

Making a Difference



Children play at the amphitheater as the steel drum band Caribbean Sound plays during the Fourth of July celebration in Palatka.

Shaping the Future



Children get a lesson in oil spills during Ravine Gardens State Park's recent Eco-Adventures Day Camp.

Giving Back!



Jake Hill takes aim at the target during an early morning practice at Jenkins Middle School. The school started a new archery group during the school year where students were able to participate in competitions.

Real needs for real people

Volunteers play a big part in organizing and planning events in the Putnam County area as well as in assisting nonprofit groups in their weekly activities in serving the community. Here is a volunteer opportunity locally.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Looking for a rewarding opportunity to reach out and help in your community? Haven Hospice is looking for volunteers in your area. Volunteers are needed to spend time with patients and family members as well as engage in community outreach. Join Haven's volunteers and make a difference. **Haven Hospice** Call June Thompson 328-7100

The following is a partial list of area nonprofit organizations:

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
328-6224
600 Zeagler Drive, Palatka.
Committed to fighting cancer through balanced programs of research, education, patient service, advocacy and cancer information.

AMERICAN RED CROSS, NORTHEAST FLORIDA CHAPTER PALATKA BRANCH 328-4603 / (888) 733-2771
523 South 13th St.
rousek@nefloridaredcross.org
Community education in disaster preparedness and training in first aid, CPR, aquatics, babysitting and more. This branch also provides disaster response and financial assistance to families affected by disasters such as fires, flood, hurricanes or tornadoes.

ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION (904) 353-5770, (800) 578-7183
Northeast Region, 314 Palmetto St., Jacksonville, FL 32202
info.flb2@arthritis.org, www.arthritis.org
Volunteer opportunities available, from office help to special events. Contact Erin Pauls.

A WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER 328-9394
A pregnancy resource center assisting men and women with unplanned pregnancies. All services are free and confidential. Offers free pregnancy tests.

BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA, PUTNAM COUNTY (906) 963-5118
Seeking mentors to spend 4-6 hours a month with a child after school or on weekends exploring new things and having fun. Volunteers are 21 or older and receive training and on-going support.

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (904) 388-0591
The national's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training for boys ages 6-21. Boy Scouts offers quality programs with fun and adventure, instills values, citizenship, service and leadership. Local information can be found on the district Web site at www.ncscouting.org.

THE CARING CENTER 328-1088 or 325-3417
Provides temporary emergency shelter, clothes and food.

CENTER FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED INC. (386) 253-8879
To promote independence by providing the legally blind, elderly residents of Flagler, Putnam, Brevard and Volusia counties with necessary skills.

THE CIVIL AIR PATROL CADET PROGRAM (352) 475-3319
A civilian auxiliary with the U.S. Air Force for ages 12-18. There is also a program for ages 18-plus.

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OF MID-FLORIDA INC. 312-0895 - 1-800-246-1865
Budget and credit counseling, a debt repayment plan to creditors and education regarding responsible credit use and capable money management.

EXPERIENCE WORKS 329-3724 ext. 2818
Promotes the employment and training of persons 55 and older.

Another Putnam County **Shining Star**



John Birney

FLORIDA'S LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM (888) 831-0404 or (352) 955-5015
Volunteers needed to join its corps of advocates who protect the rights of elders residing in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and adult family care homes. The program is comprised of 17 local councils throughout the state. Visit www.ombudsman.myflorida.com.

GIRL SCOUTS OF GATEWAY COUNCIL (800) 347-2688 or (904) 388-4653
Gainesville offices - (352) 376-3004 or (866) 868-6307
An informal education program for girls ages 5-17. Provides opportunities to explore their potential, develop values, make friends and to become happy, resourceful citizens.

HAVEN HOSPICE 328-7100
Volunteers needed. Looking for a rewarding opportunity to reach out and help in your community? Haven Hospice is looking for volunteers in your area. Volunteers are currently needed to spend time with patients and family members as well as engage in community outreach. Join Haven's volunteers and make a difference. Call June Thompson at 328-7100.

GUARDIAN AD LITEM 329-0884 or (800) 826-1437 or (888) 239-7803
The Seventh Judicial Circuit program is in need of volunteers to speak for the best interests of abused and neglected children.

HUMANE SOCIETY OF NORTHEAST FLORIDA 325-1587
Volunteers with office and/or animal skills are needed.

INTERLACHEN LIONS CLUB 684-2188
Prospect and Boylston streets. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

KEEP PUTNAM BEAUTIFUL 325-9598
www.keepputnambeautiful.org

Saluting & Recruiting **Volunteers**

A nonprofit education organization designed to address the needs for grass roots solutions to critical and costly solid waste and littering issues.

LEE CONLEE HOUSE DOMESTIC/SEXUAL VIOLENCE SHELTER SUPPORT GROUP SERVICES DV/SA HELPLINE 325-3141 or (800) 326-0919 or (800) 500-1119
TDD users may call through Florida Relay Service at (800) 955-8771 or 711. AT&T Language Line. A shelter dedicated to the fight against family violence in Putnam County. Call us. We can help.

