



JEWISH FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICE  
OF SARASOTA-MANATEE, INC.

# Acts of Loving Kindness



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*This is not a comprehensive list. It is a representative sampling of self-selected submissions.*

## Pots of Love- Fundraising for Food Allergy Research

*Submitted by: Eileen Hampton*

Hunter, 11, and Sydney, 9, started their non-profit, Pots of Love, two years ago to raise money for food allergy research. Hunter has severe food allergies to all nuts, seeds, shellfish, and some raw fruits and veggies. They fundraise by making pens that look like flowers, putting them in one-of-a-kind pots and then giving them to people in lieu of donations. Recently, they gave their first check of \$1,000.00 to Duke University's Children's Research Development. They have been featured on local television shows, in newspapers and at craft shows spreading their hope that one day there will be a cure for severe food allergy reactions. For more information, go to: [www.potsoflove.cfsites.org](http://www.potsoflove.cfsites.org)



## A Mother's Creative Approach to Reading Motivates & Inspires

*Submitted by: Humane Society of Manatee County*

Katie Patterson wanted to encourage her daughter, Lane, to read more, and knew she had to find material that would be interesting as well as inspiring. Because of Lane's love of animals, she printed copies of newsletters from various Humane Societies around the country. Lane not only read every page but also used her new-found knowledge to help her local shelter, by donating all of her birthday and holiday money to the animals. The Humane Society of Manatee County keeps its wish list on its website, at [www.humanemanatee.org](http://www.humanemanatee.org) so everyone can see the things it needs.

**Write to Military Personnel: Have the little ones draw them a picture.**

## A Little Hot Chocolate Goes a Long Way

*Submitted by: Mote Marine Laboratory*

Anna, 8, raised \$100 through her hot chocolate stand sales and donated the money to Mote Marine Lab. Mote placed the donation in the cancer research budget and it was doubled by the Doherty Foundation. A few weeks later, Anna and her family visited Mote. They were excited to learn how the donation had been used because Anna and her family are affected by cancer. They toured Mote, including the cancer research lab, and Anna was thrilled about Mote's research. Since then, Anna has raised another \$78 through a summer lemonade stand that she donated when she attended the Mote summer camp in August. While a marine laboratory might not be the first place most people would look to find a cancer cure, research being conducted at Mote is showing promise for treating cancer. For more information, go to: [www.mote.org](http://www.mote.org)



## Hurricane Katrina Creates a Gale-force Commitment to Philanthropy

*Submitted by: Dan & Nelle Miller*

Shortly before Halloween in 2005, when our son Henry was in 5th grade, Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. At that time, UNICEF decided to allow directed giving for the first time in its history. Henry saw his UNICEF campaign as a way to raise money for Katrina, and asked his teacher if he could include his class in this activity. Over the years, he has involved the elementary and middle school grades at his school, Pine View, in the cause. In all, Henry has raised well over \$20,000 since 2005. He will continue to be the local UNICEF Ambassador until he graduates in three years. Additionally, national opportunities have now presented themselves that will allow Henry to further develop his activism and philanthropy. For more information, go to: [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org)

**JFCS ... When You Can't Do It Alone**

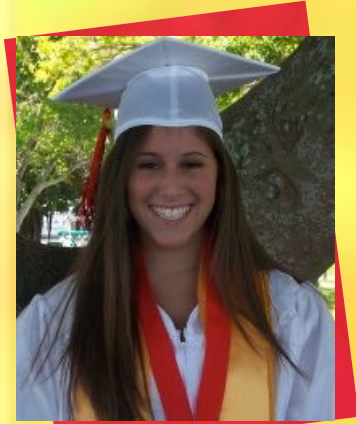
## Spreading 'KINDNESS'

Submitted by: Stevie Peacock

School is challenging enough for most children – imagine how difficult it might be for financially and developmentally at-risk students! The summer after 5<sup>th</sup> grade, I started Project KINDNESS, an organization that provides school supplies for the most at-risk kids in our schools. This commitment requires work throughout the year: preparing for the school supplies drive, tracking donations as they come in and then shopping for the supplies that will be donated to schools. My friends, teachers and Principal at Pine View have been extremely supportive, making donations and helping to deliver the supplies. My family helps with every aspect of the project, most importantly, by spreading the word about the projects and driving me to gather and deliver toys and supplies.



**YouTube: Create a video to support your favorite cause.**



## Helping 'Mothers Helping Mothers'

Submitted by: Stephanie Olan

In the eleventh grade I started volunteering at Mothers Helping Mothers. Initially, I stuffed backpacks with school supplies and held babies for mothers while they shopped. Then I met Megan, whose mother was ill and father had died – she hadn't had new school supplies or clothes in years. With the help of MHM, we took Megan shopping and got her a new wardrobe. That fall, in school, I'd see Megan and every time she passed me she'd smile and wave, reinforcing that I had impacted her life for the better. To learn more about ways to donate to Mothers Helping Mothers call 941-953-7572.

