



CLEANER

GREENER

SAFER

*******NEIGHBORHOODS*******

Creation Date: October 9, 2019

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Reporting Period: 4/1/2019 to 9/30/2019

Neighborhood: Lake Worth Beach 33460

KEYWORDS: Behavioral Health, Neighborhood Health-Community Environment, Safety, Community Pride, Thriving Youth, Recreation, Education and Access to resources, Unity, Community Collaboration, Family Engagement, Cleaner Greener Neighborhoods Residents, Collective Impact, Mental Health, Palm Health Foundation, Community Partners,

“Many Heads, Hearts, and Hands Working Together for a Healthier Lake Worth Beach”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Organizing and Planning...

Over the past six months, as our Initiative reached the end of its second year and entered its third year, HLWB has been busy, and successful, in tightening the focus and direction of its Strategic Plan for 2019 – 2020. All the projects we’ve

partnered on and helped sponsor, and the engagements and dialogue that we've had with various Community Groups, Individuals, Leaders, and Key Stakeholders who were already "doing good" as they strived to improve the health of various neighborhoods, have helped HLWB in many ways. This included providing extensive information about the Community and its needs; evolving from bringing to light the behavioral health needs of the community to deepening our understanding of the root causes of the health issues that are affecting certain neighborhoods in the community, in order to respond effectively and provide the Community with the resources they need to lead and bring about change in their neighborhood. The knowledge we have gathered over the past 2+ years has helped us to gain crucial insights and build important alliances. It has also helped to build the energy needed to be more strategic in creating a comprehensive framework for addressing Community-Identified Priorities and developing a focused plan with emphasis on the issues of Neighborhood Health, Safety, Recreation, and Increased Investment in Our Youth. Our unique "Sponsorship" approach to funding important Community Projects has also been integral in building strong relations and partnerships with the Community. Our "Sponsorship" approach has also enabled us to bridge all of the Priorities, thereby allowing the Sponsorship Review Committee an opportunity to identify and maximize synergies between and within requests.

The proposed activities in our Strategic Plan for 2019 - 2020 are intended to significantly advance the Neighborhood Health and Safety agendas, and also lay the groundwork for addressing our youth behavioral health needs; needs such as increasing access to resources, and other needs defined by Residents, Local Businesses, Key Stakeholders, Faith-based Organizations, and Other Community Partners, through engagement with us.

As we narrow our focus on:

Neighborhood Health...

Ever since the Community first defined Neighborhood Health and Community Environment as Priority No. 1 to address Behavioral Health, and proposed a Strategy of monthly clean-ups throughout Lake Worth Beach, many Community members immediately understood the relevance of this Priority and this Strategy. However, a smaller, but still large number of Community members were skeptical about the direction and had difficulty seeing the relevance of this Priority to Behavioral Health and to their particular neighborhood. Though they wanted to help, they just couldn't relate, at first, because their neighborhoods were not perceived to have a problem with cleanliness. To address this skepticism, we began providing research-based data that addressed how the zip code or the environment in which people live can be one of the major risk factors for Behavioral Health issues, the "Social Determinants of Health. In a nutshell, a cleaner, greener environment promotes a positive outlook, increases pride in where one lives, decreases crime, and encourages a person to go outside and enjoy their neighborhood. Conversely, a less clean, less green neighborhood, has the opposite impact on its residents, breeds crime and encourages less healthy behavior.

While HLWB was busy educating the Community with research, the Community members living in impacted neighborhoods, responded by rallying Residents, Groups, Key Stakeholders, Community Leaders, and Local Businesses to take action by targeting one of their neighborhoods in most need of clean-up and began a monthly campaign of clean-ups there and in other neighborhoods throughout Lake Worth Beach, and building upon any existing improvement measures. HLWB has helped this effort through the use of various strategies intended to expand the roster of clean-up participants (100's). These strategies addressed various neighborhood associations and elementary, middle, and high school students. Since the beginning, these consistent efforts have generated a great deal of momentum and energy to the point that various Neighborhoods have taken it upon themselves to develop permanent solutions to improving cleanliness, solutions that are driven by the Residents and supported by HLWB and the "local system" (schools, PBSO, the City of Lake Worth, etc.). As a result, everyone is beginning to work together for the betterment of Lake Worth Beach. This has been HLWB's biggest "win" to-date. As the impact of the ongoing clean-ups began being felt, a parallel "greening" campaign of tree-plantings was also begun in partnership with Community Greening and the City of Lake Worth Beach. Over the past few months, well over 170 new trees have been planted at two of our targeted neighborhoods. This is another major "win" for HLWB and the Community.

A safer Lake Worth...

HLWB has come to understand that in order to respond to the safety needs of the residents, we must understand what that looks and feel like for them. Just as each neighborhood in the community has different needs, related to their vision for Priority #1: Neighborhood Health and Community Environment,” their needs also vary for their 2nd identified Priority: “Safety;” though, certainly, both go hand in hand. While engaging with the different neighborhoods during our monthly clean-ups, we have been able to observe activities in the neighborhoods and brainstorm with clean-up participants regarding Safety.

