



# PREMIER IN THE COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER 2016



## ABANDONED PET RESCUE NO-KILL SHELTER

The waterworks were on again at Abandoned Pet Rescue, Fort Lauderdale's largest no-kill animal shelter. Per Randy Goodhope, who made the delivery, "the staff person, Debbie Mann, saw how full my SUV was and teared up. She said her 'heart was overwhelmed by Premier's generosity'. She immediately took pictures and asked that I thank everyone at Premier for this donation."

APR's website is [apr.rescuegroups.org](http://apr.rescuegroups.org). They regularly have pet adoptions at PetSmart East located at 1700 N. Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale. Adoptions are scheduled from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on the first and third Saturdays of every month. They're also always in need of dog walkers. Currently dogs are walked Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays from 10:45am to 2:30pm. Call (954) 728-9010 if you, or someone you, know is interested.



## BACK-TO-SCHOOL BACKPACKS

Premier's first back-to-school backpack initiative for elementary students in need at the School District of Palm Beach County went very well. Big thanks to Brian Squillace, Bridget Linnabery, Crissia Corbitt, Duy Luu, Elizabeth Colon, Jennifer Rozo, Kim Trajbar, Lucilda Rosa-Ramirez, Mari Abramowicz, Nishat Tasnim, and Randy Goodhope. We hope to do this again next year.



## OPERATION GRATITUDE: SAYING THANK YOU

Founded by Carolyn Blashek who got the idea from care packages she would send her children when they were at camp, Operation Gratitude was conceived of as her way to help the military effort by bringing a piece of home to those serving. In 2003 at Los Angeles International Airport, she found herself face-to-face and teary eyed with a soldier due to depart for a war zone in 30 minutes, distraught and breaking down. "His mom had died, his wife had left him, and he was still mourning the death of an infant child. He needed to find a reason to survive, and he didn't have one," she said. "It's not enough for me to sit here serving hot dogs." In March 2003, she sent four packages. Six months and 650 packages later, she met a staff sergeant soldier with the same mission so they pooled their efforts, and by year's end had sent 8,000 care packages. Along the way she won the support of Major General David Baldwin the Adjutant General for the National Guard in California and they have now sent over 1,500,000 packages. Carolyn Blashek's example even inspired her own son to join the Marines.

If you are interested in helping with donations of snacks, entertainment, hygiene products, handmade items, plus personal letters of appreciation to New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders, individually-named U.S. Service Members deployed overseas, Wounded Heroes and their caregivers, collection bins will be located in the lobby.



## ABOUT PREMIER EYE CARE

Premier's People, Planet, Profit triple bottom line means we are dedicated to helping the community. Contributions to 501(3)(c) charities since 2012 have topped \$600,000 and include diverse groups like the American Heart Assoc., the Drug Abuse Treatment Assoc., the Girl Scouts, Kenya Rescue, Tampa Crisis Center, Prevent Blindness, and more. Stay tuned for company-wide opportunities.



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