



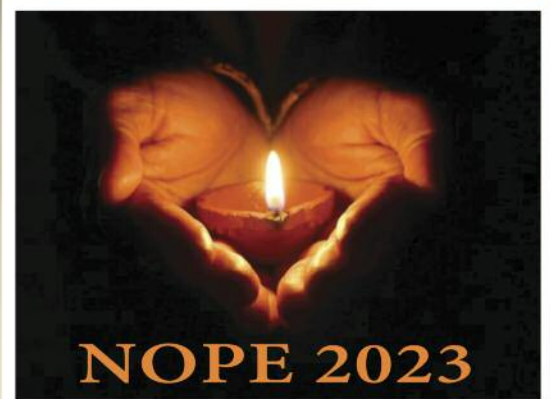
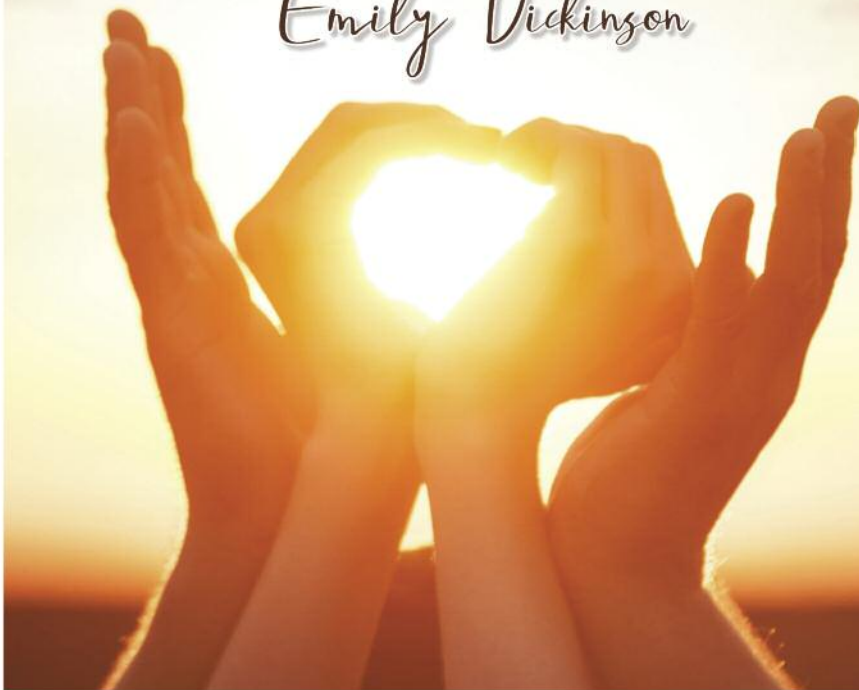
PREVENTION Connection

2023 • Issue 4

A quarterly newsletter by The Alliance for Healthy Communities

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.

Emily Dickinson



NOPE 2023
CANDLE VIGIL
Thursday, October 26, 2023
5:00pm - 8:00pm
PHSC
West Campus Auditorium

Annual Brunch

Featuring Keynote Speaker
TONY HOFFMAN
*Former BMX Pro, Olympic Coach, Recovering Addict
and Autor of the book, "Coming Clean"*
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
10:00am - 12:00 Noon
Hilton Garden Inn Suncoast
(See Page 9 for more information)

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United Way of Pasco County





Hello prevention champions!

As you peruse our Prevention Connection Newsletter this quarter, you'll see all of the exciting things we have accomplished. Make sure to check out our upcoming events for details on how you can get involved with our initiatives. Additionally, you can visit our website at www.empoweredcommunities.org, or any of our social media channels for more information. This quarter has once again, been a busy one! Some highlights include:

Our Recovery Committee hosted its Third Annual Walk for Recovery at Sims Park. We not only had the most attendance in history, but we raised over \$8,000 to put directly back into the work that we do to prevent addiction in Pasco County! Special thank you's go out to The Hope Shot and Real Recovery for being our biggest supporters, as well as Trinity Church of Christ who donated \$2,000 to our Jason Daniel Hughes Scholarship to assist in transitional living for those seeking recovery. Read story on page 7.

Thank you for attending our annual Narcotics Overdose Prevention and Education Candlelight Vigil. This year, our event planners locked in Fentanyl Fathers as our main speaker for the event. Fentanyl Fathers are a group of fathers that work to establish a world where no person succumbs to fentanyl poisoning and travel the US discussing effective overdose response measures.