Through our various interactions with members of the Community, we have also been able to come to an important realization: Though the residents have some great ideas and solutions on how to improve on their neighborhood’s Safety, they (and we) have realized that any effort cannot be successful without involving the “local system” partners. As a result of this realization, we have strived to build a strong partnership with our local PBSO. As a result, PBSO has recognized the work that HLWB team has been doing with the residents and the trust and strong relationships we have built within the Community. This recognition produced our biggest and most recent “win” when our Local PBSO received a \$3,000,000 “Community Based Crime Reduction” (CBCR) grant from the Department of Justice to address reducing violent crimes in LWB, with a focus on the South end of LWB. Through our many previous interactions with the PBSO, they recognized the value, expertise and overall passion for the community that HLWB could bring to the table. And, perhaps even more importantly, the large amount of trust “equity” we have accumulated over the past 2+ years. As a result, PBSO invited HLWB to join forces with them and serve on their Grant Leadership Council and the Project Implementation Team, to help guide the development of the framework for the CBCR Initiative.

Our relationship with PBSO was also strengthened through a recent Sponsorship, enabling PBSO to “wrap” a van to promote a Fitness, Unity, and Neighborhood “F.U.N.” mobile sports program that brings equipment for various sports activities (i.e., soccer, basketball, baseball, jump rope, etc.) to parks throughout the Lake Worth Beach Community, thereby allowing youth ready access to recreation. As a result of this sponsorship and the early success of the new program, PBSO recently recognized HLWB as a valued new partner.



Building upon existing efforts and increasing capacity...

Our “Sponsorship” approach has been integral in supporting the Community with the resources that they need to increase their capacity and efficiency on projects already in place and in developing and implementing new projects that align with HLWB and the Community’s priorities. Through our sponsorship program, we’ve been able to work side by side with various Groups, Organizations, and Individuals to increase capacity and efficiency in various important projects addressing the following areas of concern: “Food Insecurity,” “Increasing Literacy in Our Youth” in order for them to succeed in school, “Mobile Recreation” to increase access to sports/outdoor activities for our youth who reside in our targeted neighborhoods, and “Increasing Youth Capacity and Increasing Their Access to Community Resources”. In addition, HLWB’s decision to sponsor the “Art of Recovery” film festival has created a platform to bring awareness to and promote engagement to the problems of Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health, with the hope for end-result of decreasing the stigma of these issues in the Community. Most of the projects who have received our sponsorships are already showing improvement in the areas of capacity, efficiency and community engagement. This is another big “win” for HLWB and the Community

All this progress and success would not have been possible without the strong leadership of our Steering Committee members, our partners, the neighborhood association leaders and the residents who consistently share their gifts of “heads, hearts and hands” as they work together to achieve a Healthier Lake Worth Beach.

GOALS:

We seek to identify and work with local neighborhood change agents, youth and families, as well as neighborhood associations, to improve each resident’s well-being and promote healthy behaviors in Lake Worth Beach.

- 1) Community Engagement: Increase residents’ participation in Healthier Lake Worth Beach’s community/neighborhood activities, events, and meetings.
- 2) Create and rollout an awareness campaign to increase awareness of Healthier Lake Worth Beach and its priorities in the Lake Worth Beach community.
- 3) Develop and initiate a formal Ambassador Program.
- 4) Distribute funds through our HLWB Sponsorships to support community projects.
- 5) Hold a community-wide meeting, at least twice per year.

DETAILED NARRATIVE:

We are Healthier Lake Worth Beach...

In the last six months, HLWB has been busy with activities ranging from multiple monthly neighborhood cleanups, partnering with large community events, and reviewing and granting “sponsorships” to address many other needs brought to our attention by the Community. These activities have contributed to a noticeable increase in the attention given to HLWB. For example, the welcome that we get when we walk into a community or partner meeting, Residents, Groups, Key Stakeholders, Community Leaders, Local Businesses and “Local System” members giving us public accolades for the work that we do with various neighborhoods, and people reaching out to HLWB to partner with us or support them with their projects. For example, the City’s Vice Mayor suggested that the City’s strategic department staff reach out to HLWB as an important partner in order to ensure that the 20/20 Census project is successful. People have begun seeing HLWB as an advocate and a liaison representing the voice of the residents; an organization who knows the best and/or most effective ways to communicate with the Community, and a portal to share information with the multicultural population in the community, and a resource to engage the Community, in order to make sure that their individual and collective voices are heard.

Turning Challenge into opportunity...

