

Disney VoluntEARS Plant Herbs at Transitional Home

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla., May 30, 2012 – A group of families now can spice up their meals with rosemary, oregano and basil thanks to the work of VoluntEARS from Disney's Boardwalk Inn who planted and delivered the herbs to the transitional housing facility where they live in Kissimmee.

This community effort was initiated by a group of Boardwalk Cast Members who reached out to HOME (Helping Others Make the Effort), a non-profit organization that provides services to homeless families.

"It feels great to be able to contribute in any way we can in our community. One of the things our company stands for is being a great partner in Central Florida," said Boardwalk Inn General Manager, Dave Venables. "We look forward to more opportunities like this one".

After each family was given a large terra cotta pot containing a variety of herbs, Boardwalk Inn's Chef Ken Hittman and Sous Chef Jarrod Pearman gave a cooking demonstration to teach them how to include the herbs in their everyday meal preparation. HOME residents enjoyed dishes such as Lemon & Rosemary Chicken and Basil & Mozzarella salad, which incorporated the herbs they now have available.

"Having the chefs come out and give a cooking segment was great for our residents," said Lisa Goodwin, Program Director at HOME. "It's just one more way that Walt Disney World shows its hands on support to the community."

HOME works to break the cycle of homelessness by providing housing and supportive services to homeless families. Services also include case management, life skills education, counseling, and enrichment activities geared towards children.

This year HOME received a \$25,000 grant as part of Disney *Helping Kids Shine* charitable giving for 2012.