Our SEN Committee filmed a PSA in collaboration with Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center (AHEC)! Last month, a group of ASAP Members traveled

to Vu Studios in Hillsborough County to film an #EndStigmaASAP PSA with JL Video! This is a part of an ongoing partnership opportunity with AHEC. The PSA will be on TV screens and social media soon, and we can't wait to share it with you!

Our STAND youth are busy in the community sharing the message of leadership and advocacy. STAND hosted a youth art contest in honor of Suicide Prevention Month, a craft table at the Third Annual Walk for Recovery and have two upcoming events! STAND is planning a trip to Tallahassee in February and are hosting a pancake breakfast on December 2 to raise money to fund their community service project—providing holiday gifts for families in need. For more information about STAND and how to get involved, check out the last few pages of this edition of Prevention Connection!

Last, but certainly not least, as most of you know, in October we will kick start The Alliance for Hope Project (TAFHP) in partnership with The Hope Shot. TAFHP aims to create an essential initiative to Pasco County residents. Please read all about our new project on page 5.

As always, we want to thank you, our readers, volunteers, coalition members and supporters. You continue to make a difference in Pasco and we could not do it without each and every one of you.

With Gratitude,

Chrissie Parris, AHC President and Kellie Rodriguez

Thank You to Our 2023 AHC Board of Directors

Chrissie Parris, President
BayCare Behavioral Health

Joseph Resnick
Premier HealthCare Group

Kelly Mothershead, Vice President
Keller Williams Realty & New Port Richey City Council

Captain Toni Roach
Pasco Sheriff's Office

Colleen Beaudoin, Treasurer
Pasco County School Board

Art Rowand, Founding Board Member
Retired Law Enforcement Officer

Billy Major, Secretary
Pasco Sheriff's Office

Cesar Rodriguez
Recovery Community

Melissa Fuller
Department of Juvenile Justice

Tracey Kaly, Founding Board Member
BayCare Behavioral Health

Mike Wells
Property Appraiser

Mike Napier
Pasco County Department of Health

Dr. Eddie Williams
Pasco Hernando State College



Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention

Pasco ASAP uses local data to direct our prevention programs

ASAP 2023 PRIORITY ISSUES

- Youth Drug Use
- Underage Drinking
- Opioid Use, Misuse and Addiction
- Rates of Substance Exposed Newborns
- Impaired Driving
- Intravenous Drug Use
- Tobacco Use

ASAP MISSION

To coordinate community efforts to reduce county-wide risk factors for addiction, thereby preventing and decreasing substance use in a comprehensive and long-term manner that primarily impacts the youth in the community.

ASAP CONTACT INFORMATION

ASAP@empoweredcommunities.org
7809 Massachusetts Ave. • New Port Richey FL 34653 • 727.315.8658
www.empoweredcommunities.org

ASAP MEETINGS ARE ON zoom

ALCOHOL INITIATIVES

First Monday of every month • 4:30pm • Meeting ID: 844 2750 9059 Password: 207615

CULTURAL COMPETENCE

3rd Monday of every other month month • 3:30pm
Meeting ID: 815 1525 0641 Password: 883088

GENERAL COALITION

Fourth Tuesday of every month • 10:00am • Meeting ID: 894 8050 6106 Password: 399526
April: In person • May and June 2023: Virtual

OPIOID / RX

First Tuesday of every month • 3:00pm • Meeting ID: 834 6615 6874 Password: 344143

HEALTHY PASCO COLLABORATIVE

First Tuesday of every other month • 10:00am • Meeting ID: 233 060 736 792 Password: Tiqqje

RECOVERY

Fourth Monday of every month • 5:00pm • Meeting ID: 826 7025 4538 Password: 451180

SUBSTANCE EXPOSED NEWBORN

Second Wednesday of every month • 10:00am • Meeting ID: 828 6547 9166 Password: 061677

See Committee Updates on Page 4



ASAP Committee Updates

Alcohol Initiatives Committee and Tobacco Free Partnership

The Alcohol Initiative Committee is busy planning our first town hall event to be held on November 9th at 5:30 PM. The goal is to create an interactive event for teens and parents to navigate stations to experience the effects of alcohol on the body, how it may feel to be under the influence and the consequences of DUI. Participants will also have the opportunity to hear from a group of panelists from different sectors of the community to discuss the community impact of alcohol misuse. The goal is a hands-on experience to reduce alcohol misuse, underage access and DUI arrests. Please reach out to Bonni Snider or Makala Damato if you are interested in becoming involved with the event. (Bonni.Snider@baycare.org or Makayla.Damato@baycare.org) AIC continues to evaluate data through our environmental scans and one-on-one conversations. The information collected from these resources provided valuable information regarding community attitudes toward underage access and alcohol misuse. In addition, they are an aid in the continued development of strategies to address alcohol misuse. AIC meets the first Monday of the month on Zoom, see link on page 3.

