

Elves for Elders Project

Better Living for Seniors (BLS) and Area Agency on Aging has stepped forward to take over responsibility for the Elves for Elders project starting in 2008. The project has grown since its beginning in 2004 to a large project servicing over 100+ people. Thanks to Attorney April Hill for starting this wonderful project and Aging Wisely for being a strong supporter and helping Hill Law Group to organize it all over the past several years. Thanks also goes to Stetson College for hosting the trees. BLS, with its over 200 members will work to continue the project's success.

The project was started as a grass roots community effort that provides a gift to people who are indigent wards of the court. The individual's finances are screened carefully and found to have no family or funds available to them to provide for even the smallest of gift at the holidays. The names of the indigent wards are supplied to BLS by the guardians who are representing them pro bono. Some of the wards are living at home, at a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Attorney Hill tells the story that one year there were a large amount of snacks donated. Most of these were inappropriate for seniors, so a facility in Pinellas County that houses developmentally disabled adults was asked if they would like the snacks in baskets for their clients. They said a resounding "yes!", when the facility was asked what names were to be put on the snack baskets, they simply replied....label them..."for the forgotten." Ever since then, snack baskets have been created and sent over for these "forgotten" residents.

Elves for Elders connects gift givers with these less fortunate individuals. Trees are placed at several locations, givers chose a tag, purchase 1 or more of the requested gifts on the tag, then return the gift as directed. Some of the requests are heart breaking. Some people ask simply for underwear, a night gown, Kleenex, a deck of cards, hand lotion and clothing.

Anyone who wishes to be an "Elf" and provide a gift this year can check back on the website to see the locations of the trees. If you wish to make a donation of a gift card (Bealls, Target, etc.) or a check please send to:

BLS C/O Area Agency on Aging
9887 – 4th Street N., Suite 100
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Checks should be made out to **Area Agency on Aging**.

Please include a note that says: "Elves for Elders Donation".

For more information contact Carol Radin at 727-893-7102 or Carol.Radin@stpete.org.

Thank you for your interest and assistance for thinking of those less fortunate.