# **April 2024 News**

# The Children's Table

## We Celebrate the Grand Opening of our new "Teaching Garden"



#### **Volunteers, Community Leaders and Community** Members join The Children's Table Grand Opening

The Children's Table, a leading rural food bank based in Bronson, Florida, celebrated a significant milestone with the grand opening of its Teaching Garden on Thursday, March 21, 2024. The event, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by the Williston Chamber of Commerce and Two Hawk Farms, brought together community leaders, volunteers, and supporters of The Children's Table to inaugurate the new initiative aimed at fostering food security and self-sufficiency.

#### More than just a garden; A place to build families

During the opening ceremony, Mr. Bill shared his vision for the Teaching Garden, emphasizing the profound impact that cultivating one's own food can have on individuals and communities. Reflecting on his own childhood experiences and the transformative power of family gardening, Mr. Bill underscored the importance of empowering others to embark on their own gardening journeys. With the goal of inspiring more individuals to embrace gardening, Mr. Bill's dream is to see half of the community cultivating their own gardens, fostering not only food security but also cherished memories and shared





## Mr. Bill has a vision "A Garden in Every Yard"

The brainchild of Bill Brown, affectionately known as "Mr. Bill," the Teaching Garden not only serves as a sustainable source of fresh produce for The Children's Table's weekly food distributions but also as an educational hub for individuals and families eager to cultivate their own gardens. Drawing on the expertise of Master gardeners and educators from the University of Florida Agriculture department, the garden will host a series of gardening classes aimed at empowering participants with the knowledge and skills needed to grow vegetables at home.

#### Mr. Bill addresses the crowd from atop his tractor during the Grand Opening event



The grand opening event was made possible through the generous support of Two Hawk Hammock.

and was catered by Heavy B's BBQ, highlighting the collaborative spirit and community partnerships that underpin The Children's Table's mission. Please support our sponsors.

**Donate Today** 



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# The Children's Table - Learning Garden is Here!

Levy County Commissioner Matt Brooks, representing district 5, voiced resounding support for the project, affirming the county's commitment by stating, "We're behind this project 100%." Commissioner Brooks also shared promising news of imminent infrastructure enhancements, including the installation of a much-needed power pole. This vital addition will enable the farm to drill a well, ensuring a sustainable water supply essential for the garden's success.



Tyler Voorhees, Town of Bronson said "I've got some equipment, whatever you need, just let me know and I'll be sure to help you too."

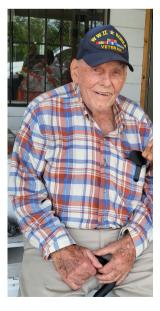


City Manager, Terry Bovaird, city of Williston spoke about the need for more food sources in the area, specifically the great need in Williston, he says "we're looking forward to seeing what this produces."

**WANTED: Teachers and Students of ALL Ages** 



Explore the exciting gardening classes offered at The Children's Table garden! Stay updated on schedules and events by visiting our Facebook Page, "The Children's Table." We aim to share information about our free classes in local news media soon, so keep an eye out for announcements. While specific times and dates are yet to be determined, we invite individuals with gardening expertise to join us as instructors. Additionally, we extend a warm invitation to local public and private schools, homeschool groups, and other organizations to participate in our classes. Don't hesitate to reach out—we're happy to tailor special classes to suit your group's needs. Let's cultivate a love for gardening together!



#### Mr. Bill Turns 95!!! HAPPYBIRTHDAY!!!

We invite the community to join in celebrating a momentous occasion: the 95th birthday of Mr. Bill. Let's come together to honor his remarkable milestone and express our heartfelt appreciation for his tireless efforts.

The birthday festivities will take place on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>May 4, 2024</u>, <u>from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM</u> at the <u>Bronson Elementary School Cafeteria</u>. Join us for an afternoon of joy, cake and laughs.

As a special surprise for Mr. Bill, we invite you to participate in our "95 Birthday Well Wishes" campaign. Let's fill his mailbox with 95 birthday cards, each containing a heartfelt message of gratitude and admiration. Your small donation in recognition of Mr. Bill's exceptional contributions to our community is greatly appreciated.

#### Birthday cards can be sent to: Mr. Bill P.O. Box 186 Archer, FL 32618

Together, let's show Mr. Bill the love and appreciation he deserves for his selfless dedication to serving others. Your presence and well wishes will undoubtedly make this milestone birthday celebration truly memorable.

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