

Paul Snow

In a Miami Herald newspaper article, "Profiles in Citizenship" dated October 21, 2006. Paul Snow was interviewed as volunteer Director of the Hallandale Food Pantry. The article chronicled Paul's life story from Massachusetts where he graduated from Bates College to his move to Florida in the late 70's. His first move was to Vermont where he was elected to the Bennington School Board for eight years. Venturing into politics he ran the campaign for Governor Tom Salmon and Senator Patrick Leahy.

Health reasons prompted a family move to Florida. Paul is single and the father of two sons Francis and Jan. Thoroughbred horse racing was at its peak in the 70's, prompting Paul Snow to pursue his hobby. He trained horses at Hialeah, Calder and Gulfstream Tracks. Elected to the Board of Directors of the Horseman's Benevolent Protective Association, Paul instituted the first dental and eyeglass program for employees working track backside in any state.

Always close to politics, Paul was appointed by Florida Governor Lawton Chiles to the Human Rights Advocacy Committee, serving two terms. His crowning glory came in 1992. Paul joined the Hallandale Food Pantry and became volunteer Director, a position he holds today. The Food Pantry is his proudest achievement. The pantry was serving 15 families a week when he started working there. Now Paul, with his fourteen dedicated volunteers distributes food to 7,000 families. There is no other place like it. It is noteworthy that he and his volunteers do what they do without any payment or administrative costs. The work continued even though Snow's right leg was amputated due to illness. He credits his top notch volunteer, Gerald Eddex for keeping the place operating.

The first few years at the pantry were difficult but now with recognition from the City of Hallandale Beach, several organization, local churches, temples, concerned citizens, grants and donations keep the pantry going. By word of mouth, Thursdays will find long lines of people waiting for food at the Methodist Haitian Mission, 220 SW 6 Avenue, Hallandale Beach.

Another pantry benefit is taking young people to Major League sporting events. Sport sponsors donate funds for seats, food coupons, Tee shirts and bus transportation. The kids are thrilled. For most of them it may be the only time ever, that they see a professional game or have their pictures, shown on the game tote board.

Paul has been the recipient of many awards for his humanitarian service. The Miami Herald "Spirit of Excellence" award presented by then Secretary of State Colin Powell, the City of Hallandale Beach, and the Hollywood Mayor David Keating's. The Interfaith Award and several others like the Miami Herald article first mentioned in this nomination for Broward County Pioneer. The Interfaith Award sums up the Humanitarian work of Paul Snow. It represents working diligently and most often, without a lot of recognition to greatly improve the lives of people.