Since its inception, HLWB has struggled to get residents to formally join us as Ambassadors, to help lead our Action Workgroups and move our collaborative effort, forward. Based on our Goal #3, this may seem to be an ongoing Challenge. However, is it really? After all, “Ambassador” is only a title; more importantly, it represents a concept. A concept that the members of the Community will advocate for themselves and spread the word about HLWB. When we reflect upon all of HLWB’s “Wins” the ever growing Community-wide awareness of HLWB, and the tremendous work and projects that have been completed by the targeted neighborhoods, it is clear that defacto “Ambassadorship” is actually thriving, despite the lack of formal Ambassadors. This has enabled HLWB to follow the lead of the Community regarding how they want to engage, contribute, and manage their time and how they want HLWB to represent their neighborhoods and the Community at large. Each neighborhood is now independently developing ideas for improving their well-being and coordinating their efforts, including reaching out to HLWB for resources and support necessary for their projects. They consistently seek out HLWB partnership for every event and project they decide to take on in their neighborhood. Though some of them may not be at our table in a formal way, we must also recognize that without their leadership, the concept of improving “Neighborhood Health and Community Environment” wouldn’t have picked up so much momentum and energy and wouldn’t have led to so many accomplishments over the past 2+ years. So, an informal way, the Community is now acting as a strong informal “Ambassador”. Our community is unique, with complexities and a multitude of residents and stakeholders who are #Do Gooders, despite limited resources and capacity. We just have to continue to embrace this momentum and energy and recognize what the Community is offering in abundance: its “Heads, Hands, and Hearts”.

One other “challenge” we have identified is that though cleanups have been accepted as a new reality in some of our neighborhoods, in some neighborhoods that may never be the case. Over the past 2+ years, we have heard many comments from residents similar to the following: “We want to help, but is there something else we can do?” Based on this and similar comments, HLWB is actively striving to identify and present other “engagement” opportunities for community members, so that they can utilize their gifts of “Heads, Hearts, and Hands”. They are clearly motivated to help, but in different ways.

We seek to listen and connect...

HLWB team is determined to continue to build and “flesh out” a well-defined framework for the Initiative to move forward in the second half of its existence, with a focus on the top three priorities identified by the Community; “Neighborhood Health and Community Environment,” “Safety,” and “Recreation” using Community Engagement and Collaboration as the platform to achieve the work. The framework includes well-defined Action Workgroups to share the responsibilities that support each focus area. These Action Workgroups include “Neighborhood Health,” “Community Engagement and Marketing,” “Education and Access to Resources,” “Sponsorships” and Governance. This framework tailored for our specific focus priorities will continue to give us insight to facilitate finalizing our marketing message about who we are and what we represent and enabled us to move forward to create and finalize our awareness brochure to share with the community to support our Goal #2. The Brochure is now available for distribution! Another big “win”!

Neighborhood Health:

Where residents are leading...

From April thru September, excluding the hotter months of July and August, HLWB supported 12 clean-ups within the three targeted neighborhoods, Pineapple Beach, Royal Poinciana and Whispering Palms. All cleanup efforts were coordinated and led by the Neighborhood Association members, who come up with their own strategies for maximum engagement (i.e., when to hold the cleanups, should they get the City involved? etc.). Collectively 350 residents were engaged and approximately 7,000 lbs. of recyclables and trash were picked up. Whispering Palms recently received “sponsorship” funding from HLWB so they could move forward with their plan to add large trash and recyclable bins in

areas where the trash and recyclables accumulate consistently. In addition, Royal Poinciana will be receiving bins thanks to the generosity of the CRA. The two neighborhoods will be working together on this joint initiative. They plan to help insure the success of this initiative by asking the City to empty their bins twice per week. Once they have this agreement in place, they will order the bins, together. This effort, and other similar combined efforts, will lead to strong partnerships with our “local systems” including, PBSO District 14, City of LWB Code Enforcement, SWA, and local elementary schools.

Our cleanup efforts have generally produced very positive results. The neighborhood associations have been doing a consistently excellent job promoting the cleanups within their neighborhoods and HLWB has been doing the same throughout other areas of Lake Worth Beach. However, though the neighborhoods have consistently been participating each month, the number of participants has been inconsistent. HLWB is working closely with the neighborhoods to examine the situation and hopefully identify a better approach to ensure more consistent turnouts.

Over the past 2+ years, we have learned to utilize social media more effectively to communicate what HLWB and its Community partners and residents are doing. However, as always, it is important to emphasize that before we do anything, we have to wait for our Community to tell us what they want to do and how they want to do it. We can guide the Community, but it is not our role to make decisions for them. Though waiting can be frustrating, “patience” is a key to the ultimate success of the HLWB Initiative.

Residents’ voices matter...

The Community’s voice has been resonating loudly as they advocate for a “greener” Lake Worth. This was most evident during our data “sense-making” presentation last year and through the actions taken by the residents since they started planting trees in conjunction with their cleanups. The City has now started to pay attention. For example, through a partnership with “Community Greening,” the City coordinated two extensive tree planting campaigns over a three month period. The plantings took place at our targeted South-end neighborhoods: Whispering Palms and Genesis. The first planting took place in June at Howard Park in Whispering Palms where over 100 shade and Florida native trees were planted. The second planting took place in August on a walking greenway in the Genesis neighborhood where about 75 trees, including fruits, shade and Florida natives were planted. HLWB was invited to be a convener to engage the LWB residents to come and share their gifts of “hands” and “time” by planting a tree. We engaged over 75 residents between the 2 plantings and each resident planted not just one tree, but many. As the attendees began teaming-up to follow the steps of planting each tree, they began also to recognize a growing “feel good” emotion and a sense of “community pride” and teamwork, as they completed their tasks.