**Speak Up: Write to an elected official about an important social or political issue.**



## Hang Out for Haiti

Submitted by: Stacy Hanan

Sydney Hanan, 12, Samantha Hanan, 12, and Lauren Cohen, 13, put together an event called "Hang Out for Haiti" – a picnic – at Siesta Key Beach. It was free to attend but donations were collected to benefit Haiti. 75-100 people attended and we raised about \$2,400, including cash, checks and online donations. We emailed, text messaged, and passed out flyers. Our event taught us and others the meaning of giving. One family with two kids said they were going to attend. When those kids found out about our efforts, they really wanted to help, so they raised \$75 with a lemonade stand. Three kids can put together an event and really make a difference!

**Soup Kitchen: Volunteer as a family!**

## Suitcase Project for Foster Children

Submitted by: Amy Weinberger

Jake Weinberger, 13, undertook a special project in recognition of his Bar Mitzvah. Jake partnered with the Safe Children Coalition with the goal of collecting at least 90 new or gently used suitcases and/or backpacks to be donated to local foster children. He also set up a bank account called The Suitcase Project for people who want to donate money to the cause. When asked why he chose this as his project, he said, "I don't think it is okay for kids to have to carry their personal belongings in a garbage bag." There are approximately 301 children in foster care in the tri-county area. Jake chose to collect 90 because it is a multiple of 18 which, according to Jewish tradition, means "to life."



**JFCS ... When You Can't Do It Alone**

## Not Just Horsin' Around

Submitted by: Tana Johnson

I love horses, children and helping the community. That is why I started volunteering at InStride. I help with its therapy programs, greet special riders, perform barn chores, such as cleaning the stalls, and work one-on-one with therapy horses. It is fantastic that children with disabilities have the opportunity to interact and connect with horses. Being able to see the joy kids get from being with the horses is gratifying. Plus, all of the horses in the program are sweet, calm, and gentle and they all have different "horsenalties." I really enjoy spending time with both horses and riders when I am volunteering at InStride. For more information, go to: [www.instridetherapy.org](http://www.instridetherapy.org)



**Adopt Grandparents:**  
Call, write or visit!

## Assisting Wherever There is a Need

Submitted by: Sarah Brickman

As a 5<sup>th</sup> grader, I started volunteering at Gocio Elementary School. My projects included an art supply drive, book and school supply drives, tutoring, and generally assisting the school with any needs. To date, I have brought hundreds of books to the children and spent many hours tutoring. As a high school student, I continue to support Gocio. In addition, I recently played a key role in fundraising to build a media center for a school in Costa Rica. The building was constructed this summer and 11 computers were brought to the school!



## The Life of Riley: Legacy of Finding a Cure for Brain Tumors

Submitted by: Dr. Joshua & Julie Green

The Life of Riley Foundation celebrates the life of Riley Saba, a courageous little girl who wanted other children like her, with brain tumors, to be able to have hope for a cure and to get a gift while receiving treatment. In her memory, 11-year-old Amanda and 10-year-old Jacob Green, along with 70 other children in the area, created an annual fundraising event. The entire event, from theme to invitations, to creating the artwork, to choosing the venue and the food, is handled exclusively by the children. By producing the event, they learn the complexities of event planning as well as the great reward of helping others. To learn more about ways to give to The Life of Riley Foundation, go to: [www.lifeofrileyfoundation.org](http://www.lifeofrileyfoundation.org)

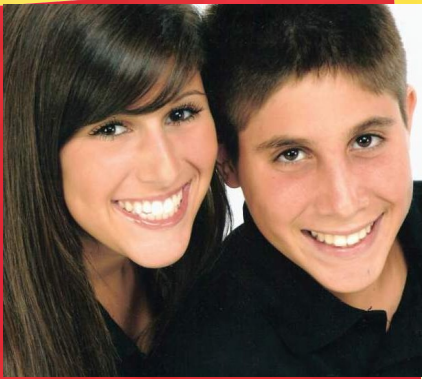


**Clean Cars & a Sweet Tooth:**  
Support local car washes  
and bake sales.

## Holiday Project Brings the Family Closer

Submitted by: Lisa Olan

Several years ago, my teenage children – Stephanie and Matt – wanted to do something for Jewish children for Chanukah so I called JFCS to see if we could adopt a family. We went shopping as a family and had such a great time. My kids loved filling the shopping carts, collecting items on the wish list and adding some of our own gift ideas. Then we came home and all four of us sat on the floor in the family room to wrap all the gifts. My kids decided this was their favorite part of the holiday and we've made it a family tradition. It's very special for us because it's quality time spent together with a purpose and leaves us all feeling good. We think we benefit more from the experience than our gift recipients. To learn more about holiday gift giving, contact Andria Bilan of JFCS at 941-366-2224 ext.138 or go to: [www.jfcs-cares.org](http://www.jfcs-cares.org)



**Talent Show:** With permission, share your talent by playing an instrument at a nursing home or hospital.

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### Helping Hands & Locks of Love

