

Q&A with a United Way's Partner Agency, Easter Seals Volusia Flagler Counties

What does Easter Seals do for the Flagler Community?

Through therapy, training, education and support services, Easter Seals creates life-changing solutions so that children and adults with disabilities can live, learn, work and play in their communities. Specifically, Easter Seals provides occupational and physical therapy to children through Flagler County Public Schools. Easter Seals regularly holds free respite care sessions at locations throughout the community called "Joey's Gift" to give parents and caregivers of children with special needs a healthy break. Easter Seals Autism Center of Excellence provides diagnosis, therapy, resources and education to children with autism. Several families in Flagler County have benefited from P.L.A.Y. therapy, a home-based therapy program for children with autism. We are pleased to expand our services to families affected by autism in Flagler County beginning this month. Easter Seals has a new scheduled diagnosis clinic at Bunnell Elementary School, which will provide a local therapy center for diagnosis and treatment. For information, call Easter Seals at (877) 255-4568.

Why does Flagler need Easter Seals in our Community?

Easter Seals has seen a dramatic increase in the number of children we serve who live with autism. The expansion of our autism-related services and our respite care program will fulfill a growing need in the Flagler community. Autism is a lifelong disability considered the result of a neurological condition affecting normal brain function and development. Today, between one in every 150 children is diagnosed with autism, making Autism more prevalent than Down syndrome, pediatric AIDS and childhood cancer.

Do you have any events that we should know about?

This spring, Easter Seals will be holding its annual 1.5 mile family fun walk called "Walk With Me" at Flagler Palm Coast High School. Participants are teamed with local children and adults who are clients of Easter Seals as they serve as ambassadors for this fun event.

How can the community help Easter Seals?

Easter Seals needs help to increase awareness of its services so that we can reach more people in Flagler County. We also have a need for volunteers in our Joey's Gift Respite Care program and to take part in our annual Walk With Me event.

So is your New Year's resolution to LIVE UNITED and do something that will make a difference in the lives of those around you? United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties has two upcoming service projects in January that will help you do just that.

To commemorate the vision and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., community volunteers in Volusia and Flagler Counties will celebrate Martin Luther King Day with a "day on, not a day off," on Monday, January 19th. The Volunteer Center of the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties has joined forces with Flagler, Halifax and Southwest Volusia Habitat for Humanity affiliates to host "The King Day of Service-Building on the Dream." We are hoping to recruit a total of 15-20 volunteers for each of Flagler Habitat for Humanity's 3 worksites that day.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 24, 2009 and get ready to break in those

running or walking shoes that Santa left under the Christmas tree as Daytona International Speedway hosts its 5th Annual Daytona 5K at the "World Center of Racing."

This is an annual event held at the Daytona International Speedway and proceeds benefit the United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties. Not only are we looking for race participants; volunteers of all ages are also needed to help with all aspects of the race: pre-race and on-site registration, aid/water stations, run course, parking, finish-line, etc.

For more information about The King Day of Service-Building on the Dream, the Daytona 5k & Fun Walk to benefit United Way or additional opportunities LIVE UNITED, please log onto www.liveunitedinvolusiaflagler.org or call 386-253-0563.



Flagler sixth grader Nick Moriero will serve as an ambassador for Easter Seals at this spring's Walk With Me event at Flagler Palm Coast High School.

Anything else we should know?

Easter Seals has partnered with the Florida Telecommunications Relay, Inc. (FTRI) program to provide specialized communication equipment to assist the hard-of-hearing at no charge. Flagler County residents can receive amplified telephones, text telephones, ring signalers and more. For more information, call Easter Seals at (877) 255-4568 or TTY (386) 257-3600.

Easter Seals Volusia Flagler is a funded United Way Partner Agency and is an example of just one of the ways that the United Way is helping to give people the opportunities for a better life.

For more information on how to Live United in Flagler, contact Alicia Casas, Assistant Director of Campaign at acasas@unitedwayvfc.org, 386-253-0563 ext 242 or LiveUnitedInVolusiaFlagler.org



Volusia-Flagler Counties

www.LiveUnitedInVolusiaFlagler.org

LIVE UNITED SPOTLIGHT

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NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:

LIVE UNITED!

This monthly column is published in the Palm Coast Neighborhood News which is distributed by The St. Augustine Record

THANK YOU!