A perspective from our Co-Chair and “Neighborhood Health” Action Workgroup Chair...

The greening of Lake Worth continues with the active participation and support of Healthier Lake Worth Beach. We contributed a meaningful # of enthusiastic young volunteers to the August tree planting sponsored by the City of Lake Worth Beach and Community Greening of Delray Beach. Dozens of trees were planted along the 11th Avenue South greenway between “A” and “F” Streets. This event followed by a few months the “bonkers” turnout in Osbourne where over 100 young fruits, shades and Florida native trees were put in the ground. These trees will beautify, shade, filter, feed, and nurture the Community for decades and decades. This is a significant contribution to the generations of community residents to come.

With the commencement of the new school year, the neighborhood cleanups have picked up steam again. Whispering Palm's August cleanup experienced terrific attendance by local families. Healthier Lake Worth offered book bags to all participating youth which proved a popular incentive. An inventory of 100 book bags was exhausted by 11 am and the neighborhood was spotless by morning's end.

Whispering Palms skipped a September cleanup and without any additional cleanup measures in place the trash has returned. A cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, October 26; however, there is no ongoing mechanism/incentive to ensure turnout and anticipated results are uncertain. We have yet to execute any additional measures beyond the monthly physical cleanups. Funding for trash cans is approved but the order is still pending (awaiting funding/approval of CRA/Royal Poinciana cans). We haven't engaged in an anti-litter/pro-neighborhood health messaging campaign of any kind (signs, social media, etc.) due to uncertainty on how to proceed. The Joyce Brown sponsorship may be the means by which we generate messaging geared to the individual neighborhoods; however, the group (HLWB) to date has been hesitant to ask sponsorship recipients for contributions to the neighborhood health initiative.

Pineapple Beach started the new school year with a monster-sized clean-up in August. Led by the indefatigable team of Pam and Wally Bergsma, the neighborhood association's trash team welcomed the participation of a terrific new crop of South Grade safety patrol students, their parents and seemingly every relative in a 50-mile radius. Total body count was in excess of 100 people and the South Grade dumpsters/recycle bins were inadequate to the task of holding all the refuse.

The September cleanup in Pineapple Beach was equally impressive. Turnout exceeded expectations and we ran out of grabbers for all the participants, necessitating a quick run back to the HLWB office. The strong turnout was partly due to the relentless work of South Grade safety patrol administrators Paul Hamilton and Francis Arbesfeld, tireless advocates for their young charges and the scholastic field trip which awaits them at school year's end. The allocation of \$\$ to the South Grade initiative is currently undefined. The kids appear ready to earn out all that we offer them.

Royal Poinciana hosted an August cleanup on South H Street in the Far East end of the neighborhood, an area of light industrial uses. Much trash was collected but turnout was disappointing. We at HLWB have tried but largely failed to produce volunteers for Royal Poinciana over the past year. This inability to meaningfully assist the neighborhood association in turnout/results appears to be impacting HLWB's credibility and neighborhood morale. The September cleanup was canceled in anticipation of inclement weather which never materialized. The October cleanup, which was attended by approximately 20 South Grade safety patrol youth and parents, didn't have the participation of any neighborhood residents. We hope the neighborhood residents will recognize the contribution of the October 19th effort to their neighborhood's health and find renewed enthusiasm for the cleanup campaign.

In summary, our results are mixed but largely promising. We are ready to take the next steps in improving neighborhood cleanliness and health, moving beyond simply picking up trash. We should discuss those steps, find consensus and execute.

Safety:

HLWB has been playing the role of Community connector and convener, as PBSO rolls out their CBCR Community conversations with residents, in order to identify each neighborhood's needs relating to Safety. However, we noticed that

the conversations were happening more at the North side and Central side of Lake Worth Beach, with a lesser emphasis on the South end, even though the CBCR is intended to focus on the South end of Lake Worth Beach. Based on that observation, we were able to approach the CBCR Grant Manager and Coordinator to let them know that the residents at the South end felt left out and concerned about the fact that no one had reached out to their neighborhoods to conduct a focus group about their safety needs. Once that message was communicated, HLWB assisted the PBSO Community Base Crime Reduction Research team to conduct 2 focus groups at the South end neighborhoods, reaching out to and hearing from 40 residents. The residents had a lot to say including letting the research team know that HLWB represents them so if they have any difficulty in conveying any communication to them to let HLWB know and they will make sure the message gets to them. This growing “trust” in HLWB and “reliance” on our ability and willingness to keep the Resident’s we serve informed and involved is another significant “Win”.

