

## **January 2025 News**

352-486-6525

# The Children's Table



## A New Year of Hope and Community at The **Children's Table**

As we kick off the new year, we're filled with gratitude for all the love and support we've received, and we're excited about what's ahead. The past year has been one of resilience and growth, with so many moments of kindness and collaboration that have helped us serve more families in need right here in our community.

Our mission to provide good food, teach valuable skills, and spread a little hope has always been at the heart of what we do. This year, we're rolling up our sleeves and diving into new projects, strengthening old partnerships, and finding even more ways to lend a hand to those struggling with food insecurity. Whether it's through our mobile food distributions or our gardening classes, we're all about empowering folks and helping them find the tools to stand strong on their own.

We're excited to keep working hand-in-hand with local organizations, leaders, and all of you who make this possible. Looking ahead, we're sticking to the values that got us here: kindness, generosity, and community. Together, we can make our little corner of the world a brighter place for everyone.

A big thank you to our amazing volunteers, donors, and supporters. We couldn't do it without you, and we can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together in 2025. Here's to another year of hope, growth, and community!



#### **Looking Back at 2024**

Last year, thanks to your incredible support, The Children's Table made a powerful impact. We provided 20,472 food boxes, feeding 27,212 children and 49,355 adults—an astonishing total of 1,289,749 meals!

Beyond food, our teaching garden empowered families with skills to grow their own fresh produce, fostering selfsufficiency. Volunteers and donors made this possible, showing the strength of community in action.

As we move into 2025, we remain committed to feeding hope and changing lives. Thank you for being part of this journey together, we're building a stronger, healthier future.



### A Fun Ride into the Spotlight: Mr. Bill and Ms. **Verna as Grand Marshals at the Williston Parade!**

This past December, two of our very own from The Children's Table took center stage at the Williston Parade —none other than Mr. Bill and Ms. Verna! As the Grand Marshals of this festive event, they were treated to a ride fit for royalty in a beautiful horse-drawn chariot. Talk about a grand entrance!

The crowd cheered as Mr. Bill and Ms. Verna, the heart and soul of our food bank, waved from their chariot, embodying the spirit of generosity and community that makes The Children's Table so special. They've spent countless hours helping our neighbors, and it was so exciting to see them honored in such a memorable way.

This parade wasn't just a chance to celebrate Mr. Bill and Ms. Verna—it was also a reminder of how deeply rooted they are in our community. From their hard work at The Children's Table to their constant support of others, they are truly the backbone of what we do. We couldn't think of anyone more deserving of the title "Grand Marshal."

We're so proud of them and grateful for all they do. Here's to more years of making a difference and enjoying life's special moments—like a ride in a horse-drawn chariot! Congratulations, Mr. Bill and Ms. Verna, and thank you for all you do! 🎉



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Food Distribution SCHEDULE - JANUARY



### 🖟 Volunteer with Us in 2025! 🌟



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Make a positive impact: Volunteer Today! Call for info.	Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM MONDAYS 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive Bronson	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!	2025	2 Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM Volunteer	Join our Bus for Mobile Food Distributions FRIDAYS 9:30 AM Hernando House of Power 7233 N. Lecanto Hwy, 11:00 AM Life Spring Church, 19460 E Pennsylvania Ave, Dunnellon, FL 11:45 AM Inglis Town Hall 135 Highway 40 W. "serves Yankee Town" 1:45 PM Otter Creek Town Hall 555 SW 2nd Avenue	9:30am -12:00 FREE Gardening Class - 17990 NE 53rd Ln, Williston, FL 32696
5 Volunteer Today! Call for info.	6 Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive	7 WUMTERS NEEDED	8 11:00 Lebanon Baptist Church Branford	9 Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM	10 10:00 <u>Archer</u> - Davis Center, 17500 SW Archer Rd, Archer, 11:30 <u>Williston</u> - Masonic Lodge 250 NW 6th Blvd, Highway 121 1:00 <u>Gainesville</u> - Countryside Baptist Church10926 NW 39th Avenue	11 FREE Gardening Class
NEED FOOD HELP?	13 Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive	14	15 FREE Gardening Class	16 Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM	17 9:30 AM <u>Hernando</u> House of Power 11:00 AM Life Spring Church, 19460 E Pennsylvania Ave, <u>Dunnellon</u> , FL 11:45 AM <u>Inglis</u> Town Hall 135 Highway 40 W. "serves Yankee Town" 1:45 PM <u>Otter Creek</u> Town Hall 555 SW 2nd Avenue	18 FREE Gardening Class
WE'RE HERE 4 YOU!	20 Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive	21 11am - Horseshoe 1:15 Steinhatchee	Volunteer	23 Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM	24 10:00 <u>Archer</u> - Davis Center, 17500 SW Archer Rd, Archer, 11:30 <u>Williston</u> - Masonic Lodge 250 NW 6th Blvd. Highway 121 1:00 <u>Gainesville</u> - Countryside Baptist Church10926 NW 39th Avenue	25
26	27 Bronson 10 AM-12 PM 680 Thrasher Drive	28 Volunteer	29	30 Volunteers Arrive: 8 AM	31 9:30 AM <u>Hernando</u> House of Power 7233 N. Lecanto Hwy, 11:00 AM Life Spring Church, 19460 E Pennsylvania Ave, <u>Dunnellon</u> , FL 11:45 AM <u>Inqlis</u> Town Hall 135 Highway 40 W. 1:45 FM <u>Office Creek</u> Town Hall 555 SW 2nd Avenue "serves Yankee Town	1 FREE Gardening Class

We need YOU to help us make a difference this year! From packing and distributing food at our various locations to assisting in our teaching garden, there are plenty of ways to get involved. In the coming months, we'll also be prepping for spring planting, hosting community events, and supporting families with transportation needs. Whether you can donate a few hours or lend a hand with fundraising, every effort counts! Reach out to us today to find out how you can make a lasting impact in our community. Together, we can do so much! / #Volunteer #CommunitySupport

### **Advocacy & Awareness: Tackling Food Insecurity in Our Community**

Food insecurity is a growing issue in our community, with many families struggling to put enough food on the table. Here in North Central Florida, thousands of individuals—especially children and seniors—face hunger daily. As a local food bank, The Children's Table is committed to providing essential food to those in need, but we can't do it alone.



In Levy County, Florida, approximately 24.8% of children under 18 live below the poverty line, equating to about 6,718 children. From the Florida Division of Election Records.

This rate is notably higher than the state average of 16.0%. Addressing this issue is crucial to ensure all children have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

You can help raise awareness and advocate for change. Start by educating others about the realities of food insecurity and its impact on our neighbors. Volunteer with us, donate food or funds, and spread the word about the resources available to those in need. Together, we can create a stronger, more resilient community where no one goes hungry. 🌟 #EndHunger #FoodSecurity #CommunityAction



## Your Support is Transforming Lives, One Donation at a Time

The Children's Table provides vital support to over 500 families weekly in North Central Florida, ensuring no one goes hungry. Beyond food distribution, we empower the community through our teaching garden, offering free classes on growing fresh produce. We also respond quickly to emergencies, providing essential aid during crises like hurricanes. Your donations help us continue this crucial work—feeding families, fostering self-sufficiency, and offering hope when it's needed most. Every contribution makes a difference.

Your Donations Help Us - Help Our Community! Call, Visit our Website or mail your tax deductible donation to: P.O. Box 222 Bronson, FL 32621