Submitted by: Sandra VanSuch

Three years ago, Sierra VanSuch helped start a children’s group called “Helping Hands,” which focuses on “doable and family oriented” community service acts in Sarasota and abroad. Always interested in assisting others, Sierra cut her hair four times for Locks of Love and this year, her sister, 7-year-old Alexa, had her first haircut for the same group. Helping Hands’ first event was collecting school supplies. In addition, they have sent military care packages, raised money for a Venice no kill cat shelter, picked over 1700 lbs. of oranges for All Faiths Food Bank, collected items for the Salvation Army Shelter, bought a water purification system for Haiti, and much more. Their motto is: *Lend a helping hand where ever there’s a need, across the street or around the world, we follow every lead.*

### Charitable Allowance System

Submitted by: Jane Robbins

Children need to learn financial responsibility and giving back at an early age. At age six, our daughters had an allowance system “earned” by performing chores. They split their allowance: 50% savings, 30% spending, and 20% charity. Dollars were physically placed in three different billfolds, teaching them about setting financial priorities, percentages and budgeting. Savings were deposited monthly into each child’s bank account. The kids would keep the account book, confirm deposits, watch the balance grow, and learn the wonders of compounding interest. Savings were only for long-term uses such as college education. Petty cash or spending money was used at their discretion. Charitable dollars were donated to a charity of each girl’s choosing with minimal guidance. Today, my children each give money and/or time to a variety of charitable organizations.



**Birthday Party Giving:** When you send out your e-vite or post an event on Facebook, ask for friends to click the link to your favorite cause and donate in lieu of gifts.

### Team Effort to Collect Food for Migrant Workers

Submitted by: Ronni Blumenthal

During a conversation with two women who had been interviewing migrant farm workers living in camps outside of Arcadia, I learned how difficult it was for the more than 200 workers living there to afford food. My family and I wrote emails to every person we knew, from our congregation to workplace, asking for help. Within a few days, our living room looked like a food pantry, and we also received generous monetary donations. People I didn’t even know volunteered to come out to the camps with us to deliver the food. In the end, we were a convoy of six vehicles: three trucks and three large SUVs packed to the brim with food!

### Combat Medic Veteran Continues to Aid Veterans

Submitted by: Florida Veterans for Common Sense

As a combat medic through World War II and the Korean War, Henry Stimmel continues to comfort wounded soldiers today by being a part of the Florida Veterans for Common Sense. FVCS mission is to help veterans and educate the public through multiple projects it supports. Over the years, Harry has collected everything from socks, toiletries and wheelchair gloves to money for The Haley House and VA Hospital. He has also mentored for JFCS Operation Military Assistance Program and the Assisting Veterans Program of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Court. For more information, go to:

[www.floridaveteransforcommonsense.org](http://www.floridaveteransforcommonsense.org)



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**Omar's Vision: Guidance for Talented Students**

*Submitted by: Education Foundation of Sarasota County, Inc.*

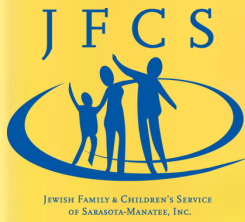
In 2008, Omar came to us with a generous heart and big vision. He wanted a system to motivate talented students who are not afraid to compete and achieve in science, performing/visual arts, and public service. Omar's vision took him a step beyond a scholarship. He envisioned each student having a mentor, with professional expertise in their chosen disciplines, to help chart a course for the future, open doors, and make connections they could never make on their own. Nine students have received the Omar Cooper Award thus far with four more recipients expected this spring! For more information on ways to give to the Omar Cooper Award program, go to: [www.sarasotacountyschools.net/educationfoundation](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/educationfoundation)

**Get 1, Give 1: Buy one, give one to your local food pantry.**

**Passion for Teaching English to Those in Need**

*Submitted by: Literacy Council of Sarasota*

Betty Farrar tutors English and non-English speaking adults and families. She enlivens the Council's goal to improve English-language communication skills through personalized, needs-based tutoring to meet the demands of daily life. Betty's enthusiasm for teaching those in need was sparked after Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination; "I could not just sit in my pretty little house and do nothing." After writing to 13 black colleges, she ended up teaching at Tougaloo College, a historically black, liberal arts institution. "There, I received a better education than I gave," Betty says. She moved often and always sought out the "Second Chance" schools or "slower" classes. For more information, go to: [www.sarasotaliteracy.org](http://www.sarasotaliteracy.org)



**Ways You & Your Family Can Donate, Volunteer & Give of Your Heart**

**Adopt a Family for the Holidays**

We will provide you with the ages of the children so you can shop for age-appropriate toys and clothes. Your generosity will make the holidays brighter for needy families.



**Donate to the Food Pantry**

At holiday-time, the shelves of our kosher food pantry always need to be restocked. Help us by donating perishable food or making a donation to provide food coupons to families in need. Don't let a family go hungry this holiday season!



**Volunteer Your Time & Talents**

JFCS is always in need of volunteers. Learn about volunteer opportunities in our Jewish Healing Program, Senior Outreach Service, administrative office as well as Mentoring or Tutoring with elementary and middle school students and young adults. Contact Marty Katz at 366-2224 ext. 143 or e-mail her at [mkatz@jfcs-cares.org](mailto:mkatz@jfcs-cares.org) to learn about ways you can volunteer.

For more information, contact JFCS at 941-366-2224 or e-mail at [info@jfcs-cares.org](mailto:info@jfcs-cares.org)

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