Breaking down barriers...

With three HLWB members now trained as “Certified Mental Health First Aid Trainers,” the Education Action Workgroup Chair and other members of the Community Engagement Action Workgroup began to implement our MHFA classes in the Community. Between June and September, HLWB facilitated 3 MHFA classes in partnership with Our Savior Lutheran Church and For the Children. A total of fifty residents and professionals were trained and reported a 100% increase in knowledge. And, they all stated that the training changed the lens on how they will view and engage others who are suffering with Mental Health issues. What is equally exciting is the fact that since the training was completed, HLWB has begun receiving many requests from residents on social media and partner organizations to facilitate MHFA.



At the same time...

While some members of the “Education” and “Neighborhood Health” Action Workgroups are now knee deep in their efforts to educate and increase Community knowledge of mental health issues and/or provide a “safe space” where families who are struggling can come to get help, they are beginning to realizing that in order to serve and engage with the Community in a leadership role they need to build their understanding of the concept of “Community Engagement” and learn more about Healthier Together (HT). One of the members who attended the HT Community Conference in June heard about the Tamarack Institute’s “Community Change” Festival in Vancouver and asked if HLWB could sponsor some members to attend that trip to facilitate capacity building. Because the ultimate success of the HLWB Initiative depends on the residents being given the proper tools, resources and leadership skills to lead within their neighborhood and affect change they want to see, HLWB chose to send two members and the HLWB’s new AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer to the

Community Change Festival Conference. All three of them have reported that they acquired a great deal of knowledge and tools to push work further in their neighborhood.

Social Media/Awareness:

The AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteer joined our effort in June 2019. Since then, she has served as the Outreach Coordinator for HLWB. As a result of her efforts, we have been able to strengthen the awareness of HLWB in the Lake Worth Beach Community and develop strategies to improve our "Community Awareness" campaign, update the Community on what we (and they) have been doing, in a timely manner, and even created and published HLWB's first Newsletter at the end of August.

Posts on Facebook have reached an average of 4,800 people per month over the past six months. Our page was revamped to include more interactive daily posts, such as "Did You Know" posts, motivational quotes, a calendar of upcoming events, and photos of past events. The page has also engaged and connected more with other Lake Worth pages and groups, such as "Lake Worth Local," "Can I Help you Lake Worth?," "People of Lake Worth," Bridges of Lake Worth, and Facebook groups of different neighborhood associations.

The Instagram page has been revamped to be more interactive and creative, as well. The Instagram story/highlights feature has been used to post flyers of upcoming events, post highlights of past events, post motivational quotes, and post photos of local businesses, residents, and the scenery that captivates Lake Worth Beach Residents, in order to show everyone our beautiful city. Our IG stories/highlights see an average of 600 views per month. In addition, the posts on the IG page newsfeed have been revamped to tell more stories, while the photos and videos posted on the newsfeed are of past events.

For Facebook:

As of March 30th, we gained 99 new followers (from 261 followers in February 2019 to 360 followers in March 2019), and 83 additional people who currently "like" our page (from 254 page likes in February 2019 to 337 page likes in March 2019).

For Instagram:

Prior to revamping of our presence, we had 369 followers. After getting revamped on July 23rd, we have gained 87 new followers.

At the same time...

HLWB has seized every opportunity to partner with local organizations and stakeholders in their Community events. Whether cultural, arts, health or environmental, we are there to spread awareness of HLWB in the Community. Meanwhile, HLWB has also become recognized as the Initiative to be approached when internal or external Partners want to connect with local Partners, Stakeholders and Residents and join them for large Community events. For example, the PBSO Gang Prevention Unit's Coordinator reached out to HLWB to lead and bring partners together to coordinate an event for International Gang Awareness Prevention Day with the local youth. With many partners engaged, including For the Children, Barton Elementary, Digital Vibez and many others to coordinate the event, it was well attended, with over 200 families and youth displaying and sharing messages on posters, acting, rapping and dancing.

In May, we partnered with several local organizations and stakeholders to celebrate the Haitian culture (Haitian Flag Day) where a Proclamation was read by the City's Mayor proclaiming May 18 to be "Haitian Flag Day;" in the city of Lake Worth. 175 families and children attended the event. **See next page...**



Sponsorship – Community Support...

Since we established our “Sponsorship” funding program, HLWB has awarded close to \$50,000 to ten (10) recipients, including local Groups, Individuals, Key Stakeholders and other organizations working on projects that align with HLWB’s and the Community’s top 5 priorities. Whether the sponsorship was for Increasing Capacity and Efficiency, in Addressing Food Insecurity, Increasing Resources for Youth, Increasing Awareness of and Reducing the Perceived Stigma of Addiction and Mental Health via the “Art of Recovery” Film Festival, Promoting Reading to Families and Children, Increasing Youth Access to Recreation to supporting “Community Engagement events, all the recipients are Partners who have been involved with HLWB from the beginning and who have been dedicated for a long time to improving the well-being of residents with limited resources.

