



PREMIER IN THE COMMUNITY

JUNE 2018



THE LAST PLASTIC STRAW MOVEMENT

The Last Plastic Straw is a project of Plastic Pollution Coalition. Did you know? Over 500,000,000 plastic straws are used each day in the United States. Most people will use 35,000 straws in their lifetime. In only the past twenty years, people have come to expect plastic straws in every drink, in an example of extreme waste being generated for minimal convenience. These short-lived tools are usually dropped into a garbage can with no further thought, instantly becoming a source of plastic pollution. Their small size makes them unrecyclable. Almost a third of all plastics produced escape collections systems and wind up in our oceans where they can be swallowed by our marine life and wind up in their stomachs or, as the world witnessed, their nose.

The Last Plastic Straw and Plastic Pollution Coalition are building momentum around a worldwide movement, so plastic straws become a relic of the past. In the short term, we work with our Coalition to encourage eateries to no longer automatically give plastic straws; we educate individuals to refuse plastic straws and spread the “straw free” message; and we work to change local regulation to stop this unnecessary plastic pollution. In the long run, this collective engagement around the gateway issue of plastic straws will meaningfully shift the way individuals and businesses think about plastic pollution - and about our society’s disposable culture on a larger scale.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

Although many people are still largely unaware of this evolving family phenomenon, there are an increasing number of families today maintained by grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, ages newborns to adolescents. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, in 2012, there were 2.7 million grandparents who had the primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren who lived with them. It is also double the number of grandparent-headed households in 1970, when the percentage was 3% of all households. In 2012, the percentage was 6 percent. In many cases, there are no parents living with the children and their grandparents.

Grandparents often receive bewildered babies or older children who arrive with the clothes on their backs and nothing else. No toys, no favorite blankets or stuffed animals to sleep with, nothing. They may be angry, confused, or fearful. Some of them were born addicted to drugs, and they suffer from the long-term effects of these drugs on their minds and bodies. Why are increasing numbers of grandparents, from their fifties to their seventies (and older), once again raising babies and children? The key reason is that they don’t want their grandchildren to be placed in foster care, and risk never seeing them again. One key issue is the major increase in opioid abuse in the United States, which has alarmed organizations like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) so much that they issued their own prescribing guidelines for chronic pain. Other reasons for grandparents acting as parents again are the mental illness of an adult child, and child abuse and neglect that adult children inflict on their own children. Often these reasons are tied together.

THE PANTRY OF BROWARD

The Pantry of Broward is a 501(c)3 organization registered with the State of Florida. The Pantry was founded in 2008 by Elizabeth “B.J. Buntrock,” a local philanthropist who saw the need for a charitable organization that could address the unique needs of seniors and grandparents raising their grandchildren on fixed incomes. Please consider making a food donation in one of the bins located in the break room and the lobby. Thank you.



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, Preserve Vision Florida, and more. Stay tuned for company-wide opportunities.



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