



VISION

The Glades is a community where all residents are thriving physically, emotionally and spiritually.

MISSION

The mission of Healthier Glades is to assist residents in coping with life stressors and creating a sense of well-being that will impact the Glades communities.



Antoinita "Annie" Ifill
Project Director

Email:

annie.glades@htpbc.org

Phone:

(561) 685-4829



HEALTHIER GLADES

AN OVERVIEW

Launched in fall 2017 in the Western Palm Beach County rich in culture and agricultural assets. "The Glades" is the collective of four communities—Belle Glade, Pahokee, South Bay and the unincorporated community of Canal Point—located in the western section of the county along Lake Okeechobee.

IN THIS EDITION:

Healthier Glades is highlighting some of our residents who took initiative and "unlocked our community strengths" to bring positive activities to the Glades Communities.

Also in this edition, we will highlight our mini grant awardees and partnerships with Pahokee Elite Athletics and the PBC Veterans Administration.

HEALTHIER GLADES CELEBRATES 3 YEARS OF "UNLOCKING OUR COMMUNITY STRENGTHS"

In July 2021, Healthier Glades kicked off its 4th year of addressing issues around behavioral health in the Glades Communities. Since 2017, Healthier Glades has partnered with many residents and community organizations to address issues around health and wellness, changing the community narrative and developing nurturing channels (support/advocacy groups). With residents leading the work, Healthier Glades has been instrumental in the following:

- Offering "Mini Grants" to residents and local organizations that allowed Healthier Glades to invest directly into the Glades communities. In the past 2 years, Healthier Glades has invested close to \$60,000 towards this effort.
- Partnered with United Way to address ways to offer fresh fruits and vegetables to Canal Point and South Bay that doesn't have a local grocery store. Click on this link to learn more <https://www.palmhealthfoundation.org/a-corner-store-becomes-an-oasis-in-an-unlikely-food-desert>.
- Collaborated with FAU College of Nursing and the Faith Based Community to educate the residents about brain health and offer brain health screenings through the churches. Despite the challenges with COVID, the collaboration was able to offer screenings at 5 churches in the Glades.

COMMUNITY DIALOGUE TO CHANGE

Prior to the shutdown in March 2020, the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and Palm Beach County was preparing to host Countywide Dialogue groups. This summer, the CJC hosted 9 community dialogue groups and hosted a Dialogue to Action Presentation on August 28th. Residents from the Glades were active participants. Of the action items presented, the Glades residents voted to focus on creating re-entry programs for returning citizens.



What is mission of the Criminal Justice Commission?

The Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) was established by County Ordinance in 1988 to study all aspects of the criminal justice and crime prevention systems within the federal, state, county, municipal and private agencies within the county. This purpose shall include the study of the health and human services and educational systems, among others, as they pertain to criminal justice or crime prevention.

What is vision of the Criminal Justice Commission?

Cultivate and enrich local criminal justice practice, policy, and program development by serving as a catalyst for the criminal justice and related agencies in introducing...

HOLISTIC WELLNESS CIRCLE

During the Healthier Glades "Get Your Green On" campaign in May 2021, we hosted a "Woosa Self-Care Retreat to introduce yoga and mindfulness to Glades residents. In August we collaborated with Mr. Pablo De Real from The Way Mindfulness Education <https://www.theway.education/> to offer additional sessions for both adults and youth. The next session will be held in September 2021 in South Bay. Look at Healthier Glades Facebook Page for more info.

HG Mini Grant Wrap Up

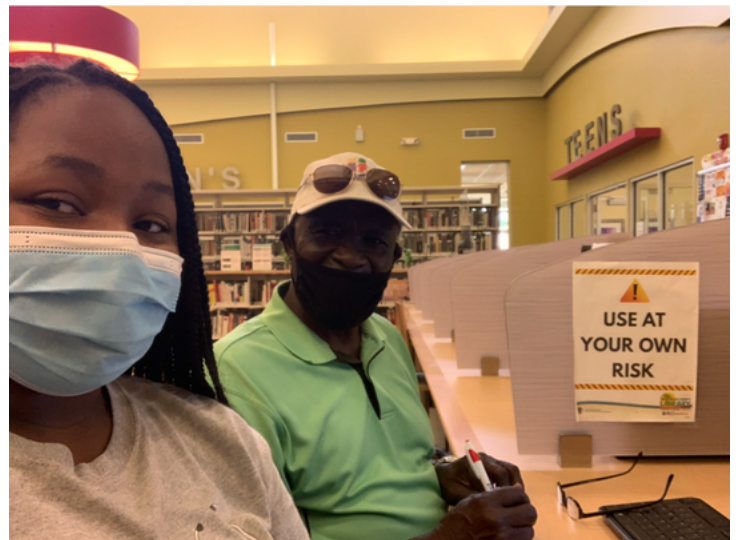
Healthier Glades wrapped up our second year of providing mini grants to residents and local organizations whose projects support our mission and vision to address behavioral health issues and improve health outcomes. This year projects focused on the ways to bridge the digital divide, community gardening and teaching first aid/CPR. In this edition, we highlight two of our 20-21 Mini Grant Awardees summarizing their project:



Mr. Kevin Brown came up with an idea to create a greenspace for the residents to plant and relax with nature. He partnered with Federation of Families to beautify an empty lot and teach kids how to grow their own food and plants. Once the garden was complete, Mr. Brown was able to host a community event at the Garden with approximately 30 people in attendance. Mr. Brown's hope is that the garden will give the community a place to go sit and communicate and gather their thoughts so they are able to work out their problems together and have a comfort at the same time using the buddy system.

