

NATIONS' *Annual Calendar of Events*

Volunteer Appreciation Day

During the month of **February**, we host an event to thank and recognize many of our volunteers.

Annual Scholarship Gala

On the second Saturday in **April**, we conclude our *Annual Scholarship Competition* for youths from low-income families over several months involving “**Life Enrichment Classes**”, community service and various other activities. During our *Gala* we award scholarships to **FGCU** and other institutions of higher learning as they become available to us.

Annual Family Outreach Day

On the last Saturday in **May**, we distribute approximately **10,000** pounds of food. We recruit representatives from other non-profit agencies to inform and educate the public. We also work with a group of medical professionals through **Lee Memorial Health System** who hold a one day **Free Clinic** providing a variety of health screening services to those in need.

Youth Summer Camp & Field Trips

For six weeks beginning in late **June**, we hold our free **Summer Camp** for youths from economically-disadvantaged families. They're able to interact with others from similar backgrounds while engaging in crafts and a number of other activities. This comprehensive program includes (whenever possible) weekly swimming, free movies as well as drama, music and dance classes. We also have special outings for roller skating, bowling, fishing, a theme park and an “end-of-summer field day”.

Back-To-School Fair

On the first Saturday in **August**, we hold our **Annual Back-To-School Fair** in conjunction with a **Free Dental Fair** for the whole family. We distribute clothes, backpacks, school supplies and recruit dental health professions to provide free dental services.

“Taste of the Nations” Annual Anniversary Banquet

Each **September**, we hold our annual banquet where share our accomplishments for the past year and plans for the next year. This is our primary fundraiser and an opportunity to recognize many groups, organizations and individuals who contribute to our efforts. We use this opportunity to give the community-at-large a “taste” of the many services and programs we provide throughout the year to those in need.

Youth Mentoring

From the first Tuesday in **September** through the last Tuesday in **May** of the following year, we provide weekly mentoring classes as an **Explorer** post for **Youth Mentoring**. The purpose is to provide experiences that help them mature and prepare them to become responsible and caring adults. **Exploring** is based on five areas of emphasis: career opportunities, life skills, citizenship, character education, and leadership experience.

Annual Community Outreach Day

Each **October**, we join forces with several other local groups in order to have a positive impact on the lives of those in need throughout the community by distributing food and providing other needed services.

Annual Fall Food Drive

During the first week of **October**, a community-wide food drive is launched to collect food to be distributed as Holiday Food Boxes during the months of **November** and **December**.

Thanksgiving Day Dinners

On **Thanksgiving Day**, volunteers serve hot holiday meals to several hundred needy families and individuals.

Annual Toy Food Drive

During the first week of **November**, a community-wide toy drive is launched to collect toys to be distributed during our Annual Community Christmas Party.

Help-Portraits

On the first Saturday of **December**, volunteer photographers take pictures of economically-disadvantaged families in order to provide them with free portraits and a CD with their pictures on it.

Christmas Wrapping

During the first three weeks of **December**, a group of volunteers sort, wrap and label thousands presents for distribution during our Annual Community Christmas Party.

Annual Community Christmas Party

On the third Saturday in **December**, we throw a Christmas Party for children from economically-disadvantaged families where we distribute thousands of presents.

Annual Holiday Dinners

On **Christmas Day**, volunteers serve hot holiday meals to several hundred needy families and individuals.