Cultural Competence Committee

Cultural Competence Committee meets quarterly (January, April, July and October) at 3:30 PM via zoom on the third Monday of the month. Contact Bonni for more information at Bonni.Snider@Baycare.org

Healthy Pasco Collaborative Meeting

This committee is in partnership with the Pasco Department of Health, the meeting occurs every other month with the next meeting in October and then December, 10:00 am – 11:00 am at Summit Building, 7509 State Road 52, Hudson, FL 34667. The group is working on a Parks and Trails map of the County, Recipe Cards for Healthy Eating and more.

For more information, please email Megan Carmichael at: megan.carmichael@flhealth.gov

Recovery Committee

The 3rd annual stronger together recovery walk was September 23, this is the committee's signature event and you can read more about it on page 7. Our committee meets the 4th Monday of the month at 5:00 pm on zoom. We discuss recovery related issues and all are invited. Contact Eve at eve.hosley@baycare.org.

RX / Opioid Committee

This quarter, the Committee is looking forward to building on our current campaigns and begin implementing a grief resource guide based on feedback from the Town Hall. We are also hosting formal Overdose Fatality Reviews in partnership with the Sheriff's Office and Pasco County. The reviews take place during the last half hour of our monthly meetings. The Opioid Committee is looking for an additional co-chair! If you are interested, please reach out to Parnia.roghani@baycare.org.

SEN Committee

SEN continues to work on our initiatives to build education and knowledge for our community. Our current project funded by AHEC aims to normalize the process of recovery by implementing the #EndStigmaASAP campaign, specifically focusing on parents of substance exposed newborns. We recently completed filming our PSA at the Vu in Tampa. The members and volunteers had a blast! We are excited to see the finished product. We will continue to work on initiatives surrounding education and resources for parents of substance exposed newborns and their families promoting prevention and recovery. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of every month on Zoom. For more information on the committee meetings, contact Missy via email at Missy.Coyle@BayCare.org

Presenters Wanted!

Does your agency have something to share with the ASAP Coalition? We are looking for presenters for our monthly meetings.

Please email: asap@empoweredcommunities.org for more information.

Thank you!



Pasco's Alliance for Healthy Communities and The Hope Shot Team Up to Roll Out New Community Initiative

The Alliance for Healthy Communities, Incorporated, has partnered with The Hope Shot, A Recovery Community Organization, to create an essential initiative for Pasco County. The partnership of the two organizations, aptly named The Alliance for Hope Project, is a one-year project funded by a Congressional Appropriation sponsored by Congressman Gus Bilirakis. The project will lead efforts to prevent substance misuse while also providing pathways to treatment, recovery resources and prevention initiatives. Supports will include (but are not limited to): recovery and mental health Peer Support Specialists; navigation specialists; prevention education, individual support, and classes; peer support meetings; overdose prevention education; medication safety and Narcan. The Alliance for Hope Project will serve as an inclusive community resource for prevention services and recovery resources that aim to increase community protective factors, reduce use, reduce overdose rates, encourage long-term sobriety, and promote engagement with systems of care. It will serve all ages from birth to older adults, with a specific reach toward at-risk populations in "hot spots" as identified by population health indicators, and overdose, arrest, and Intelligence Lead Policing data. While The Alliance for Hope Project will exist as its own entity, the existence of the program will also serve to uplift already established initiatives such as its collaborator, The Hope Shot, the Alliance for Substance Addiction Prevention (ASAP) and the STAND youth coalition.

Local data shows just how much the project is needed. Pasco county has experienced a 378% increase

in overdoses since 2017. The 2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS) revealed community risk factors of laws and norms favorable to drug use and perceived availability of drugs by middle and high school students to be higher in Pasco County compared to their peers around the state. According to the Florida Department of Health, drug poisonings were the third leading cause of unintentional injury hospitalizations among youth ages 15-19 (FDOH, 2019).