As reported by our Sponsorship recipients...

South Grade Elementary School – Students Safety Patrol trip to D.C:

Short term and long term impact the HLW sponsorship has had on the safety patrol students/parents and their trip to DC.

Our school partnership with HLW has been amazing. When I first came to South Grade in the Fall of 2017, not many of the Safety Patrols in the previous year got to go to Washington D.C. The patrols had never gone on a plane and always went on the expensive district train trip. In our first year thanks to aggressive fundraising and with support from our teachers we were able to take 36 students. Thanks to our partnership with Healthier Lake Worth we were able to take 50 students last year and are on track to do the same this year. This is an amazing feat for our school! Our patrol program has grown and is a source of pride for our school, this would not be possible without the support of the Healthier Lake Work initiative.

Our partnership with Healthier Lake Worth has given our students the opportunity to give back to their community. They were able to participate in cleaning up their neighborhood and the neighborhoods in the surrounding areas. They have learned about the importance and the proper ways of recycling and how important it is to keep our community healthy and clean. Our students will be able to take this knowledge and experience back to their families.

What have the students learned while engaging and supporting the cleanups with Healthier Lake Worth that will impact them in a positive way for the rest of their lives??

In order for our students to receive funds towards their trip, they were required to participate in helping their community. This is knowledge that will follow them throughout their life. Students have learned about the importance of taking the environment by recycling. They have learned the proper way to recycle and to take pride in their community. The students now know that there are agencies and people in our community that are supporting the goals of a healthier environment.

Key Data related to the # of students able to go on the trip compared to previous years.

In 2017, 15 students traveled to Washington D.C. due to lack of funding.

In 2018, 38 students traveled to Washington D.C. after a great deal of fundraising, but still there were students unable to go. This was also the first time our school traveled by plane. In 2019, 50 students traveled to Washington D.C. after fundraising and very generous financial aid from Healthier Lake Worth.



Lake Worth Library CREATElab Project:

We want to share the CREATElab's (CL) good news: the iPads are a hit! With the funding from Healthier Lake Worth, we were able to purchase iPads and laptops, along with a charging station and printing toner. The CL is now equipped in such a way, that all the children are able to use the resources that are charged up and ready to go. The CL space is set up in a complete manner, so that all students have what they need, when they need it. Please see the photos, showing the devices we purchased. There is also one photo taken on a recent Saturday showing the school age children taking advantage of the resources. On Saturdays, the CL is usually very busy. Comparing September and October – 2018 and in 2019. The stats examine an equal number of Saturdays in 2018 as compared with 2019.

7 Saturdays	CL 2018 / Sept. – Oct.	CL 2019 / Sept. – Oct.
Patron Count	164	178
Number of iPads used on 6 Saturdays [hurricane / wifi down one Sat.]	52	88

Even though it has only been a couple of months, our stats show that the iPad use has almost doubled, and more students are using the area. Thanks Healthier Lake Worth!



Haitian Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Distribution Project:



Eglise Evangelique Luthérienne Haitienne

HAITIAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

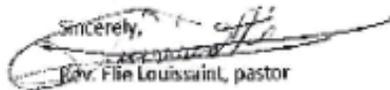
Rev. Elie Louissaint
(561) 856-2536

1020 S. Dixie highway
Lake Worth, FL, 33460

October 17, 2019

To Healthier Lake Worth,

I would like to thank Healthier Lake Worth and the steering committee for accepting our grant proposal. This grant has had a major impact on our whole food distribution. On a regular food pantry day, prior to this grant, we used to spend around 4-5 hours cleaning and packing up the distribution. In addition, when we applied for this grant, we served around 300-350 families a week; but now, we are serving up to 400 families a week. With this machinery, we acquired because of Healthier Lake Worth; we spend around an hour maybe two cleaning up. We were able to purchase more food because we had an efficient way of transportation it. Also, we were able to give away more food since we're getting more food. Most importantly, our fully Electric Stacker made our work environment safer while taking off some of the pressure from our volunteers. It's crazy how just one machine can have a major impact on a whole organization. In times of need, you guys were able to help us; The Church and the Food Pantry Committee sincerely appreciate your kindness and generous donation.

Sincerely,

Rev. Elie Louissaint, pastor



For Reel Recovery - Art of Recovery Film Festival (AORFF):

HLWB sponsorship helped AROFF in raising \$12,145.00 for the event to give \$2,500.00 between two Lake Worth nonprofit human service organizations. We reached 14,483 people with 12,188 (3-sec) views, 2189 clicks and 89 leads through Sail Away Media. There were 212 people in attendance and 28 people signed in as volunteers, vendors, and artist of event.

The funds used for AORFF increased community engagement and awareness of Art of Recovery efforts in Lake Worth. This is evident by the 59 people from Lake Worth signed in at the event. Additionally, 1693 people in the Lake Worth community responded to Facebook Ad. The Lake Worth Community made up twenty-eight percent of the attendance at the AORFF.

