2020 ANNUAL LUNCHEON

Area Agency on Aging of Pasco - Pinellas, Inc.
Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us for our Virtual 2020 Annual Luncheon! This year’s Luncheon sponsors and ticket holders graciously agreed to transfer their sponsorship to a donation in support of our COVID-19 relief efforts. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to these companies and individuals, who recognize the difference their funds can make in the lives of local seniors and families.

In 2019, we provided 53,500 services to individuals in need, in partnership with not for profit organizations and local businesses in Pasco and Pinellas Counties. Since the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we all operate, our services have not only continued but expanded, including a 53% reduction to our home delivered meal waiting list. We did this by partnering with local area restaurants as a way to stimulate the economy and provide fresh restaurant meals to home bound and self-isolating seniors. We are proud of what we have achieved, but realize that there are still so many more seniors and caregivers in need of support, engagement, and resources.

Not only are we providing necessary supports to help individuals age in place, we are working across our partner network to distribute supplies – from masks and hand sanitizer, to incontinence supplies and fresh food boxes – to keep those at highest risk at home, where they can stay safe.

Our vision every day is to provide vulnerable seniors with the resources and services needed to promote healthy aging and live an optimal quality of life. This vision is all the more important as we face these uncertain times. We’d like to thank our staff and volunteers for their tireless dedication to the mission of AAAPP and to our Board of Directors and Advisory Council for their guidance and direction.

Our work continues!

In the spirit of partnership,

Mayor Camille Hernandez  
AAAPP Board President

Ann Marie Winter  
Executive Director
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COVID-19 Response

Our home delivered meal program has distributed **260,280 meals** since March, serving **870 more seniors** than we were before the pandemic.

A team of **20 volunteers and our providers** have reached out to nearly **1,200 older adults on our waiting list** to provide a wellness check and direct them to resources.

We have distributed more than **3500 hygiene kits** to older adults to help them continue social distancing and stay safe at home.
COVID-19 Response

We have set up a **distribution network for unmet needs** - masks, hand sanitizer, toilet paper and more - for older adults to go pick up items they need in a **safe, drive-through setting**.

We have distributed **robotic therapy pets** to adult day care **participants** to keep them engaged while they can’t attend their regular community activities.
Brian LeBlanc is originally from New Orleans, LA and now makes his home in Largo, FL. It was in Pensacola, FL where he found his niche in the professional world as a Marketing and Public Relations Executive.

All that changed in October of 2014 when he was diagnosed with Younger-Onset Alzheimer’s Disease, thus becoming the 4th generation in his family to receive this diagnosis. In June 2019, he was also diagnosed with Vascular Dementia. Being he made a career by using his voice, he knew he HAD to use it now to Advocate and Educate for Persons Living with Dementia and their Care Partners. He does this also to honor his Mother who died with Alzheimer’s disease.

LeBlanc is now an International Alzheimer’s Advocate, Keynote Speaker, Session Presenter / Panelist and Congressional Alzheimer’s Ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Association. He speaks at International, National, Regional and Local Conferences, Seminars and Workshops. He is also a Crisis Intervention Team Trainer for Law Enforcement.

LeBlanc’s presentation provides a window into the journey of a “regular guy” from a “regular life” who is living with a progressive, disabling, degenerative brain disease. He speaks from the heart leaving his audience with the truest perspective he can give.

To find evidence of Mr. LeBlanc’s Global Leadership, please visit YouTube.com to view the WebMD documentary created with Brian titled “Into the Fog: Living with Early Onset Alzheimer’s”.

Mr. LeBlanc works tirelessly to educate individuals who are both Living With Dementia as well as those who are not living with Dementia on the topic of Living Well.

Mr. LeBlanc is a Member of:
- The National Alzheimer’s Association Early Stage Advisory Group
- State Spokesperson and Brand Ambassador for the Alzheimer’s Association of North & Central Florida
- Dementia Action Alliance Advisory Board
- Founding Board Member of Thriving for Life
- Dementia Care and Cure Initiative for the State of Florida as well as Pinellas & Pasco Counties.

Mr. LeBlanc’s Contact Information:
Phone: (850) 637-2586
e-mail: alzupclose@gmail.com
blog: abitofbriansbrilliance.com
I am currently 74 years old, but feel like my real life has just begun. I would never have thought, having zero experience in theater, that just four years prior I would have celebrated turning 70 by founding a senior theater company. However, I realized if I wanted older adults to be portrayed realistically on stage, I had to accept putting some retirement savings on the line and start SAGES to show older adults as more than one-dimensional comical creatures who only deteriorate and do not continue to learn and grow and take risks. When I wrote Grandma Goes Off Her Rocker, my first play, it told the story of a widow being moved into the home of her adult daughter, expecting to rock her life away in quiet acceptance of this role reversal. But times changed and she struggled with a desire to risk a new relationship that would not be to her daughter’s liking. It was so well-received that I became a playwright by chance and founder of a theater company on purpose.