"AHC and its coalitions have always aimed to be conveners in our community. This is an exciting opportunity for two organizations that are already doing great work to come together, and address identified gaps in the system of care," says Project Director Kellie Rodriguez.

The Alliance for Hope Project is slated to serve 848,800 individuals and families all around Pasco County and will continue the efforts to make Pasco County a stronger and healthier community.

"While I am no proponent of big government spending, I have a duty to ensure my community receives its fair share of allocated federal resources and to be transparent about my efforts to prioritize important local projects," States Congressman Gus Bilirakis. "All of the projects I've sponsored, like this funding to tackle addiction within our community, address a critical unmet need and will enrich the lives of those I serve."

For more information and for resources to get help for addiction, please visit: www.empoweredcommunities.org. For more information on The Hope Shot and their vision, please visit: www.thehopeshot.org



SEN Implements #EndStigmaASAP Campaign

The Substance Exposed Newborn Committee has filmed a PSA focused on normalizing the process of recovery for parents. The #EndStigmaASAP Campaign is funded by AHEC and features a message of hope, making it more likely that parents of substance exposed newborns will seek help for substance use.

The committee recently filmed the PSA at Vu in Tampa, led by the creative team at JL Video. The members and volunteers had a great time filming! We are excited to see the finished product. Keep an eye out for our PSA to air on Spectrum in the coming months.



STAND Youth Take Over ASAP Meeting

In July, the ASAP general coalition hosted the annual STAND youth panel at the Pasco Hernando State College Porter Campus in Wesley Chapel. There were a total of 9 youth on this panel, including STAND members, two college students from PHSC, and one student from Teens Battle Human Trafficking. The youth addressed issues they see in the community, including substance use, mental health, and inclusion and how they feel adults in the community can better address those issues. The youth did a wonderful job sharing their thoughts, feelings, and experiences, and received great feedback from the audience. A great big thank you to all the panelists: Christalina, Jaylynn, Sky, Liam, Maddie, Meghna, Kylie, Austin, and Jamye, the STAND advisors, PHSC Wesley Chapel for hosting, to all those who came in person and watched via Facebook Live.

Click below to read about the panel in the Lutz Laker News: <https://lakerlutznews.com/2023/08/115993/>



Recovery Walk Shows We Are “Stronger Together”



On Saturday, September 23rd we held the 3rd Annual Stronger Together Recovery Walk hosted by ASAP's Recovery Committee and The Hope Shot. We are so grateful to Real Recovery for being the Platinum Event Sponsor.

Each year this event is growing! This year we featured more than 40 vendors, two food trucks, more than 20 speakers with about 500 people in attendance! We had tons of fun dancing and guessing recovery trivia, visiting all the wonderful vendors, and finally walking around Orange Lake to show that our community is truly stronger together. We raised more than \$8,000 for the important work we do in Pasco.

One of the biggest highlights was the recovery count down, a tradition popular in 12 Step Recovery. Those with recovery time stood up and walked to the front, and the person with the most time in recovery

signed a book for the person in recovery for the shortest amount of time. It was beautiful seeing the entire community come together to support each other.

We want to give a huge shout out and thank you to our planning committee, April, Bonni, Chase, Dena, Eve, Jackey, Jamie, Julie, Justin, Kellie, Makayla, Missy, Nathan, Sandy, and Shannon. We also want to thank all our amazing vendors, all our speakers and entertainers, BASH Entertainment for emceeding the event, and to the community members who came out and showed that there is hope, change, and redemption.

Together we showed that those suffering from addiction can and do recover and are an important part of our community. A great big thank you to BayCare, Advent Health and the United Way for sponsorship, among many other community partners.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JASON DANIEL HUGHES *Memorial Scholarship*

Transitional living assistance for those seeking recovery from addiction
Scholarship in honor of board member Kelly Mothershead's son who lost his struggle with addiction.

HELP US REDUCE BARRIERS TO PERSONS SEEKING LONG-TERM RECOVERY BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE AND ACCESS TO TRANSITIONAL LIVING TO IMPROVE OUTCOMES.

**Funds will assist with transitional living costs*



Thank you for making a difference!