The number of people that declared to support next year's AORFF increased greatly. We have created a data base of email and community contacts to support future events. Sail Away Media created that database and expand with future events. We can use this database to send out trends, events, and newsletters to communicate with contacts.

In conclusion, we want to thank Healthier Lake Worth for their generous sponsorship of the event. Thanks to HLW the Art of Recovery Film Festival, could achieve its mission in educate the public on substance abuse and other mental disorders.

2019 "Art of Recovery" Schedule of Events:

AUG. 2nd - 4th 2019
WELCOME TO THE 3RD ANNUAL ART OF RECOVERY FILM FESTIVAL & ART EXHIBIT

FRIDAY AUG. 2ND
10:00am - ART EXHIBIT OPENS TO PUBLIC
 HATCH CENTER - 1121 Lucerne Ave. Lake Worth, FL 33460
11:00am - 12:00pm WORKSHOP - JOSH LOUIS "RECOVERY SOLDIER" WINNING PRODUCER & DIRECTOR OF PARANORMAL FILMS
12:30 - 1:30pm WORKSHOP - TRACY W. CHAVEZ & DEBBIE STONE "HOPE BUILDERS"
6:00pm - OPENING RECEPTION & INTRODUCTION OF ARTISTS, SPONSORS, FILM MAKERS, & GUEST SPEAKERS FOUNDERS ART OF RECOVERY MANNY MENDEZ & VIC JAMES

SATURDAY AUG. 3rd
10:00am - 6:00pm FILM FESTIVAL FEATURES
 @ STONZAK THEATER
 Lake Worth Plahouse - 713 Lake Ave, Lake Worth, FL 33460

10:00am - (In)dependency 14:00
10:15am - Out Of The Dark... 5:00
10:20am - The People 8:00
10:30am - The Good Boy 10:00
10:40am - High Is Home 12:00
10:55am - Mirror 5:00
11:00am - Sobriety Road 40:00
11:40am - His Mark 18:00
12:00pm - The Medicine In The Mind 40:00
12:40pm - A Slice Of Hope 15:00
1:00pm - A Long Series Of Right Now 25:00
1:30pm - I Am Greg Hill 30:00
2:00pm - Imitation Of Insanity 35:00
2:35pm - Children's Stories 60:00
3:30pm - A Wake Up Call 12:00
3:45pm - Seeking Sanctuary 19:00
4:10pm - The Medicine In The Mind 40:00
5:00pm - Model Childhood 20:00

SATURDAY AUG. 3rd
10:00am - 1:30pm
 @ HATCH CENTER
 1121 Lucerne Ave. Lake Worth, FL 33460

10:00am - 11:00am
 WORKSHOP - TANYA SILVA
 "MENTAL HEALTH THROUGH FITNESS"
11:15am - 12:15pm
 WORKSHOP - MANNY MENDEZ & ANTHONY COLON - BOTH PUBLISHED AUTHORS IN RECOVERY "CREATIVE WRITING"
12:30pm - 1:30pm
 WORKSHOP - CHRIS ALONSO "FILM MAKING FOR THE SOUL"
 AWARD WINNING PRODUCER / DIRECTOR

SATURDAY AUG. 3rd
EVENING PROGRAM 6:00pm - 10:00pm
 @ HATCH CENTER
 1121 Lucerne Ave. Lake Worth, FL 33460

6:00pm - 7:00pm
 MUSIC PERFORMANCES
7:00pm - 7:45pm
 GUEST PEAKER "CHARLES ROSA"
 UFC FIGHTER - FEATHER WEIGHT DIVISION
8:00pm - 9:00pm
 RAW STORY TELLING HOSTED BY FOUNDER ENZO NOLASCO
 rawstorytelling.org
9:00pm - 10:00pm
 MUSIC PERFORMANCES & OPEN MIC

SUNDAY AUG. 4th
CLOSING CEREMONY 10:00am - 5:00pm
 @ HATCH CENTER
 1121 Lucerne Ave. Lake Worth, FL 33460

*BEST FILM
 *BEST SHORT
 *PIONEER AWARD
 *BEST VISUAL ARTIST
 *BEST PHOTOGRAPHY
 *BEST UPCOMING VISUAL ARTIST & PHOTOGRAPHER
 FUNDRAISING CHECK PRESENTATION TO "ARMS OF HOPE" AND "FOR THE CHILDREN INC."

Healthier Lake Worth envisions a Proud and Unified Lake Worth where youth are thriving, families are engaged and neighborhoods are healthy and safe for all residents.

