

Home Life Partnership
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Bulletin #3



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HOME LIFE PARTNERSHIP

How wonderful it is that we live in an age where we can use the internet to research and locate information on many of our service project areas! This is especially true for the Home Life Partnership agencies. In just a few short minutes I was able to call up the websites for each agency and locate ideas for ways we can support our partner agencies, both as individuals and as clubs.

On each website you will find a history of the agency and how to locate the office closest to you. You can also find information on upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and items/donations needed. Several agencies offer E-cards, whereby you can make a donation in someone's name and send that person an E-card to let them know of your donation in their honor. Some agencies have on-line shopping for their logo products that support their agency. We all love to go shopping!

Here is the website address for each of our eight partnership agencies, along with some ideas of ways you can become involved with these agencies:

Alzheimer's Association www.alz.org

The month of September is **World Alzheimer's Month**, and September 21st is **Alzheimer's Action Day**. On this day, people are asked to wear purple and to take action in the fight of Alzheimer's. You can write to Congress to ask them to make Alzheimer's a national priority. You can go casual for a cause at work, encouraging your colleagues at work to dress down at work in exchange for a small donation to the Alzheimer's Association. There is a free kit you can order on-line on how to implement this idea. Each year there are walks to raise money for Alzheimer's; check with your local office to find out about the walk in your area. The Alzheimer's Association has an e-mail newsletter that you can sign up for to receive regular updates on programs and research develops made available in relation to Alzheimer's disease.

Canine Companions for Independence www.cci.org

We are fortunate to have the Southeast Region CCI office located in Orlando (8150 Clarcona Ocoee Rd., Orlando, FL 32818; 407-522-3300). You can contact their office to arrange tours of the campus or to get information on becoming a volunteer puppy raiser. **International Assistance Dog Week** was August 7 – 13 and always falls at that time of year, which is also when the puppy graduation ceremonies are held. Our CCI Southeast Region has a wish list that is available on-line and includes items such as new towels and washcloths, Iams Dog Biscuits, and sets of 10 stainless steel bowls (2 quart or 1 quart). Honor a friend or family member with a CCI gift card, which can be purchased on-line in denominations of \$10 or \$20....the perfect gift for a CCI supporter.

Easter Seals www.easterseals.com

Easter Seals offers an on-line newsletter, and you can find the Easter Seals office nearest you by just entering your zip code into their website. This agency offers services for people of all ages with disabilities, as well as services for their caregivers and their employers. You can even follow this agency on Facebook and Twitter. Their Walk With Me event not only raises money for Easter Seals, but it also offers education and outreach to our communities. There is a Walk With Me event in Miami on October 1st of this year, and one in Sarasota on November 5th. Contact your local Easter Seals office to see if an event has been scheduled in your area and ask how you can assist.

Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org

You don't have to be a skilled carpenter to help support Habitat for Humanity; in fact, you don't even have to lift a tool, because they have a great on-line store where you can purchase items to support their agency. Their 2012 wall calendar features photos from around the world of their volunteers in action. Other items for sale include t-shirts, camera bags, and flower vases....all to benefit Habitat. Many local Habitat affiliates operate ReStores, which sell reusable and surplus building material, furniture, and appliances to the public. You can donate items or go shopping at one of their 65 ReStore locations in Florida and all the proceeds fund local Habitat construction.

March of Dimes www.marchofdimes.com

The March of Dimes has designated November as **Prematurity Awareness Month** to let us know that premature birth is a crisis in our country. You can send a message of hope for premature babies by wearing purple, raising awareness with wristbands, car magnets, and ribbons. March of Dimes also offers free e-cards when you make a donation in honor of a friend or relative. The March for Babies walk is an annual event held at different times in different areas so check their website to find the date for the walk in your area. Some upcoming walks are November 5th in Ft. Walton Beach, November 12th in St. Augustine, and November 20th in Gainesville. If you are a biker, Ft. Myers is having their 11th Annual Bikers for Babies on November 6th. All of these events could use volunteers, as well as participants.

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute www.nhlbi.nih.gov

This agency offers a wealth of information and project kits, many of which can be ordered for free or at a very low cost. They also have numerous on-line links to materials you can print out from their website...even toolkits for providing your own awareness campaigns in your communities. February 3, 2012, is **National Wear Red Day**, when Americans nationwide are encouraged to wear red to show their support for women's heart disease awareness. Red Dress Pins are available for free through their website, but there is a limit of one per person.

National Osteoporosis Foundation www.nof.org

In recognition of **National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month** in May, NOF has launched a new on-line toolkit with materials that you can use throughout the year to increase awareness of osteoporosis and bone health among women and men of all ages and backgrounds. A unique gift you can order is "Hot Flash Havoc" on DVD and a portion of the proceeds goes to the NOF. Honor the special women in your life in the "A Gift from Mothers to Daughters Tribute Book" or by purchasing a Pearls of Strength bracelet...information on both of these is on the NOF website.

Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement www.wiserwomen.org

This is another agency that has numerous excellent links and fact sheets available on their website. They have on-line newsletters and even webinars on transitioning into retirement. October 3- 9 is **Financial Planning Week**, but there are also activities planned throughout the whole month of October. South Florida Financial Planning Day is October 29th at McArthur High School in Broward County, where you can meet with professional financial planners who will answer your questions. There are similar events in Miami on October 2nd, in southwest Florida on October 4th, in Ft. Lauderdale on October 5th, and in Orlando on October 17th. But you do not have to attend one of these events in order to celebrate Financial Planning Week; here are some other things you can do: balance your checkbook, start a savings account, help teach your children or grandchildren how to save and spend wisely, pay off a credit card, or review your insurance coverage.