

viste

Now, it's *your* turn.



OUR MISSION:

To enable the frail elderly to stay safely and independently in their own homes.

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Steve Barger
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viste Executive Committee



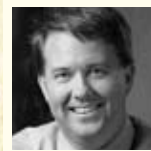
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Jay Mulaney, M.D.
Vice President



Steve Madden
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Lee Jackson
*Campaign
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Lu Fitzwater
Past President



Keith DeLoach
*Advisory Board
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OUR HISTORY

In 1983, the first chapter of VISTE's incredible story was written by Ed Kren, director of Catholic Social Services, now known as Catholic Charities. He, along with the fourteen men who formed the first Board of Directors, began their quest to address the problems of the elderly in Polk County. Government services were uncertain and often insufficient and over 11,000 seniors in the county lived alone or with a non-family member. With 20% of the population over the age of 68, Polk County claimed the highest proportion of low-income elderly in Florida.

The next three years were integral building blocks to the success of VISTE and the organization incorporated in 1986. In its first year alone, VISTE received over 8,000 requests for help. Volunteers in Service to the Elderly had thrown the pebble into the pond and the ripples were already reaching much further than anyone had anticipated.

The growth of VISTE within the first years was exceptional. With 24 local churches' involvement being of paramount importance, the first volunteers soon turned into over 100 by 1988. This number continued to increase into the 90's, along with the increasing population of elderly in the area. This growth is reflective of the almost 10 million Americans over the age of 75 in 1990.

The 1990's marked the beginning of a chapter of great change and flexibility, but the goal and mission of VISTE has always remained the same. With the generation of Baby Boomers growing older, VISTE remained committed to serve each and every person

who needed aid. In 1991, VISTE volunteers logged over 22,000 hours and provided over 30,000 services to clients. In 1994, the number of volunteer hours increased to over 36,000, providing over 43,000 services.



1995's new Executive Director brought outstanding commitment and vitality to the organization. Alice O'Reilly's leadership translated into significant benefits to VISTE and a higher degree of awareness in the community. With the fastest growing group of the population now 85 or older, the number of clients served grew to 6,000, and volunteer after volunteer extended their time and compassion to all of those in need.

To this day, VISTE still provides the same services that sparked a call for action in 1983. Trips to the doctor's office, Publix, dentist appointments, reassuring phone calls, and food assistance have been enabling the frail elderly to live independently in their own homes for almost 30 years. These are among the many ways that VISTE brings joy into the lives of many who are homebound, lonely, in need of a listening ear or simply a smile from someone who truly cares. Most of all, the friendships created over the years have proven that the story of VISTE will continue. The remaining chapters will be built on love and compassion, with the many lives that have been touched a testament for things to come.



"VISTE started with an organizational meeting at First United Methodist Church in Lakeland.... a small beginning, but a great result. Due to the volunteer effort and the great leadership of Alice O'Reilly we have grown to a large, efficient organization in a great facility in our great Lakeland community."

~ Barney Barnett: Publix Super Markets

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viste.org



Campaign 2010

Dear Friends,

We want to sincerely thank you for all you have done in the past. VISTE would and could not exist without you.

VISTE is a local organization doing everything it can to assist the frail elderly in our community. Making ends meet today is more difficult for all of us. Imagine how it must be for the people VISTE serves. Would you stop buying prescription medicine if you had to use the money to buy food instead?

VISTE is assisting more clients than ever before. We always want to be able to say "yes" to the people who need us. We often get heartwarming expressions of thanks from our clients. I wish you could see and hear them all.

People who support VISTE do it because it is a cause they really believe in. The bulk of our daily work is carried out by local volunteers, and our volunteer board works hard to raise funds to support VISTE's mission. VISTE has extremely low overhead. Over 90% of your contribution goes directly to provide services to our elderly clients.

Time is of the essence. Please help us now. The need is critical and much greater than it was last year. Your very special gift will absolutely make our community an even better place to live, today and tomorrow. Thank you so very much.

Sincerely,

Lee Jackson *Jack T. Stephens*

Lee Jackson
Campaign Chairman

Jack T. Stephens
President

About VISTE

- Added 647 new clients in 2009
- Delivered 19,592 hot meals in 2009
- Provided monthly groceries to 1446 households in 2009
- Provided 1875 baths in 2009
- Provided 3720 hours of light housekeeping in 2009

Volunteers in Service to the Elderly
1232 E. Magnolia Street | Lakeland, FL 33801
phone 863-284-0828 fax 863-683-4732

VISTE, Inc. is a 501(c)3 tax exempt agency. Gifts are tax deductible.
State Registration #CH28. Federal ID #59-2625297



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"At a time when people live longer, I find it comforting to know that we have an organization like VISTE. They help elderly people live independently at home, whatever it takes. One day, hopefully, all of us will grow into our senior years and by supporting VISTE we can have a part in developing an organization that will enable us, regardless of age, to remain and live in our homes. What better way to live! Give to VISTE and invest in your elder care." ~ Debbie Burdett: Mosaic



viste A Client's View



19,000 meals HOT MEALS

VISTE volunteers deliver fresh, hot meals to homebound seniors twice a week. Not only is the nutrition from the meal important, but the visit from the volunteer provides a regular check-in and the socialization that many clients miss when they are unable to leave the home. VISTE volunteers delivered 19,000 meals last year.