As Founder and President of SAGES Theater, Inc, a nonprofit organization, I write Plays with Purpose: Denying Gravity, saving injuries from falls from 2018 to date; Phoney Baloney, to protect elderly from scams, premieres in 2020; The Deal Maker on cognitive impairment and driving, for 2021.

We bring “Plays with Purpose” to life on a variety of topics that touch our senior population and they are presented free, as a public service. If you are able to make a donation to help support this effort of education through theater, please go to our website, www.sagestheater.org. Donations of any amount are greatly appreciated.
Sheri Gruden, B.A., CMC

Intake/Enrollment Manager – Suncoast PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly)
Certified Geriatric Care Manager
PACE Veteran’s Representative
Chairman of the Fundraising Committee for BLS
A Member of the Board of Directors - Better Living for Seniors

Sheri brings extensive expertise to Suncoast PACE after serving over 19 years in our community in Social Services. She has special expertise in case management under Florida’s Medicaid programs, working for the past 12 years with the Suncoast PACE program. She previously led the care management team as Care Manager Supervisor for the state of Florida in another Medicaid program (CHOICE - Long Term Care Diversion) at Neighborly Care Network. She also worked as the Program Coordinator and Case Management Supervisor for GCCC’s Community Care for Disabled Adults Medicaid Waiver Program.

In 2019 she created and produced a fundraising event for BLS called Hearts and Hope where she merged her personal life in the Tampa Bay Music Industry, with her professional life, serving seniors. That one-night event raised enough money to feed thousands of meals to seniors and disabled adults here in Pinellas County.

In 2007, Sheri was named Tampa Bay Business Journal’s Business Woman of the Year in Social Services. In 2017 she served on Florida Congressman David Jolly’s Council on Disability and Elder Concerns (CDEC) and as a Provider with the Area Agency on Aging Aged and Disabled Resource Center (ADRC).

Sheri thinks of her work as much more than a career. Helping others gives her life purpose. She has a unique perspective on hospitalization and disability stemming from personal experiences. Through this perspective and her extensive experience, she has proven to be a compassionate advocate, counselor and listener. Sheri is a seventh generation Floridian born and raised right here in Ozona. One of her greatest joys is to spend time with her 14 year old “GrandPerfect”, Leland.

In addition to her family, she has many impressive accomplishments outside of her care management work. She is a published author and creates and sells her own jewelry. She lends her talents to charitable causes as well, ranging from Suncoast Hospice to Links of Hope and Homes for Our Troops, has served at a burn unit in Haiti, and served as Chairman of Christian Education and Director of Youth Ministries at Crystal Beach church.
2019 Services Provided Through Partnerships

53,500 Seniors Served

4,485 Seniors Received
383,049 Congregate Meals and/or Home Delivered Meals and also Nutrition Counseling & Education

928 Seniors participated in 86 Different Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Classes

1,482 seniors received
38,939 transportation trips to life sustaining destinations

1,029 Seniors Received Emergency Home Energy Assistance for the Elderly Program (EHEAP) benefits

34 Grandparents or Relative Caregivers Raising Children Received Specialized Legal Assistance

1,225 Seniors Received Case Management Services
2019 Services Provided Through Partnerships

- 223 Participants Received Socialization While Caregivers Received Respite through Adult Day Care
- 898 Seniors Received Heavy Cleaning CHORE Services
- 612 Seniors Received Legal Assistance
- 431 Seniors had Assistance with Activities of Daily Living through Homemaker Services
- 470 Seniors had an Extra Level of Security through Emergency Alert Response Services
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To learn about Gulf Coast JFCS Homemaker/Companionship Services, visit our website: gcjfcs.org or call 727-479-1887.

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Ann Marie Winter & Rusty Thomas
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Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. is pleased to be a long-time partner with the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas in the provision of comprehensive civil legal services, as part of the continuum of services AAAPP provides to older individuals and their caregivers in our community.

727-821-0726
www.gulfcoastlegal.org

Thank you
to the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas for serving the seniors in our community!

Menorah MANOR

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I am a Proud Supporter of the Area Agency on Aging for its excellent work supporting seniors and disabled individuals in Pasco and Pinellas counties.
- Rep. Gus Bilirakis

Bay Area Legal Services is proud to serve our elderly neighbors through our offices in New Port Richey and Dade City in Pasco County.

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— Maddie G.
Stanley’s CAREGiver
Together we can improve the quality of life for older adults in Pinellas.

Pinellas Community Foundation is pleased to partner with the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco-Pinellas in initiating the Community Assessment Survey of Older Adults that will identify the unmet needs of senior residents.

If you are 60 or older, you may receive one of the 10,000 surveys sent out. Please take some time to complete and mail it back.