

State and National Elks Support Local Hands for Homeless Program

On November 9, 2024, the Florida State Elk's President, along with Sebring Elks leaders, toured one of the local lodge charities. The Sebring Elks Lodge #1529 presented a check to the Hands for Homeless program in Avon Park for \$8000 for the purchase of an outside walk-in cooler. This cooler will help to keep perishable items cold while waiting to be distributed to those in need within the community. Much of the food arrives on pallets from refrigerated trucks and the program had no way to keep these foods cold.

The Hands for Homeless program provides hot meals daily and distributes food to needy families. Many have no transportation, so they walk in from town, along with hundreds of cars that line up in the early morning hours to receive this much-needed food assistance for their families. The monies were made possible through the Elk's National Foundation Beacon Grant and the Florida State Elks Matching Grant. Pictured Left to Right: Wainetta Holmes, Past Exalted Rule; Diane Morse, Leading Knight; Joe Stockenberg, Exalted Ruler; Jane Breylinger, Hands for Homeless; and Florida State Elks President Russ Smith.