LIFESOUTH COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTERS 328-7289
Nonprofit, volunteer blood center that provides blood components and services to more than 110 medical facilities in Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

MAKE A WISH FOUNDATION (888) 874-9474
Grants the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses. Volunteers are needed for Northeast Florida.

MARCH OF DIMES 326-7267 / (352) 359-1880
marchofdimes.com
Volunteer opportunities include March for Babies. Call also to learn about having a healthy pregnancy and preventing premature birth.

PALATKA CHRISTIAN SERVICE CENTER 328-0984
820 Reid St. Applications accepted from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Fax: 328-0984. Serving Putnam

County through meeting emergency needs such as prescriptions, utilities, rent, clothes and food.

PALATKA HOUSING AUTHORITY YOUTH PROGRAMS
Adult volunteers are needed. Call 329-0177 or 937-7361.

PALATKA LIONS CLUB 325-1674
Answers the needs that challenge the communities of the world. Tackles tough problems like blindness, drug abuse prevention and diabetes awareness.

PEOPLE ADJUSTING TO LIMITED SIGHT 684-6825
Richard S. Johnson, president. Helps people who are blind or visually impaired achieve independence and self-sufficiency, and to lead lives of dignity through vocational rehabilitation, medical and social services and talking book library.

PUTNAM COMMUNITY MEDICAL CENTER VOLUNTEER AUXILIARY 326-6072
Provides service and support to patients and their families, hospital staff, guests and medical staff and the community.

PUTNAM COUNTY COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS 328-8675
Program helps reconnect youths to their schools and community.

PUTNAM COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL INC. (352) 475-1938
Environmental activists dedicated to protecting

Dear Putnam County residents:

We would like to salute John "JB" Birney for his wonderful example of volunteerism with the Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns Counties and in particular, his service to Dolly Parton's Imagination.

The ELC has a mission of helping families and young children with needs such as subsidized child care, VPK, and early literacy. JB has served as a governor appointee to the board of directors for the Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns since 2006, and is currently vice chair.

JB has most recently gone above and beyond and then some with his initiatives for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, bringing the early literacy program to Putnam, St. Johns and now to Flagler County. The Imagination Library is available to all babies born after May 1, 2008, in Putnam or St. Johns, allowing them to receive free books in the mail each month. The program only requires a short registration form that can be found online at local libraries and at birthing centers in both Putnam and Flagler hospitals. You can learn more about the program at www.dollypartonsimaginationlibrary.com.

JB worked for Barnett Bank from 1995-1999 and covered all four branches in Putnam County. He has also served on the business advisory group for St. Johns River Community College in Palatka where he worked on business curriculum reviews and workforce issues that are unique to Northeast Florida.

JB is a sincere spokesperson for the Imagination Library and uses his involvement with other organizations like the chamber and Rotary to spread the word.

JB has a regional and focused philanthropic role in early literacy promotion and he has participated in several Chamber Leadership programs in Florida. During his most recent stint as a leadership candidate and now a leadership program graduate in Flagler County, he mentioned the Imagination Library to his Leadership classmates. JB's excitement explaining the program in Putnam and St. Johns was so contagious that he ignited the fire that is now the newest Dolly Parton Imagination Library program in Florida — Flagler County.

If you are interested in details about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, let us know. E-mail me at dell@elcflpsj.org or call the administrative offices in Putnam County at 328-8225.

Dawn E. Bell

Dawn E. Bell, executive director
Early Learning Coalition of Putnam and St. Johns Counties

and preserving Putnam County's natural resources and heritage. PCEC works with other groups and agencies to conserve important wildlife corridors, encourage nature-based tourism, and to create environmental education centers. For details, visit the Web site www.pceecweb.org.

PUTNAM FAMILY YMCA 698-2342
Not-for-profit community service program working to meet health and social service needs in the community.

PUTNAM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY 325-5862
A nonprofit, ecumenical Christian organization building decent, affordable houses for low-income families. All levels of construction experience is acceptable. Volunteers are needed at the construction site every Thursday and Saturday.
Youth groups are always welcome. Call the office to sign up or visit www.putnamhabitat.org.

PUTNAM COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COUNCIL 329-1231
Meets at 3:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Juvenile Crime Prevention Office, 142 Ferry Road, East Palatka.

PUTNAM COUNTY LIBRARY 329-0126 - (800) 826-1437
Serves the citizens of Putnam County through five facilities. The system is automated, providing Internet access to the Web and a variety of online databases. Programs for all ages are offered.

PUTNAM LITERACY SERVICES 329-0126
Offers one-on-one tutoring, small group instruction, uses volunteer tutors to promote literacy to anyone ages 16 or older not attending school.

PUTNAM COUNTY MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT GROUP 649-0169
Meets at 5 p.m. the first Thursday of each month at Putnam Community Center in Palatka.