

Sugarmill Woods Bulletin

June 7, 2011

Dear Residents,

We recently completed our **2nd Annual Sugarmill Woods Community Food Drive** in support of the **"We Care Food Pantry"**. This year the Community Food Drive was sponsored / supported by the Sugarmill Woods Civic Association, Cypress Village Property Owner's Association, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods Property Owner's Association, Sugarmill Woods Country Club, Southern Woods Golf Club, Oak Village Sports Complex, other area organizations and clubs, and many resident volunteers.

Marie Steidel and Mary Lee Johnson, SMW Civic Association board members, organized and coordinated the various activities of this year's Food Drive. Thanks to them and the many contributions of resident volunteers and others, this year's Food Drive was a huge success.

The **Sugarmill Woods Community Food Drive** this year was conducted in two separate phases. The First Phase was similar to last year's **"Help Us Fill A Truck"** campaign and was conducted from April 11 through April 30, 2011 with Drop Off Centers in eleven different locations for three weeks and concluded with the Truck parked in the Sugarmill Woods Country Club parking lot on Saturday, April 30 for a final day push.

The Second Phase was something new we tried for the first time this year. The **Sugarmill Woods Civic Association** partnered with **Publix** (Shoppes of Sugarmill Woods) and **Publix** (Homosassa Springs) in a **"Buy One – Give One"** campaign which was conducted from May 1 through May 28, 2011.

This year's 2nd Annual Sugarmill Woods Community Food Drive collected approximately **4,545 pounds of food and \$4,337.79** in donations and **100 % of all donations go directly to the "We Care Food Pantry"**. When you take into account the We Care Food Pantry's ability to buy surplus food in bulk and large quantities, the money donated can be used to purchase the equivalent of another 24,099 pounds of food to feed those in need. Thank you to everyone who supported and contributed to this year's campaign.

I also want to call your attention to another group in Sugarmill Woods. Separate from and independent of the SMW Community Food Drive, the **Women of Sugarmill Woods** also made a **very generous charitable donation of \$2,000 to the We Care Food Pantry** last month. I mention this because once again it demonstrates the overwhelming generosity of SMW residents and the many contributions that SMW organizations working together and / or independently are making to help those who are less fortunate in their time of need.

The mission of the **"We Care Food Pantry"** program is to provide needy families a hand up, not a hand out. The program is a very closely monitored income based program which helps ensure that our neighbors in need have enough nutritious food to put on the table.

Recently the program has been swamped with increasing requests for emergency food assistance. Their prescription for success is nothing fancy. They have an **all-volunteer work force** which donates many, many hours each week to uncover new and promising food sources and get that food to people who are hungry as quickly as possible. Many of these volunteers are SMW residents.

The **"We Care Food Pantry"** program believes there are few things more precious than being a part of an action group that empowers a struggling neighbor. Their actions come in the form of a food box, a job tip, a ride to the Veteran's Hospital, a tank of fuel, or just a sympathetic ear. For more information about the program, please visit their web site at www.wecarefoodpantry.org.

To put this in perspective, the **SMW Community Food Drive and the generosity of the Women of Sugarmill Woods together** resulted in the **collection of over 4,545 pounds of food and monetary donations of more than \$6,337** which were given to the We Care Food Pantry last month. Again taking into account the We Care Food Pantry's ability to buy surplus food in bulk and large quantities, the total amount of money donated can be used to **purchase the equivalent of an additional 35,210 pounds of food** to help those less fortunate than us and in need of helping hand.

On behalf of everyone involved, we cannot begin to thank you enough for your overwhelming generosity and support this year. Thank you very much for your support of the We Care Food Pantry here in Homosassa.

Sincerely,

Duane Dueker, President, Sugarmill Woods Civic Association

cc: Cypress Village POA, Oak Village Association, Southern Woods POA