupancy; twelve families have already moved in. Funding for the development was provided by the Collier County Community and Human Services Department, using \$2.1 million in federal

money through the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) Program funds, \$71, 718 in CDBG funds, along with Florida Department of Economic Opportunity and Steven Kirk, president of Rural Neighborhoods, said he has noticed a change in residential construction in Immokalee. Kirk's group offers 240 low-income rental units in different communities in Immokalee and recently acquired the affordable rental housing communities Timber Ridge and Sanders Pines which adds 75 units. Hatcher's Preserve provides a different option for Immokalee residents. *"I think what is unique about these homes is they provide single-family homes for rent,"* he said. *"Most rental properties are multifamily."* The homes, he said, have a modern and colorful design, which turns them into a unique product in the area. The architectural design, he said, will contribute to revitalize the whole Eden Park – Esperanza Place neighborhood, the group's final goal.



ited to farmworkers, will be available for a family of four, monthly rents range from \$650 to \$725 depending on income.

Jody Paley and Rosa Munoz are the Grant Coordinators on this project. Leslie Davis is the accountant on the team.

For more information on Hatchers Preserve, contact Jose Marin at 239-657-7900 or RuralNeighborhoods.org

"I think what is unique about these homes is they provide single-family homes for rent"

Neighborhoodworks America.

The units, which are not lim-



From left to right

- **Jose Alvarado**, CDBG accountant, relocated from Miami
- **Dawn Whelan**, RSVP Program Director, worked for Lee County Government
- **Georgia Regis**, General Fund Accountant, worked for the YMCA and joins her husband as a county employee
- **Lori Blanco**, Grant Support Specialist, worked for Rural Neighborhoods and property management
- **Tom Calderon**, NSP1/NSP3 Grant Coordinator, from Miami where he was enjoying retirement until he received the “calling” to come back to work
- **Don Luciano**, SHIP Grant Support Specialist, worked for the City of Naples and is a transplant from New Jersey
- **Cormac Giblin**, Housing and Grant Development Manager, previously worked for Habitat for Humanity and has 20 years of affordable housing and grant management experience.

Not pictured

- **Elizabeth Hernandez**, Grant Support Specialist for the SHIP program, previously worked for Saks Fifth Ave and prior to that MEDS.
- **Priscilla Doria**, SHIP Grant Coordinator, returned to the County after a short separation and is currently administering our SHIP program.

Community Housing Plan Update

The Board of County Commissioners (BCC) has directed the Community and Human Services Division to draft a Community Housing Plan that would address the housing affordability needs of all residents of Collier County. The

first step of this one-year project was the seating of a Housing Stakeholder’s Group. The Group is made up of member of the public representing major employers, non-profits, and other government agencies throughout the county.

The Stakeholder’s Group divided the creation of the Community Housing Plan into two stages. Stage one was to develop high-level policy initiative to address housing affordability. The Group brought in the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to do an in-depth study

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of the issues in Collier County. The ULI presented its findings and recommendation to the BCC in early February.

During that presentation the ULI suggested 35 individual strategies and best-practices that the BCC may want to move forward with.

Later in February the BCC held a Housing Affordability Workshop to discuss the ULI Recommendations.

At that workshop the Board gave staff and the Housing

Stakeholder Group specific guidance on each strategy. The graphic below shows the Board's direction on each recommendation.

Now with specific direction on each recommendation, the Stakeholder Group is ready to begin stage two of the Community Housing Plan Process. Stage two turns from high-level policy development to programs and implementation. Over the next six months the Group will divide into sub-committee work groups and, working with con-

sultants and subject matter experts, fully develop each recommendation with implementing programs.

The Housing Stakeholder's Group work will conclude with the presentation of the Community Housing Plan to the BCC in September 2017.

Cormac Giblin, AICP is the CHS Housing and Grant Development Manager. Georgia Regis is the accountant.

Regulation and Governance	BCC Direction	Increase, Maintain, or Restore Supply	BCC Direction	Enhance Transportation Options	BCC Direction	Increase Wages	BCC Direction	Communication and Engagement	BCC Direction
7 member BCC	NO	Increase Density in AHDB program	YES	Bus routes near aff. development	YES	Government wages	NO	YIMBY and Volunteer Projects	YES
Simple Majority for AH Zoning	NO	Incl. Zoning with flexibility options	YES	Park and Ride System	YES	Minimum wage	NO	Directory of affordable housing for developers	YES
Increase Density at Strategic Sites	YES	Rental of guest houses / ADU	NO	Bus Rapid transit or express routes	YES			Myths and Facts Brochure	YES
Increase Admin Approvals	YES	Commercial by Transp. Jobs; Incr. density	YES	Implement Pathways Plan	YES			Marketing and Communication Plan	YES
Expedite Permitting	YES	Community Land Trust	YES	Promote Ride Sharing Options	YES			Hire Community Outreach Coord	NO
Reduce regs to reduce cost	YES	Use Publicly owned land	YES	Secure revenue source for transit	YES			Streamline application process	YES
Adopt SMART code (LDC)	YES	Reduce or waive impact fees	YES					Directory of affordable housing for consumers	YES
Reinstate Housing Trust Fund	YES							Dev Housing Education Program	YES
Dedicated Funding Source	YES							Housing Resources Guide	YES
								Hire Housing Counselor	NO
								Community Vision	YES



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