

SunSentinel

# HEROES & HELPERS

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## Video lets students know they can count on teachers

BY AMANDA KLARSFELD

CORAL SPRINGS – The saying “absence makes the heart grow fonder” holds true now more than ever. Whereas we used to take casual interactions at work or school for granted — water-cooler talk about a recent Netflix find or the sliding of a lunch tray next to a friend’s in the cafeteria — we now cherish the memories of these encounters like relics from a long-lost era.

One day, lives will return to normal. In the meantime, some people are taking steps to virtually reunite their communities to the best of their abilities.

One such effort was made by the teachers of Coral Glades High School in Coral Springs who compiled a video to show their students that despite their physical separation from one another, they are not alone. Set to a soundtrack of Bruno Mars’ song “Count on Me,” the four-and-half-minute video includes clips of faculty members in their respective homes.

They hold signs with inspirational sayings, cavort happily with pets or children, form heart shapes with their fingers or lip-sync words from the featured song.

The faculty video was produced by Dan Alonso, a TV production teacher who has been at the school for 15 years.

“The school has always been a tight-knit community,” he said. “We genuinely feel like a family when we go to work every



Coral Glades High School science teacher Ann Zaino has an inspirational message for students in the video.



Coral Glades High School English teacher Ann Zaino reminds students that they are missed in a video.

day. This latest hurdle is just another example of how we come together and focus on the positive.”

Daniella DaSilva, a sophomore, said she was happy to see her teachers again.

“It’s nice to see that the teachers are going through the same thing that we are,” she said. “And that they are doing well, and staying

safe.”

Freshman Oriana Vanina Lopez said the video is a “nice and fun way to show their support during this time.”

“It made me smile with everyone who had their part in the video,” she said.

Visit [videopress.com/v/Wyx1TtOe](http://videopress.com/v/Wyx1TtOe) to watch the video.



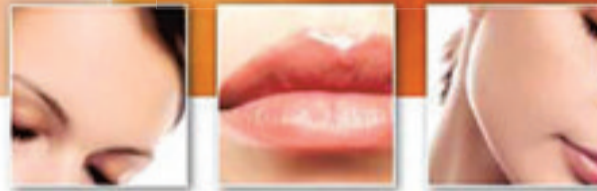
A clip from Coral Glades High School’s “Count on Me” video shows ESOL teacher Zoya Newell with some reminders for students.

VIDEO STILL

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Boca Raton City Council member Andy Thomson delivers food during a giveaway organized by Hospitality Helping Hands to help feed hospitality workers April 9 in Boca Raton.



JOHN MCCALL/SUN SENTINEL

## Free meals given daily at Mizner Park

BY KARI BARNETT

Free meals are being served up at Boca Raton’s Mizner Park, southern Palm Beach County’s first distribution site set up by Hospitality Helping Hands (H3), a nonprofit organization created to retain jobs and help feed those who have been financially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meals are being distributed every day from 1 to 6 p.m. in front of Kapow Noodle Bar and the DUBLINER. Both restaurants are part of the Subculture restaurant group owned Rodney Mayo, founder of Hospitality Helping Hands.

Boca Raton City Councilman Andy Thomson has donated \$25,000, a surplus from his recent reelection campaign, to the cause. He plans to volunteer at the site throughout the effort.

He’s asking others to give their time as well.

“Our hospitality industry is one of the hardest-hit sectors of our economy. Both restaurants and their employees are suffering,” Thomson said. “That’s why Hospitality Helping Hands is serving such a crucial mission: keeping restaurants open, keeping people working and giving away meals to those who need them. Once I heard their vision, I had to get involved, not only with funding but with lending a hand. I hope folks will join me.”

Over 27,000 meals have been given to displaced hospitality workers since H3 began late last month in the parking lot of Howley’s

Restaurant on South Dixie Highway in West Palm Beach.

The distribution process is contactless with volunteers staying at a safe distance. The driver can roll down their window or indicate how many meals they want by holding up their fingers. When the volunteer returns with the food, they signal for the driver to open the trunk and place the bags of food in it.

“Instead of closing our doors, we chose to answer this call to action to help all of our fellow industry peers,” said Vaughan Dugan, owner/partner of Kapow Noodle Bar. “We served 1,000 meals in Boca on our first day. With the support of the community and our staff, we have risen to the occasion and are serving the greater good of our fellow hospitality family and community.”

Mizner Park is at 327 Plaza Real in Boca Raton.

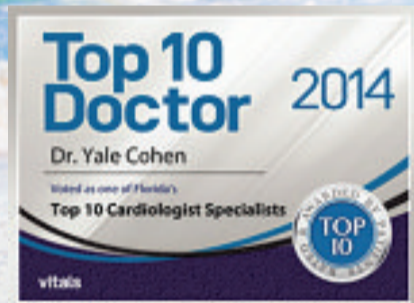
West Palm Beach distribution sites include Howley’s, 4700 S. Dixie Highway, and Hullabaloo, 17 Clematis St.

Free meals are available from 1 to 6 p.m. seven days a week at all three locations.

From 1 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, pick up free meals at Ezell Hester Center, 1907 N. Seacrest Blvd., in Boynton Beach, and Troy’s BBQ, 1198 N. Dixie Highway in Boca Raton.

Weekly groceries are being given out from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays at 3950 Georgia Ave. in West Palm Beach. Call 561-833-5691 to apply for the program.

Hospitality Helping Hands is seeking monetary donations and volunteers to help distribute free meals to the community. Visit [HospitalityHelpingHands.org](http://HospitalityHelpingHands.org).

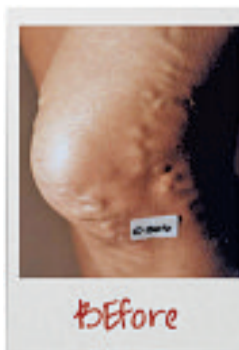


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