



# February 2025 ROSS Newsletter



Fairway Gardens & Paradise Trail





**LOVE  
YOUR  
HEART**

**GET  
ACTIVE!**



**VISIT YOUR  
PRIMARY  
CARE  
PROVIDER**



FEBRUARY IS  
**AMERICAN  
HEART  
MONTH**

**EAT  
WELL!**  
A DIET LOW IN SALT &  
SATURATED FATS




**KNOW YOUR NUMBERS:**


- CONTROL YOUR CHOLESTEROL
- MANAGE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE
- REDUCE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR



**QUIT  
SMOKING!**







**Monthly Food Distribution at  
Barbee Towers & Ralph Richards!**




**Hope Villages Food Distribution**  
**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**  
**9:30 AM-11:30 AM (Ralph Richards)**  
**12:00 PM-2:30 PM (Barbee Towers)**

**FL Dream Center Food Distribution**  
**Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 1:30 PM-3:30 PM**  
(Ralph Richards location **ONLY**, due to the renovations project at Barbee Towers location. However, Barbee Towers residents are invited to attend this event!)

**If interested in receiving food, contact the ROSS Coordinator at 727-446-1045, ext 248!**






**FREE Vision Screenings for  
Adults & Children!**


**Tuesday, February 14, 2025**  
**9:00 AM-12:00 PM**

**Pinellas County Health Department**  
**310 N. Myrtle Avenue**  
**Clearwater, Florida 33755**  
**(727) 469-5800**


Preserve Vision Florida provides FREE vision screenings for youth and their parents (please bring the BLUE card). **Appointments are not required.** Assistance will also be provided for glasses and exams for those who qualify.



For more information, call **(813) 874-2020** or visit [www.pvfla.org/vision-screenings/](http://www.pvfla.org/vision-screenings/)



**Crime Prevention Tips  
for Home & Travel**




**When Traveling:**


- Carry as few cards as possible in your wallet – that goes for identity cards and credit cards alike.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.
- Always keep your purse close to your body and never leave it in a shopping cart.
- Don't allow your cell phone to be a distraction.
- Avoid walking alone after dark or in areas that are known to be dangerous.

**At Home:**

- Have deadbolts installed on your doors, and keep all doors and windows locked.
- Draw the curtains at night, and keep the outside and inside of your house well lit.
- Do not leave extra keys in obvious places.
- Do not remain in an elevator with a stranger if you feel unsafe. Do not buzz anyone in unless you are certain you know who they are.
- Retrieve your mail as soon as possible, or set up a P.O. box, so sensitive mail cannot be stolen.
- Never allow an unsolicited person to enter your home. Ask for identification, even if they say it is an emergency. If necessary, call the company to confirm the individual is meant to be there.
- Call **911** to report any/all suspicious activity, as well as the PH staff at **(727) 446-1045**.



**Clearwater Police Department**  
**(Non-Emergency Number)**  
**727-562-4242**  
**[www.seniorliving.org](http://www.seniorliving.org)**



## Official 2025 Free Tax Preparation Locations



### DID YOU EARN LESS THAN \$79,000 LAST YEAR?

Have your federal tax return prepared, e-filed, and direct deposited for FREE. IRS-certified volunteers will prepare your taxes and ensure you get the largest refund for which you qualify. The following locations offer services by **appointment ONLY**:

**United for the Community–  
Clearwater**  
13575 58th Street N  
Clearwater, FL 33760  
(727) 358-9220

**United  
Way**

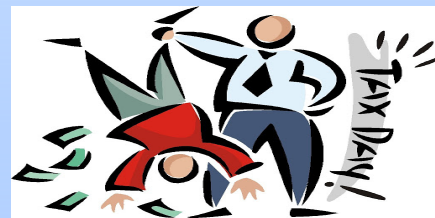


**United Way Suncoast**

**Clearwater Neighborhood  
Family Center**  
900 N. MLK Jr. Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
(727) 442-5355



**InterCultural Advocacy Institute  
Hispanic Outreach Center (HOC)**  
612 Franklin Street  
Clearwater, FL 33756  
(727) 445-9734



For available days/times or to schedule an appointment, please call **833-897-8482** or visit <https://booknow.appointment-plus.com/cn2re6xy/>. Taxpayers are encouraged to visit <https://unitedwaysuncoast.org/what-we-do/income/free-tax-help/>. You may also prepare your own taxes using the free online filing option at [www.MyFreeTaxes.com](http://www.MyFreeTaxes.com).

## HAI Group - 2025 Resident Scholarship Program



The 2024 HAI Group Resident Scholarship Program is now accepting submissions! This year, 20 people will win Scholarships valued at \$6,000.00 each for up to four (4) consecutive years to continue their education. Entries must be submitted between **Monday, February 3, 2025, and Wednesday, April 30, 2025 by 11:59 PM (EST)**.



### Eligibility

**SCHOLARSHIPS**



### Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

- **Residency:** You have resided for at least the previous six (6) months in a Housing authority or in a property with a Housing choice voucher (HCV) program. This has to be administered by a housing authority that is a member of Housing Authority Risk Retention Group (HARRG), or Housing Authority Property Insurance, A Mutual Company (HAPI), or you have resided for at least six months in an affordable housing property insured by Housing Enterprise Insurance Company (HEIC).
- **Enrollment:** You are or will be enrolled in the fall for the 2025-2026 academic year in an accredited and/or licensed Technical school or accredited two- or four-year College or University in the United States.
- **Citizenship:** You must be a United States citizen.
- **Other:** You must follow all other rules outlined in the official rules (found on the website below: [www.app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/hai-group-resident-scholarship/35159](http://www.app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/hai-group-resident-scholarship/35159))



**All Clearwater Housing Authority (CHA) offices will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2025, in observance of President's Day.**

