

VFW Post 4493, Auxiliary and AMVETS Help Feed The Community

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This year 2020, has been hard for many families, workers and businesses since March. VFW Post 4493 in Candler, FL and all the Veterans the Post serves had no idea what was about to happen when Covid 19 closed just about everything in travel destination including Florida and around the world.

The Post closed its doors March 17, 2020 as did other clubs, resorts and most non-essential restaurants and stores. Everyone out of work realized supplies were needed at home, people got worried and cleaned out store shelves creating a shortage of dairy, meats, bread and even the toilet tissue. Here in Florida, the shelves were wipe out worse than when a hurricane is aiming at our state for the last 30 years.

In June the new commander, Frank (in Oct, sadly passed away from Covid 19 and other un-

derlying illnesses) and the Auxiliary President Lisa heard about a food bank food giveaway near us and spoke with someone at the local church getting 25-30 boxes full of various vegetables, dairy products and potatoes. This began a journey during a world pandemic.

In July through present time the auxiliary president, Lisa contacted a large food bank "His Compassion", regarding help for the community. Lisa drove her pickup truck one day a week, early in the morning after working all night, to fill her vehicle with food boxes. His Compassion Food Bank's mission is to make sure no Floridian goes hungry and no food goes to waste, which falls in line with our concerns living in a very rural setting.

His Compassion board of directors, is made up of politicians, school board and car dealership volunteers and they rely mainly on volunteers and donations as a nonprofit agency.

They have semis trucks drive many miles to get donated foods. Chicken from Marion Oaks Winn Dixie, 1522 pounds of food from Publix, pallets of food from Walmart, Sav-A-Lot, Harvey's, Interfaith, Southeastern Food Bank and Sam's Clubs, and food from farmers who receive a tax deduction for the goods not sold to closed restaurants and schools.

July - October when food was available, post

volunteers helped give away over 510 boxes (estimated to be over 10,200 pounds) plus 30 gal of milk + single pints, over 360 miles driven, well over 56 volunteer hours and we still had November and December months ahead. Many of the volunteers also delivered boxes to Veterans' homes who were unable to drive any longer.

October 28, 2020 after Lisa picked up a truck and utility trailer full of food

boxes to be handed out to the community back at the post, she presented a check from Auxiliary Post 4493 to Sandy at His Compassion. One financial donation does help with the cost of refrigerated trucks.

In addition to the food box give away, the post has been collecting current dated cans of food from each of our Bingo players every week for years, all donated to Vets helping Vets in Ocala. Vets help-

ing Vets is dedicated to assisting veterans and their families who are in need and the largest non-governmental social service agency in central Florida. VFW & Auxiliary from Post 4493, AMVETS Post 10 and friendly BINGO players love our donation plan, even after having a few weeks off during Covid 19.



Volunteers pickup and deliver food for those in need



Singing Christmas Tree

First Baptist Church
of Belleview

Fri. Dec. 18 - 7:00 pm
Sat. Dec. 19 - 4:00 pm
Sunday, Dec. 20 - 10:45 am

Tickets are available NOW at No Charge
(Due to CDC we are limited to 250 performance)

Childcare provided babies to 3 years old

First Baptist Church of Belleview

6107 SE Agnew Road
Belleview, FL 34420
352-245-9106

Visit us at www.fjcbelleview.org
or on YouTube



Another trailer full of donated food that was given out to members of the community.



VFW Auxiliary President Lisa gives a check to His Compassion Food Bank to help with their expenses. (Photos submitted)