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**MIAMI-DADE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM**

Pinecrest Branch Library, 5835 Southwest 111 Street., Pinecrest, FL 33156 Ph. (305) 668-4571 Fax (305) 668-4480

February 8, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

On Christmas Eve in 2018, a local news station publicized a near-and-dear library program held at the Country Walk Branch Library. This affiliate of the Fox network spread the word across the United States about our "Helping Hands: Upcycling with Dual Purposes" which transforms used plastic bags into useful mats for the homeless.

A crew of dozens had been trained and ready to crochet "plarn", plastic yarn made from trashed bags, into durable, waterproof, light-weight weather barriers. They were so proficient with this skill, that these practical blankets were transformed into utilitarian artwork with striking patterns.

What we lacked, however, was a reliable and steady supply of clean plastic bags. Out of the blue, I was contacted by Heather Corder, MBA, Keiser University's Associate Director of Student Services eCampus. She began a faculty and student collection, shipping filled boxes to help support the work of the Helping Hands volunteers with this project. She wrote to me "We saw your library and the organization on the news, and we wanted to help. Thank you for doing this and keep an eye out in the future for more boxes from us!"

True to her word, we received UPS shipments for two years, with only the pandemic ending the donated supply. We are grateful for Keiser University's behind-the-scenes help in creating hundreds of mats that were distributed to the neediest in our community.

Sincerely,

Ellen Book, Branch Manager  
Pinecrest and Country Walk Branches