

Community Efforts to Support Homeless Students: A Testament to Compassion and Collaboration



In a heartening display of community spirit and compassion, the Women of Westminster Bible Study group from Westminster By The Sea Presbyterian Church in Daytona Beach has made a contribution to the Volusia County Schools Homeless Education Program, also known as PETALS (People Experiencing Transition and Loss of Shelter). This commendable initiative has seen the group raise funds and collect hygiene items to support homeless students in the area.

The PETALS Program is a vital lifeline for the 2,500 to 3,000 students identified as homeless each year in Volusia County. Its mission is to eliminate barriers to education by creating stability in schools, providing support and resources that these children might not have. Moreover, the monies can help families in need by providing grocery gift cards for basic food items and gas gift cards to support students and families as well.

Pictured left to right is Ashley Camp, Director of Christian Education from Westminster By The Sea Presbyterian Church, Dennisse Cotto Budget Analyst and Crystal Eubanks, PETALS Project Manager, standing as proud representatives of this collaborative effort. Their smiles reflect the hope and resilience that the PETALS Program brings to the lives of many young students.

This kind of support is a shining example of how local communities can come together to make a tangible difference in the lives of those experiencing hardship.