

SENIOR SCENE

Retirees can give hope for children in hard times

How do we and our fellow Americans deal with the uncertainty of recent financial events? Part of the answer is with hope for a better tomorrow. Hope allows us to face difficulties with patience because we believe that our circumstances will improve. Hope gives us the power to endure a today that is difficult.

With hope, we keep on trying – without hope, we give up.

There are thousands of children in South Carolina who need someone to help them hope for tomorrow. Through no fault of their own, these children are abused or neglected by the persons closest to them. Over 5,000 of the state's children reside in foster care and are involved in the family court system. In a country where there are so many avenues of assistance, it seems

unthinkable that children would be hopeless and suffering. Yet, for children who are living in abusive situations, getting help can seem next to impossible.

If an abused or neglected child does ask for help, will an overburdened system be responsive?

If a child has sought help and received none, then he or she has no hope for a better future. Because there are plenty of cases to keep agencies busy, children can easily fall through the cracks. And because abuse does happen more often than most of us realize, our children need help from concerned adults who are willing to give their time to speak out on the child's behalf. Adults who want to assist our most vulnerable children are greatly needed.

The Charleston County Volunteer Guardian ad Litem

Program is training new volunteers. Volunteer Guardians ad Litem advocate for children who are abused or neglected. Separate from the Department of Social Services, the Guardian ad Litem Program uses volunteers to speak on behalf of the children's best interest.

As a volunteer Guardian ad Litem, your goal is to make sure that children do not get lost in the system and that they find safe, permanent homes as soon as possible. You can give a child hope – and with hope, a child who was fearful can prosper.

To learn more about becoming a volunteer Guardian ad Litem call Lois Richter at 577-6978.

You may also visit Charleston.sccgal.org for more information or to download an application.

Stroke and osteoporosis screening coming to Mount Pleasant

Residents living in and around the Mount Pleasant community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. The St. Andrew's Church will host Life Line Screening on Aug. 6.

The site is located at 440 Whilden St in Mount Pleasant.

Appointments will begin at 9 a.m.

Four key points every person needs to know:

- Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability

- 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke

- Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke

- Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, and convenient

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Screenings identify potential cardiovascular condi-

tions such as blocked arteries and irregular heart rhythm, abdominal aortic aneurysms, and hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease. A bone density screening to assess osteoporosis risk is also offered and is appropriate for both men and women.

Many sites offer finger-stick blood tests to check for cholesterol and glucose.

Packages start at \$139. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Chef Enzo "Ensa" Steffenelli poses with "her" court after earning the praise of the voting audience for a second day in a row.

Chef wins 'Miss' America pageant

In April, Franke at Seaside crowned its first Miss America Franke as part of a celebration of humor and the health benefits of laughter.

The Miss America Franke Pageant featured seven men who make Franke their home and five men from the staff.

At the end of the talent and poise rounds of competition, the attending audience voted Chef Enzo "Ensa" Steffenelli the first Miss America Franke; Steffenelli, who brought the house down with a sultry rendition of Eartha Kitt's "Santa Baby," is the active lifestyle director of Culinary and Hospitality Services.

These twelve men donned women's apparel—dresses, wigs, and even panty hose and high heels—to represent the 12 months of the year: Miss January, Scott "Scarlett" Crosby (accounting); Miss February, Mike "Hoochie Mama" Carter (culinary and hospitality); Miss March, Todd "Hot Toddy" Taylor (resident); Miss April Showers, George "Georgette" Holzworth (resident); Miss May, Clyde "Clydette" Cload (resident); Miss June, Tomas "Tomasina" Mendez (Wellness); Miss July, Les "Leslie" Allred (resident); Miss August, Howard "Hortense" Krauss (resident); Miss September, Carl "Carla" Ritchie (resident); Miss October, Mike "Michele" Rothermund (resident); Miss November, Frank "Francine" Moss (engineering); and Miss December, Enzo "Ensa" Steffenelli (culinary and hospitality).

Pageant consultant Gail Thornton choreographed opening and closing routines—yes, with dancing. Vicki Sanford, Ellen Erickson, and Betsy Anderson made up the costume and make-up team.

In addition to celebrating the health benefits of humor and laughter, the pageant also featured a food drive—the admission price—to benefit ECCO—East Cooper Community Outreach.

The pageant was sponsored by the Franke at Seaside BeWell Team.

The food drive is part of Franke's celebration of American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) Homecoming Week.