If you would like to donate to this campaign, you can do so by visiting:
<https://donate.onecause.com/jasondanielhughesfund>

SAVE A LIFE

STOP AN OVERDOSE WITH NARCAN



SCAN THE QR CODE TO REQUEST A NALOXONE KIT.

FREE OF CHARGE. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.

#NOTONEMORELIFE



Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER!



Free Virtual Groups Wednesdays from

1:00pm - 2:00pm

Topics Such As:
**Marijuana and Pregnancy
Resource Correction
Relationship Skills and More**

Please register on EventBrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/knowledge-is-power-converse-with-nurse-free-virtual-group-for-families-tickets-153672513625>

Email: Missy.Coyle@Baycare.org



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

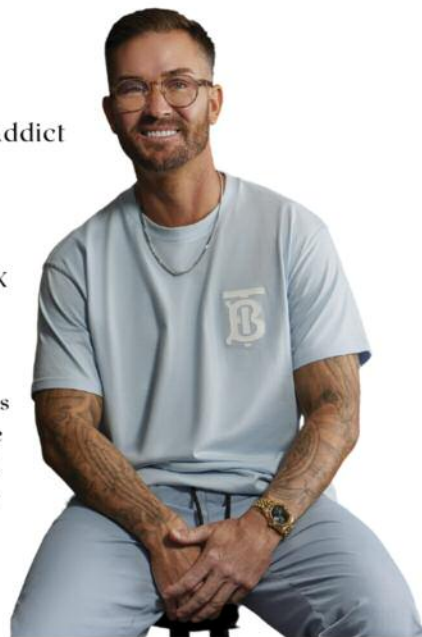
Annual Brunch

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

TONY HOFFMAN

Former BMX Pro, U.S. Olympic Coach, Recovering Addict
and author of the book *Coming Clean*

In his early teens, Tony was a top-ranked BMX amateur. He started drinking, smoking marijuana, and using opioids in high school. His addiction deepened and he lost everything -- his BMX career and ultimately his freedom. In 2004 Tony committed an armed robbery fueled by his need for drugs and was sent to prison for two years where he found recovery. Upon release, Tony dedicated his life to advocating for addiction-related issues and youth prevention as Founder and Director of non-profit The Freewheel Project, an organization that mentors youth via BMX, skateboarding and after-school programs. Tony has been sober since May 17th, 2007.



SCAN ME

DECEMBER 12, 2023

10 am-12 pm

Registration Required
Space is Limited

Hilton Garden Inn Suncoast
2155 Northpointe Pkwy.
Lutz, FL 33558

For information contact Missy@empoweredcommunities.org



COALITION METRICS

| 2023 | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | TOTALS YTD |
|--|-------------------------|---|---|----|---|
| Community Events Tabled | 6 | 13 | 9 | | 28 |
| Social Media Impact | 8,568 | 65,601 | 9,739 | | 83,908 |
| Individuals Educated through News/Traditional Media | | 2.5 Million ABC 1.1 Million CW44 1.9 Million WFLA | 1.6 Million ABC 0 CW44 967,783 WFLA | | 4.1 Million ABC 1.1 Million CW44 2,867,783 WFLA |
| SEN Knowledge Is Power Virtual Group attendees | 60 | 38 | | | 98 |
| Medication Timer Caps Dist. | 35 | 27 | 0 | | 62 |
| Deterra Bags Dist. (DOSC Kits) | 390 | 1073 | 305 | | 1768 |
| Deterra Bags Only | | 285 | 0 | | 285 |
| Medication Poundage Collected: Dade City PD Pasco Sherriff's Office Port Richey PD New Port Richey PD Zephyrhills PD DEA Takeback (2xs Year) | 131.70 35.55 | 93 | | | 224.70 35.55 |
| Narcan: Pasco Sherriff's Deloyments Successful (life saved) Unsuccessful (deceased) | 46 4 | 33 3 | 25 2 | | 104 9 |
| DCF Collected Pasco Data Narcan Kits Distributed Successful Deployments (lives saved) | 360 41 | | | | 360 41 |
| Narcan Kits handed out at ASAP Events | 75 | 100 | 100 | | 75 |
| QR Code Scans Narcan Collaboration | 157 | 208 | 181 | | 546 |
| 34668 Resource Guide | 19 | 8 | 5 | | 32 |
| ASAP Website | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| Stand PSA | 12 | 3 | 1 | | 16 |
| AIC Ad Campaign | 2 | 0 | 0 | | 2 |
| Jason Daniel Hughes Memorial Scholarship Donations QR Code Scans | 6 | 8 | 3 | | 17 |

