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Your News

Jensen Beach, Stuart, Palm City, Hobe Sound

4 Dance for Food to raise meals, not money, for families in need

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STUART — Every day thousands of families struggle to determine where their next meal will come from. Resources at local food banks and food pantries are stretched thin. In this sustained economic recession, people who used to be contributors to these organizations, find themselves on the receiving end of assistance.

One local non-profit, Artists for a Cause, hopes to ease this suffering through its Dance for Food event. This unique performance event is not a fundraiser but rather, a "food raiser" that has set a goal of collecting enough food to provide

20,000 meals to struggling families throughout the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beaches.

Dance for Food consists of three contemporary performances by dancers who are registered with Artists for a Cause, including Preston Contemporary Dance Theatre, Dance Academy of Stuart, South Florida Dance Company, Downtown Dance Company and others.

While there is no monetary admission fee for the events, attendees are instead asked to donate nonperishable foods. All food collected at the performances will be distributed to local nonprofit organizations that focus on hunger relief on the Treasure

Coast and Palm Beaches such as the Treasure Coast Food Bank, House of Hope, C.R.O.S. Ministries and The Farmworker Coordinating Council.

"Our Dance for Food event is a perfect example of using the arts as a catalyst to address a critical community need in a way that produces significantly greater results than could be obtained through a more traditional fundraising event," explained Artists for a Cause (A4AC) founder, Terry Barber. "Here we are supporting the arts and dance culture with professional and educational opportunities, while also raising ten times the food to feed the hungry on the same

budget. This event can become a model that A4AC can use to expand its reach and positive impact on communications across the country."

In the past, Dance for Food has raised more than 6,000 meals for families through a single performance.

This year, A4AC has scheduled three performances in St. Lucie, Martin and Palm Beach counties with the goal of tripling that number.

The three events will take place on: Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. at the Blake Library in Stuart; Nov. 4 at 3 p.m. at the Lake Worth Playhouse; and Nov. 21 at 6 p.m. at the Port Saint Lucie Civic Center.

Those who are unable to attend the events can donate nonperishable goods and drop them off at any of these locations: Artists for a Cause at 2688 Willoughby Boulevard in Stuart; any BB&T bank including Bank Atlantic locations; or at My Geek Station at 2926 SW Mapp Rd. in Palm City.

Presented by Mr. Chain, additional sponsors for Dance for Food include: The Patrick Stracuzzi Team at Re/Max of Stuart, Nisair Air Conditioning and Edward D. Reagan, P.A.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available, for more information contact Bonnie Tadross at 772-419-8778 or bonniea4ac.org.