Thriving Youth
 Neighborhood Health
 Safety
 Education Awareness/Access to Resources

Get Involved or Stay Connected with us:
 Website: healthiertogetherpbc.org/groups/lake-worth/

ART OF RECOVERY
 FILM FESTIVAL
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ART OF RECOVERY
 FILM FESTIVAL
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filmfestival
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www.TheArtofRecoveryFilmFestival.com



Arms of Hope Soup Kitchen and Pantry

Patrick Livingston
1512 Wingfield St, Lake Worth, FL 33460
Cell: 512-350-6414

This letter is to extend our deepest and sincerest appreciation. Before the purchase the steam table, we were not functioning to full capacity. There were only two burners working and we were not able to display all the products, including keeping the food at the appropriate 140 temperature. This was a logistical nightmare, and additionally, the appearance was unappealing and outdated; staff could not even read the controls on the nob. The flow to operate efficiently was also affected. We were not able to handle the flow with the current ovens, cook time took longer, and quality of products were not what we wanted. These were all draw backs which attributed to lower productivity and inefficacy.

After the purchase, we were able to display the food properly, see the control knobs, and provide efficient services to our quest. Incidentally, our guest appreciate this because the meals are hotter, tastier, and volume is increased. Volunteers are so appreciative because they are able to match the quality of food to the purpose for which they are serving: to make a positive difference.

We look forward to serving and empowering the community for years to come. Thanks to the kindness of men and women who care, we are able to truly make a impact in our community!

Blessings,



PBSO – Community and Media Relations

The Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office (PBSO) is organizing the implementation of a "FUN Mobile Van". The purpose of this van is to promote and engage healthy lifestyle skills with the youth that live in Lake Worth Beach. The van will house various sport equipment and materials. PBSO employees will drive the van to various city parks and after school programs throughout the school year. The van will provide the youths the opportunity to play pick-up games with the Deputies that patrol Lake Worth Beach. This interaction is an opportunity for both parties to interact and learn from each other. Also, PBSO will use this opportunity to educate the youth on safety, crime prevention, cooperation, and empowerment. This healthy lifestyle initiative that is being organized by PBSO is related to the following objectives:

1. Improving the community's mental and physical well-being
2. Increasing sports and recreational resources and opportunities for youth and families
3. Increasing the overall safety of the community
4. Providing free physical activities to neighborhood residents
5. Improving the relationship between law enforcement and the community it serves

Logistically, the FUN Mobile Van is scheduled to start attending the various parks and after school programs at the beginning of the school year 2019. PBSO plans to visit after school programs that are held throughout Lake Worth Beach (i.e... the Escuelita-Maya, For the Children, Inc., and Sacred Heart after school programs) and city parks (i.e....Bryant Park, Sunset Ridge Park, and Howard Park) throughout the month.

PBSO's Fun Mobile Van is expected to provide sports-related activities to approximately 600-800 youths throughout the school year. PBSO's overall mission is to assist in changing the perception of law enforcement with the youth that reside in Lake Worth Beach. It is essential for law enforcement to create and engage with the community on positive-relation activities. This could potentially foster a cooperative relationship with the community it serves. By organizing and maintaining the Play Mobile FUN Mobile Van initiative, PBSO hopes to provide the youth an opportunity to meet and get to know the Deputies that patrol their city all the while being physically active for part of the day.



Key Learning:

Time can be a significant barrier in this work. Authentic and inclusive engagement requires time to build relationships with community members and establish partnerships to pursue a combination of community empowerment, ownership, participation, leadership and community capacity building in order for the members of the Community to take collective action. We need to be flexible in the development of HLWB's framework for moving forward, giving each step of the journey sufficient time to see "real" change in the Community, and being responsive to changing local conditions in order to achieve "transformational" results that will take root. Because, just as we are seeking long term impact, we need to employ long term time frames.

There is a palpable anxiety level, and feelings of "discouragement" and "burn-out" among those HLWB and Community participants who have been committed to the cause and engaged in the work from the beginning. They are eager to move forward and see immediate results, but... and this is a crucial "but," we have to be careful that we don't undercut or ignore neighborhood decisions. If we take the "easy way out" by making decisions for the Community, not only will that go

against the intent of HLWB as a “Community Driven, Resident Led” Initiative, it will also do great damage to the Community’s collective “trust” in us. By making decisions without the Community’s direction, we may save a little time and perhaps even see some short-term gains but, ultimately, we would lose the greatest assets we have at our disposal; the wisdom, experience and creativity of people in their own neighborhood. Once in a while, we need to take that purposeful pause.

Things that you are most proud to have accomplished through your work with Healthier Together:

I am most proud...

- HLWB is creating strategies that shift power and create ownership.
- As residents are taking ownership, they are raising their expectations for change and taking responsibility for change.
- The simple act of listening to the people in the LWB Community without an agenda.
- Letting the work be guided by the Residents’ wisdom and experiences in their own neighborhoods.

Next steps:

- Identify new potential leaders.
- Hold an election for new Steering Committee Officers.
- Develop strategies to engage youth as well as build on strategies to engage other residents.
- Community gathering in December 2019 – hosting HLWB’s 2nd annual community celebration – recognizing and honoring the “Do-Gooders” in the community.
- Redefine our sponsorship guidelines/application/process.
- Expand the Safety Patrol sponsorship to other local elementary schools.
- Continue to implement Mental Health First Aid classes in the community.