1,446 monthly clients COMMODITIES

In 2009, VISTE provided 1,446 clients with a monthly supplement to their groceries. This generous box of food includes canned and dry goods; frozen items, juice, bread and paper items as well as personal care products. Many seniors are forced to choose between other necessities and food. VISTE's commodity program continues to grow along with the needs in our community.



144 clients served BIRTHDAY CAKES

Each month, VISTE volunteers bake, decorate and deliver birthday cakes to clients celebrating 90 years or more. Along with the cake, other goodies are provided by local school, church and civic groups to help make this monumental day even more special. In 2009, nearly 150 clients over 90 received birthday cakes.



821 monthly clients PERSONAL CARE BOXES

Last year, 821 VISTE clients received personal care boxes filled with essential items that the average person may take for granted every day. Volunteers collect, pack, and deliver these boxes in June and December – all filled to the brim with toiletries, cleaning supplies, a fan, blanket, or electric heater

8,395 times TRANSPORTATION

VISTE began 27 years ago by providing transportation assistance. VISTE's transportation program remains the cornerstone of the organization. Whether a client needs to visit the doctor, grocery store, or a quick errand,

VISTE is ready and willing to transport those seniors who may no longer have the ability to drive. VISTE transported 633 clients in 2009.



"Everybody loves to be remembered on their birthday, but when you're over 90 many times there isn't anyone left who does. That's what makes VISTE so special. They remember with a cake, and a personal visit from one of their volunteers in your home to celebrate your special day."

~ Willard Scott: NBC "Today Show"

viste A Volunteer's View



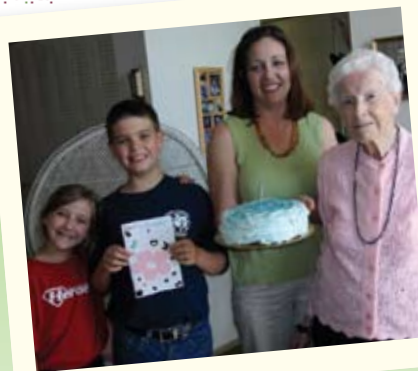
twice weekly **HOT MEALS**

Hot Meals are delivered on Tuesday and Thursday every week. Volunteer servers and drivers are needed to assist in getting VISTE clients the nutrition and socialization that so important to our senior population. Volunteers are the eyes and ears for many clients who are frail and at-risk.



endless opportunities **COMMODITIES**

It takes hundreds of volunteers to keep VISTE's commodity program running effectively and efficiently. From collecting donations, sorting items, packing, distributing and delivering, the opportunities are endless when it comes to helping over 1,400 seniors receive food assistance.



most rewarding **BIRTHDAY CAKES**

Baking and delivering a birthday cake to a senior may be one of the most rewarding things that you do. Many of VISTE's 90+ population have not received a birthday cake or even a birthday acknowledgement in decades. This simple gesture means so much to VISTE's clients and is perfect for children, families, and groups.



everyday essentials **PERSONAL CARE BOXES**

Every day, we use toothpaste, toilet paper and shampoo. Many seniors in our community can't afford these essentials. The rising cost of commodities often burden VISTE clients who are on fixed incomes. Volunteer opportunities are always available for collecting, packing and delivering personal care boxes in June and December.



maintaining independence **TRANSPORTATION**

Many seniors feel as though they've lost their independence when they must give up the keys to their car. For those who are unable to drive, VISTE provides that independence through a simple phone

call. VISTE will be making over 800 trips each month before the year is over. Volunteer drivers are always needed to assist seniors with transportation.

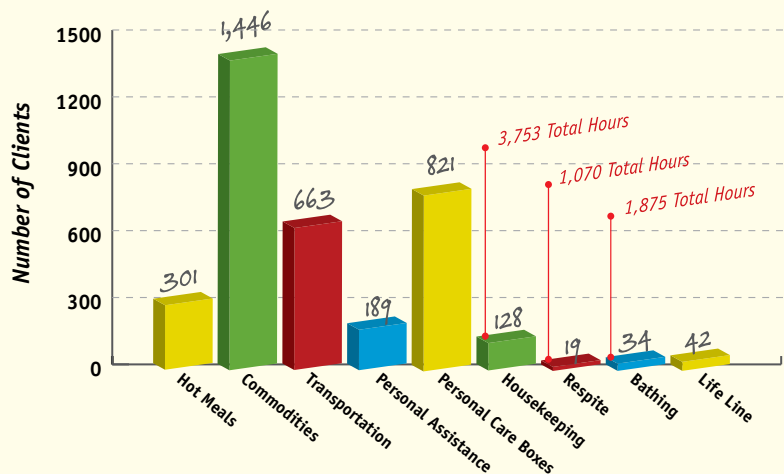
"I believe through volunteering, we are paying it forward for all the good things we have or will receive in life. The importance lies in showing those who need help that the world is still a beautiful place in which to live."

