



Ruth Levins  
WITH A  
VOLUNTEER  
HEART

## Share your gifts with others

Albert Camus (1913-1960), French novelist, essayist and dramatist, who won the 1957 Nobel Prize for literature, gained fame for his technical skill as a writer and even more fame for the moral messages in his writings.

He repeatedly stressed man's need to carry out his responsibilities. Of generosity in giving, he wrote, "Real generosity toward the future consists in giving all to the present."

Along the volunteer path, we experience many opportunities to share our unique gifts which are needed and important. In this way, we attract happy experiences, fulfillment and affirmation.

A volunteer's life has value, importance and meaning.

Each month we offer a listing of volunteer opportunities for your kind consideration. Please call and volunteer:

■ Volunteers are needed to serve on the Save Our Waters Week Committee. Save Our Waters Week is Sept. 21-18. Call Lace Blue-McLean at 352-201-0149.

■ Volunteers are needed to help plan and coordinate Veterans Appreciation Week, which is in November. Call Chris Gregoriou at 352-302-9777.

■ Take Stock in Children is looking for volunteer mentors in the schools once a week for 30 to 45 minutes. Call Pat Lancaster, program manager, at 352-422-2346.

■ Schools are in session and volunteers are needed to share their time with students by mentoring, tutoring, listening to children read, setting up learning centers, assisting in the media centers and helping with special projects. Call Helen Pannell at 352-726-1931, ext. 2233.

■ Many opportunities to assist Mission United are available in home repairs for veterans.

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# FINANCE AND FRIENDSHIPS:

*Wall Street Coffee Club serves up java, current conversation at YMCA*

GWEN BITTNER  
Community editor

**G**rab a cup of coffee, a pastry and make yourself comfortable. Get ready to talk stocks and whatever is on your mind in finance.

Every first Thursday, the Wall Street Coffee Club offers Citrus residents breakfast with a side of discussion on market trends and fiscal topics with friends at the Citrus Memorial Health Foundation YMCA.

"We offer an informal exchange of ideas," Raymond James financial adviser Jim McLaughlin said. "And the atmosphere is not sales orientated; its information orientated."

Together, Wall Street Coffee Club participants openly discuss a wide variety of subjects like the economy, markets, finance, financial planning and strategies, insurance and more with staff of Raymond James in Crystal River.

"We try to keep it financial," McLaughlin said. "It's very cathartic."

Attendees of the interactive forum bring up whatever they want to talk about, and Raymond James financial advisers Tracey Vaughn, Jim McLaughlin and Amy Barbieri navigate the discussion with expert advice and opinion.

"Other than religion and politics, we pretty much get everything out on the table," Crystal River Raymond James Branch Manager Tracy Vaughn said.

Have a question about a stock? Notice a trend in the market? Wondering if an industry is viable?

Bring it up at a meeting of the club, and you'll get some insight. The meetings offer a safe space for participants to talk in a casual setting.

"We have some people that are very active in the discussion, and then some just come to listen and ask questions," Barbieri said. "And we branch out and talk about other subjects too."

"This is homegrown in Crystal River," Vaughn said. "We recognized that people needed a place where they could talk freely and not be in a formal appointment in our office."

"It makes them much more comfortable," McLaughlin said.

The club has been meeting for over 10 years, and gets together twice a month: at 10 a.m. the first Thursday of the month at the YMCA, 4127 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto, and at



Amy Barbieri



Jim McLaughlin



Tracy Vaughn

9:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of the month at Juliette Falls Clubhouse, 6933 SW 179th Ave. Road, Dunnellon.

Anyone is welcome to sit in and join the conversation. There is no charge to attend.

The group also hosts quarterly seminar-format meetings at the College of Central Florida with community speakers.

"Usually, the topics for that come from what people want to hear about," Barbieri said. "We've had an estate planner, a CPA, we did cyber security, sometimes its health related."

"We try to see what they want to hear

about to bring in another speaker," Vaughn said. "And then we get a subject matter expert."

Vaughn, McLaughlin and Barbieri all agreed that the friendships formed along the way are an undeniable perk of the club.

"It ends up being social," McLaughlin said.

"They (members) make connections amongst themselves that they probably wouldn't have otherwise," Vaughn said.

For more information or to RSVP to the next Wall Street Coffee Club meeting, contact Barbieri at 352-795-6155 or amy.barbieri@raymondjames.com.

## Twenty years later, The Path continues to change lives

I still remember many years ago when the first few articles came out about starting a homeless shelter. Chronicle reporter Nancy Kennedy had gotten word that some crazy man wanted to start a shelter using the old county jail located in Inverness.

I had a dream where I was convinced God was talking to me and told me to start a shelter. Some friends had told me about the abandoned jail building, and I thought they had a great idea.

The building was well-built with reinforced walls. Little did I know, the county government also had their eye on the building, but for different reasons.

They were tired of the parking situation and wanted the building torn down for more courtroom access. They did eventually tear it down, and looking in hindsight, they did me a big favor.

We just spent \$500,000 renovating rather good buildings; I can't imagine the

nightmare of trying to renovate the old jail.

At this time, the St. Petersburg Times had a Citrus Edition, and the reporter called me after reading the Chronicle articles. I spoke for about 20 minutes straight about what I wanted to do in Citrus County, followed by a pause of silence by the reporter, and all he could say was "Why?"

The idea of helping people, who in some standards would be considered "throw-aways," was such a foreign concept, it totally baffled him.

After 20 years, and even this morning, I have to remind myself and my staff. I ask myself "Why I am doing this?"

I keep coming back to the same answers. It is because of my intense love of Jesus Christ, his morals, high standards and his commands in the Bible, which keep me going all of these years. Jesus simply says, because you helped the least, you have helped me. Jesus also tells us when we lay down our lives for our fellow man, no greater love does a man have.

We do not always see the results of helping people. In fact, there is a fear the shelter will allow more crime or lower property values. Neither of The Path are true. We are not permitted to take sexual violators by law.

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DuWayne Sipper  
THE PATH  
HOME

FREE  
GOODY BAGS  
FOR THE FIRST  
100 ATTENDEES

FALL 2019

# Home & Outdoor LIVING SHOW

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FOR MORE INFO CALL 563-5592 | WWW.CHRONICLEONLINE.COM/CALENDAR/HOMEOUTDOORSHOW

## VENDORS WANTED

Be a Part  
of Another  
Great Local  
Event

Attend the Citrus County Chronicle's Home & Outdoor Living Show. Everything from flooring, pavers, landscaping, roofing, windows and much more.

September 21 | 9am-2pm  
Crystal River Armory, Crystal River, FL