



# SoZo Kids Group Launches Annual Undies & Sneakers Drive



Friends of SoZo Kids Inc., a 501c3 located in The Villages, is launching its annual Undies & Sneakers Drive to ensure more than 1,500 children living in poverty in the Ocala National Forest will look great and feel good for the start of the new school year.

Donations of new packaged underwear and new sneakers will be accepted between 10 a.m.-Noon on Saturday, May 8, at two drive-thru locations:

- Compass Storage, 4477 E. Co. Rd. 466, Oxford

- Rohan Rec Center parking lot, 850 Kristine Way, The Villages Mindy Pappas, Del Webb Spruce Creek, is overseeing the Undies portion of the collection. It is her first time working on the project. "Last year, Friends of SoZo Kids collected 1,000 packs of underwear, 400 sports bras and hundreds of pairs of socks. We want to exceed that goal this

year," Mindy said.

Karen Kretschmann, Village of Hillsborough, is overseeing the Sneakers portion of the collection. Last year, more than 1,000 pairs of sneakers were collected at the annual event.

"The children need sturdy shoes that will withstand the rugged environment of the forest. It's better if people buy one quality pair of sneakers rather than three pairs of inexpensive shoes," Karen said. "If possible, we'd

like shoes in their original shoe boxes, which will make storage and transport easier," Karen added.

Packs of unopened underwear are needed for boys and girls, ages 5-17, especially knit boxer shorts (no "tightly whites") for boys and young men, and boy-cut, hipster or boxer style underwear for girls and young women. Sports bras are needed in sizes trainer to XXL. Packs of socks are needed in all sizes for girls and young women. No socks are needed at this time for boys and men, thanks to a generous donation from Bombas.

All sizes of sneakers are needed, especially little kid sizes 10-13, youth sizes 2-5 and adult sizes 7-11. Downloadable shopping lists for both underwear and sneakers are available online at FriendsOfSoZo-Kids.com.

"We hope neighborhoods, churches and other groups will collect undies and sneakers from their members, as they have done in the past," said LaRae Donnellan, Friends of SoZo Kids

Events Committee Chair. "We also can use



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Volunteers sort all the sneakers

cash donations if people would prefer we do the shopping for them," LaRae added.

Cash donations can be written to "Friends of SoZo Kids" and mailed to Pam DiPetrillo (Treasurer), 3741 Barrel Loop, The Villages, FL 32163. Donations also can be made online at FriendsOfSoZoKids.com. For more

information, email Contact@FriendsOfSoZoKids.com.

Friends of SoZo Kids Inc. is a nonprofit dedicated solely to supporting the Help Agency of the Forest Inc., a nonprofit known as SoZo Kids, which serves children living in abject poverty in the Ocala National Forest.

## Timberline Farm Butterfly & Blueberry Festival

Last Weekend  
April 24th & 25th, 2021



• Sat. 10 am - 6 pm • Sun. 12 pm - 6 pm



Tickets: Students - \$6 • Adults - \$8

Active Military, Firefighters, Law Enforcement: Free

3200 S.E. 115th St. • Belleview, FL 34420  
352-454-4113 • www.timberlinefarm.net

Monster Fire Truck - Butterfly House - Butterfly Garden

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Educational Live Bee Display • Face Painting

Farm Animals • Craft & Food Vendors • Country Store

Blacksmith Shop • Antiques & Old Tractor

Blueberry Plants For Sale • Candle Art

Giant Hay Stack & Slide • Blueberry Shortcake

**OPEN FOR SCHOOLS, CHURCHES  
AND OTHER GROUPS ON WEEKDAYS.**

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Portion of proceeds to benefit St. Theresa's Soup Kitchen  
and Marion County Juvenile Detention Center



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