Community Presentation and Townhalls Q2:

Community Wellness Events:

August 3, 2023: STAND Back to School Event, 25 attended

September 23, 2023: Stronger Together Recovery Walk, 300 attended



YOUTH COALITION



Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities



STAND in Pasco County #STANDUpPasco



stand_up_pasco



Stand_up_Pasco



StandupPasco

STAND UPCOMING EVENTS:

Thursday, October 19, 2023 - 5:30pm to 6:30 pm: East Pasco STAND Meeting at YES office, 15029 14th St, Dade City, FL 33523

Thursday, October 26, 2023 - 5:00pm to 8:00 pm: STAND Table at the NOPE Candlelight Vigil, PHSC West Campus. Also, the same night, "Trunk or Treat" at Gulf Middle School - Volunteers needed for both events.

Saturday, October 28, 2023 - 10:00am to 3:00pm: STAND Table at the Fall Festival, First Methodist Church, 5605 Indiana Ave., New Port Richey

Thursday, November 2, 2023 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm: West Pasco STAND Meeting at the New Port Richey Recreation Center (Oak Room), 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey, FL 34653

Thursday, November 9, 2023 - 5:00pm to 8:00pm: STAND Table and Volunteering at the Alcohol Town Hall at PHSC West Campus

Thursday, November 16, 2023 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm: West Pasco STAND Meeting at the New Port Richey Recreation Center (Oak Room), 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey, FL 34653

Saturday, December 2, 2023: STAND Fundraiser Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's, 8537 Little Rd., New Port Richey, FL 34654 - Tickets are \$10 each. All monies to fund non-profit for holiday gifts for families in need.

Thursday, December 7, 2023 - 5:30pm to 7:00pm: Holiday Party - West Pasco STAND Meeting at the New Port Richey Recreation Center (Oak Room), 6630 Van Buren Street, New Port Richey, FL 34653

Thursday, December 21, 2023 - 5:30pm to 6:30pm: Holiday Party - East Pasco STAND Meeting YES office, 15029 14th St, Dade City, FL 33523



Powered by Alliance for Healthy Communities

STAND Mission

STAND Above the Influence is a youth led coalition that empowers youth to be agents of change by strengthening their voices and educating others to build a healthier community.

STAND Vision

To inspire innovative communities that embrace the voices of youth to affect positive change in cultivating safe and healthy communities.

Contact Information

STAND@empoweredcommunities.org
7809 Massachusetts Ave.
New Port Richey, Florida 34653
www.empoweredcommunities.org

West Pasco STAND Meeting

**1st Thursday of the Month
5:30pm - 7:00pm
At New Port Richey
Recreation Center (Oak Room)
6630 Van Buren Street
New Port Richey, FL 34653**

East Pasco STAND Meeting

**3rd Thursday of the Month
5:30pm - 6:30pm
At YES
15029 14th Street
Dade City, FL 33523**

**WANT TO START A STAND MEETING?
Email: eve.hosley@baycare.org**

Join **STAND** Above the
Influence for a

Panwake Breakfast
FUNDRAISER

DECEMBER 2ND FROM 8-10AM
APPLEBEE'S 8537 LITTLE ROAD, NEW PORT
RICHEY, FL

\$10 PER BREAKFAST TICKET

Your support will help us bring joy to children in need this Christmas. All proceeds from this event will go to Helping Children in Need LLC who will be providing gifts to those who need it most during this holdiaiy season.

Each ticket includes 3 pancakes with syrup and butter, 2 sausage links, and a drink. All tickets must be purchased on or before Monday November 27th. All tickets are nonrefundable.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Maddie Horn at mhorn423@gmail.com

Thank you for your support!



Back to School Bash

by Gabbie

On Thursday, August 3, 2023, 25 STAND youth gathered at Main Event for a back-to-school bash. Focused on enjoying time with their friends and gearing up for the 2023-2024 school year, the STAND youth experienced a night full of games and laughs. The bash started with bowling and pizza, followed by an exciting game of laser tag, and finally

ended the night with each youth getting a loaded game card to explore the arcade--some even braved the ropes course and ziplining! A big thanks goes out to those who attended, the families and friends that brought them, and the advisors who put the event together to celebrate our STAND youth entering the new school year.

