

Lake Jovita



LIFE

SPRING 2025



LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

**A CRAFT BEER JOURNEY
THROUGH EAST PASCO**

**CHARITY SPOTLIGHT:
FEEDING PASCO'S ELDERLY**

HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES REVISITED

Lake Jovita Life
12330 Lake Jovita Boulevard
Dade City, FL 33525

Tony Vitale of Pasco County Senior Services compassionately delivers a week's supply of meals to homebound seniors who participate in the program, thanks in part to funding from Feeding Pasco's Elderly.



CHARITY SPOTLIGHT

FEEDING PASCO'S ELDERLY: NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY'S SENIORS

A MISSION ROOTED IN COMPASSION

In 2014, Lake Jovita Preserve residents Richard Hayes and his wife Nikki co-founded Feeding Pasco's Elderly, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing food insecurity among seniors in Pasco County, Florida. Recognizing the challenges faced by homebound and isolated elderly residents, the Hayes family established this initiative to provide consistent and nutritious meals to those in need. Richard Hayes also serves as a founding board member and treasurer.

THE HIDDEN HUNGRY: A GROWING CONCERN

Pasco County is home to over 650,000 residents, with approximately 25% being senior citizens. Alarming, one in six of these seniors experiences hunger or food insecurity. These individuals, often referred to as the "hidden hungry," are typically homebound and isolated, making it challenging for them to access essential resources. Feeding Pasco's Elderly aims to bridge this gap by delivering meals directly to their doors, offering both nourishment and a sense of connection to the community.

AN ALL-VOLUNTEER EFFORT

Since its inception, Feeding Pasco's Elderly has operated as an all-volunteer organization. This dedicated team manages everything from meal preparation and delivery to organizing fundraising events. The commitment of these volunteers ensures that operational costs remain low, allowing the majority of donations to go directly toward meal provision.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AND TESTIMONIALS

The impact of Feeding Pasco's Elderly extends beyond just delivering meals; it touches the hearts of both recipients and volunteers.

Jo-Ann Miller, a beneficiary of the program, shared her gratitude: "If we didn't get the help from that organization, we would have a lot of days that we would not eat. Seriously."

Her sentiment underscores the vital role the organization plays in the lives of many seniors.

Volunteers also find their involvement deeply rewarding. Tony Vitale, who delivers meals weekly, reflected on his experiences:

"You can see the expression from the seniors once they see the food. They don't have to say anything."

This mutual appreciation fosters a strong sense of community and purpose among all participants.

ANNUAL LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST: HONORING COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

To sustain and expand its services, Feeding Pasco's Elderly hosts annual fundraising events. One such event is the Annual Leadership Breakfast, which not only raises essential funds but also honors individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the community. The upcoming breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2025, at AdventHealth Center Ice. This year's honoree is David Lambert of Withlacoochee River Electric Cooperative, Inc., recognized for his unwavering support and dedication to the cause.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

Feeding Pasco's Elderly thrives on community support. Here are several ways you can make a difference:

- **Volunteer Your Time:** Assist with meal preparation, delivery, or event organization. Your hands-on involvement directly impacts the lives of seniors in need.
- **Make a Donation:** Financial contributions are crucial for sustaining meal programs. Donations can be made through the organization's website.
- **Sponsor an Event:** Local businesses and individuals can sponsor events like the Annual Leadership Breakfast, providing essential funding and gaining community recognition.
- **Spread the Word:** Raise awareness about senior hunger and the organization's mission by sharing information within your networks.



Nikki and Richard Hayes, founders of Feeding Pasco's Elderly.

A COMMUNITY UNITED

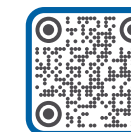
The success of Feeding Pasco's Elderly is a testament to what a united community can achieve. From fundraisers held here in Lake Jovita to the daily efforts of volunteers, every contribution plays a part in combating senior hunger.

As Richard Hayes aptly stated, "Hope takes teamwork." Together, we can ensure that no senior in Pasco County goes hungry.

For more information on how to get involved or to make a donation, please visit www.feedingpasco.com. ■

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