Woosa Community Garden

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the Glades communities and everyone was forced to work and interact with each other remotely, the senior citizens in the Glades were greatly impacted. Ms. Canty, Magnet Coordinator at Glades Central Community High School, saw an opportunity to utilize high school students to teach basic computer skills to senior citizens to help them with scheduling appointments online, participate in virtual meetings and manage their lives digitally. Ms. Canty partnered with Dr. Lisa Wiese from FAU College of Nursing and Community Partners of South Florida to provide training to the students on how to teach the senior citizens. Approximately 20-25 students/seniors participated in this project.



Students for Seniors

PAHOKEE ELITE ATHLETICS, INC. KIDS RUNNING FOR BRIGHTER FUTURES



Pahokee Elite Athletics, Inc. is a non-profit organization based in Western Palm Beach County with a mission to provide a positive outlet for youth while instilling principles of friendship, sportsmanship and leadership. Mr. Johnathan Johnson, a resident of the Glades Community (Pahokee) has been working with young kids exposing them to the world of track and field and the opportunities that it can offer.

For many of us who went to school in the Glades (GCCHS and Pahokee High) during the 70's, 80's and 90's, we saw first hand the success of track and field athletes that came from the muck. Many credited our athletic speed to "chasing rabbits" from the cane fields.

This summer, Mr. Johnson had the opportunity to take kids from our community to the AAU track and field competition in Humble, Texas and Healthier Glades became a proud sponsor for the club. The kids were able to display their hard work, dedication and athletic abilities in track and field with some of the best athletes in the country. Mr. Johnson states that Junior Olympic experiences has really inspired the youth who attended and are now looking forward to attending the Olympics in the upcoming years. About 25 kids from the Glades competed and came back home with Gold, Silver and Bronze hardware (medals).

**PAHOKEE
ELITE**



**ATHLETICS
INC.**

NEW AMERICAN LEGION POST COMES TO THE GLADES



Post# -- 414

In May 2021, A group of veterans in the Glades came together and formed a local chapter of the American Legion Post 414.

Under the leadership of Commander Richard Sears and Advisor Dennis Osborne, these residents began to host monthly meetings to provide information about the American Legion and resources for veterans. The meetings are held on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Pahokee Dance Academy (594 E. Main St. next to Save A Lot) starting at 6:30pm.

The mission of the American Legion is to enhance the well-being of America's veterans, their families, our military, and our communities by our devotion to mutual helpfulness. To learn more about how to become a member of the American Legion Post #414, please contact Richard Sears at richardsears18@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH FOR GLADES VETERANS

Healthier Glades and some of our resident veterans have joined a local veteran task force to increase coordinated services for veterans. For many of our veterans in the Glades, access to resources from the VAMC is not always accessible. The goal of this task force is to ensure that veterans are getting the kinds of supports they need particularly around mental and behavioral health. The task force meets quarterly and the Glades voice is being represented at the table. In September, there will be activities and resources for veterans around suicide prevention. Please join the VA with the following activities for veterans in September:

- Workforce Workshop for Veterans (9/15/21 at 8:30am at CareerSource Palm Beach County) Call (561)340-1060 ext. 2315 or ext. 2603 to reserve a seat.
- Suicide Prevention Virtual Workshop (9/22/21 at 9am)
- Drive Thru Resource event for Glades Veterans on 9/27/21 from 10am-12pm at First United Methodist Church in Pahokee.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

HG Steering Committee Meeting:

2nd Monday of Each Month at 5:30pm

HG Marketing Workgroup:

2nd Thursday of Each Month at 5pm

HG Housing Workgroup:

2nd Tuesday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Hispanic Behavioral Health Workgroup

3rd Monday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Community Engagement Workgroup

4th Wednesday of Each Month at 5:30pm

HG Open Table Workgroup

(Implementation/Convening):

3rd Tuesday of Each Month Time: TBA

HG Governance Action Workgroup:

3rd Tuesday of Each Month at 4pm

HG Youth (Action Workgroup):

4th Monday of Each Month Time: TBA

September 2021

Career Source Workshop for Veterans

9/15/21 at 8:30am

CareerSource WPB Office

VAMC Drive Thru Resource Event

9/27/21 at 10am

First United Methodist Church

(491 E. Main St.; Pahokee, FL)

October 2021

Brain Health Screening Event

10/31/21 Time: TBD

First United Methodist Church

(491 E. Main St.; Pahokee, FL)

November 2021

Mini Grant Drive Thru Celebration

November 13, 2021

First United Methodist Church

(491 E. Main St.; Pahokee, FL)

Please go to our Healthier Glades page at <https://www.facebook.com/HealthierGlades/> to find out more information about upcoming events in the community.

**Upcoming
Events
SEPTEMBER-
NOVEMBER 2021**