



VISION

The Glades is a community where all residents are thriving physically, emotionally and spiritually.

MISSION

The mission of Healthier Glades is to assist residents in coping with life stressors and creating a sense of well-being that will impact the Glades communities.



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The "Muck" Gazette

The Official Newsletter of Healthier Glades

HEALTHIER GLADES **AN OVERVIEW**

Launched in fall 2017 in the Western Palm Beach County rich in culture and agricultural assets. "The Glades" is the collective of four communities—Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and the unincorporated community of Canal Point—located in the western section of the county along Lake Okeechobee.

IN THIS EDITION:

Healthier Glades is highlighting some of our residents who took initiative and "unlocked our community strengths" to bring positive activities to the Glades Communities.

Also in this edition, we will highlight our past mini grant awardees, Glades Life Facilitators, Faith Health Educators, COVID Vaccine efforts and partnerships with various organizations.

GLADES LIFE FACILITATORS "UNLOCKING OUR COMMUNITY STRENGTHS" THROUGH STORYTELLING

In August 2020, Palm Health Foundation submitted a proposal to collect stories from residents about their experiences living in Glades and its connection to toxic stress. The proposal was funded by the Children's Services Council of PBC and involved completing a SenseMaker® project identifying themes and behaviors resonating with the Glades community that could lead to further community-based research and intervention. In March 2021, a group of residents from Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and unincorporated areas of the Glades were recruited to learn about the tools and lead the project. This group calls themselves "the Glades Life Tri City Facilitators" and has learned how to use the software, design questions, facilitate groups and lead collection of stories. Healthier Glades has played many roles through the process as an active supporter, participant, leader and advisor. The Federation of Families is also supporting the residents in their management of the project. As of December 2021, they have collected over 500 stories in English, over 200 in Spanish and facilitated over a dozen groups that led to the following themes:

- COVID
- Housing/Homelessness
- Community Violence
- Support for Returning Citizens

Now, with the support of Palm Health, Healthier Glades and CSC, the Glades Life group is planning to take action on those themes through projects that can make a small difference now, and perhaps lead to bigger change and a Healthier Glades in the future.

HG SUPPORTS VACCINE OUTREACH IN PAHOKEE

Residents and community leaders became concerned when they didn't see vaccines being available to residents in the Pahokee/Canal Point area. Healthier Glades collaborated with Health Care District, First United Methodist Church, Pahokee Church of God and the City of Pahokee to offer incentives for residents to receive either their initial, 2nd or booster shot. As a result of these efforts, we were able to give vaccine shots to 69 residents.



HG Mini Grant Wrap Up

Healthier Glades wrapped up our second year of providing mini grants to residents and local organizations whose projects support our mission and vision to address behavioral health issues and improve health outcomes. Last year projects focused on the ways to bridge the digital divide, community gardening and teaching first aid/CPR. In this edition, we highlight two of our 20-21 Mini Grant Awardees summarizing their project:



AED and First Aid Training

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Glades communities it affected the way that we interacted with each other and created a sense of isolation and loneliness to our elderly and disabled citizens. Ms. Boldin, identified a need to provide care kits to help reduce isolation and stimulate cognitive activity. Ms. Boldin partnered with many organizations and churches that helped with the preparation and distribution of the kits. As a result of her efforts and collaborations, Ms. Boldin distributed over 250 kits in the Glades community. One individual that received one of the kits began to cry and said "she was happy that someone still cared about her".

Restoration Destination located in Pahokee Florida has been providing support to returning citizens once they leave the penial system by offering them housing and spiritual support. Ted Rodarm identified a need to make sure that they were prepared to assist residents in a medical emergency. Because of their location, response times can be difficult. Through their mini grant, they wanted to Provides access to potentially life-saving training & pquipment that may benefit hendreds of residents in the event of a medical emergency. They purchased an AED and offered CPR/First Aid Training to the residents and community. Approximately 20 partiicipants attended the training.



We Care Kits

HG Celebrates One Year Collaboration with Faith Health Educators

In October 2020, Healthier Glades received an invite to attend a meeting to hear about a group of residents coming together through faith to address issues around Brain Health in the Glades. With the help of Dr. Lisa Wiese from FAU, the Faith Health Educators was formed. Since that meeting, the group has expanded beyond brain health and has become its own health network addressing issues listed below. In October, HG celebrated 1 year working with these wonderful group of faith leaders.

Be on the lookout for the Faith Health Educators at a church near you. If you are interested in having the Faith Health Educators offer services to your congregation, please contact Dr. Lisa Wiese at lwiese@health.fau.edu.



Brain Health Screening



Blood Pressure Checks



Diabetes Prevention



Community Resource

2021-2022 Mini Grant Celebration

Healthier Glades hosted our 3rd Mini Grant Awards Celebration in November 2021.

United Way of Palm Beach County supported our efforts to award this year winners. This year we awarded 3 residents and 3 organizations who will be implementing their projects after the new year. This year projects will focus on the following:

- Telehealth Services for Returning Citizens
- 5-week Virtual Youth Support Group
- COVID-19 Outreach Efforts
- Teaching Life Skills Through Fishing
- Job and Resource Fair for Returning Citizens
- Community Health Fair



2021-2022 Mini Grant Awardees



Mini Grant Awardee D. Moore



Luncheon at Banyan Tree

UPCOMING MEETINGS

HG Steering Committee Meeting:

2nd Monday of Each Month at 5:30pm

HG Marketing Workgroup:

2nd Monday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Housing Workgroup:

4th Friday of Each Month at 11am

HG Hispanic Behavioral Health Workgroup

3rd Monday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Community Engagement Workgroup

4th Wednesday of Each Month at 5:30pm

HG Open Table Workgroup

(Implementation/Convening):

3rd Tuesday of Each Month Time: TBA

HG Governance Action Workgroup:

3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Youth (Action Workgroup):

4th Monday of Each Month Time: TBA

January 2022

MLK Celebration
City of Belle Glade
January 17, 2022
Town Square (next to City Hall)

Brain Health Screening Event
1/29/22 @ 10am
St. John Missionary Baptist Church

February 2022

Pahokee Centennial Gala
2/12/22 at 7pm
Eddie L. Rhodes Gym

Brain Health Screening Event
2/13/22 @ 10am
St. Phillip Benzi Catholic Church

Brain Health Screening Event
2/19/22 @ 10am
Pahokee Church of God

March 2022

Pahokee Centennial Unity Breakfast and Celebration
First United Methodist Church 8:30am

Pahokee Centennial Committee Taste of the City
3/12/22 @ 11am

Pahokee Centennial Day Celebration/Fishing Tournament at the Marina
3/26/22 @ 8am

Please go to our Healthier Glades page at <https://www.facebook.com/HealthierGlades/> to find out more information about upcoming events in the community.



**Upcoming
Events
JANUARY-MARCH
2022**