~ Frank Johnson: Bartow Kiwanis Club



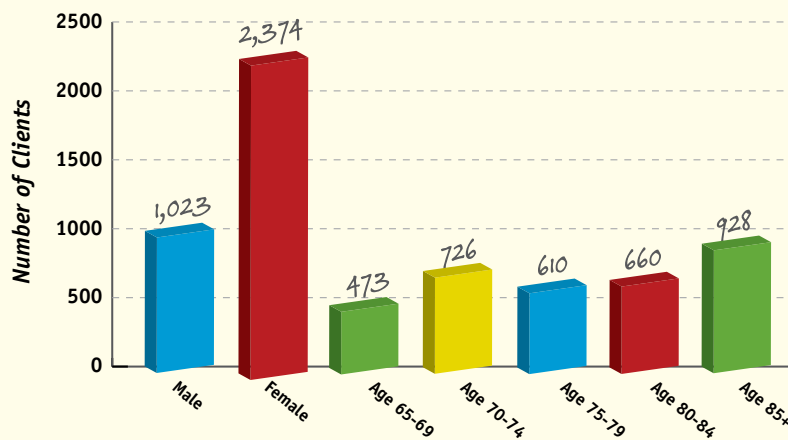
viste How we serve

SERVICES RENDERED



VISTE spent \$696,815 on direct program services in 2009. 90 cents out of every donated dollar goes directly to client programs.

CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS



VISTE serves those 65 and older living in Lakeland, Bartow, Ft. Meade and Mulberry.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

VISTE relies on community support. This support is both financial assistance as well as donated products that directly benefit clients.



WHAT IS visteBall?

VISTEBall is an indoor golf blowout where you can chip, putt, and play your way to great prizes. Event tickets include a buffet dinner, beer, wine and dessert. It's a fun time for the pro, the hacker, or the person who has never held a club a day in their life!

Event features: \$10,000 putting contest, indoor chipping contests, golf games, live auction, silent auction, and raffles/prizes. 2010's 5th annual VISTEBall raised a net profit of \$175,539.82 with proceeds benefiting the seniors in our own community. *The 6th annual VISTEBall will be held Saturday, February 5th, 2011*



“Entering our 6th year, VISTEBall has quickly become a signature event in Lakeland that people look forward to attending each year. It is not a black-tie affair and it is not a golf tournament...it's VISTEBall-and it's a lot of fun! Make sure February 5, 2011, is marked on your calendar.”
~ Steve Madden: Madden

viste Awards & Recognition

Dr. Sam Clark Memorial Award for Outstanding Service:

Virginia Cooke, Lorraine Gary, and Lucille Dekle



Judy Dobbs Memorial Leadership Award Presented to Exemplary VISTE Board Member:

Buddy Register



Jeffrey Perkins Memorial Award presented to School or Youth:

Highlands Grove Elementary School, Lakeland, Florida



Elfried Pennekamp Memorial Award for Extraordinary Service:

Coaches & Companions volunteers, Bobby Vann, Susan Scarlett, and Brittnie Harvey



VISTE holds New Volunteer Orientations on a monthly basis. **Email ashley@viste.org to attend.**

“Our seniors, who live alone, have two primary needs: They need a little help with their basic living essentials (food, medical, transportation, household, etc.) and they need to know someone cares and that they are not forgotten. VISTE’s incredible volunteers do both at the same time. They are the heart and soul of VISTE!” ~ Dan McBride: Victory Assembly of God



NOW, IT'S YOUR TURN

Seniors in our community need your help now more than ever. VISTE provides safety and independence for those special people who have spent their lives nurturing and providing for us. Make our mission your own and help us today. Now, it's *your* turn.



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You can make a difference VOLUNTEER

June 7th-30th: Deliver Personal Care Boxes

November 22nd: Snap beans for Thanksgiving

November 24th: Deliver Thanksgiving Meals

December 6th-31st: Deliver Personal Care Boxes

Ongoing: Stock food pantry shelves

Ongoing: Bake birthday cakes

Ongoing: Make small home repairs and build wheelchair ramps

OUR STAFF

Alice C. O'Reilly, *Executive Director*

Walter R. Whittemore, Jr., *Finance and Administration*

Ashley Metts Miller, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Clara Hill, *Transportation Coordinator*

Sue Brown, *Hot Meal and Commodity Coordinator*

Ronnie Groover, *Warehouse Manager*

Kimberly Fair, *Administrative Assistant*

Leeza Scheidt, *Client Case Manager*

Ellen Lee, *Client Case Manager*

Virginia Cooper, *Transportation provider*

Caroline Crosby, *Transportation provider*

Carol Doxey, *Transportation provider*

Jan Hancock, *Transportation provider*

Catherine Holdbrooks, *Transportation provider*

Maggie Isaac, *Transportation provider*

Marian O'Neal, *Transportation provider*

Patricia O'Neal, *Transportation provider*

Emerson Saunders, *Transportation provider*

Kathy Williams, *Transportation provider*



For more information
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