

# The Palm Beach Post

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## COMMUNITY

# Jupiter Farms shows the love

Heart signs to support community, first responders in virus crisis are popping up all over

By Sam Howard

Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

JUPITER FARMS — Off Indiantown Road west of Jupiter, it might seem like mid-February, not early April.

There are hearts all over the place. Hand-painted hearts. Store-bought hearts. Cutout hearts stapled to plywood.

They aren't decorations lingering around after Valentine's Day. Residents of Jupiter Farms, an unincorporated community of more than 10,000 people between Jupiter and the Beeline Highway, started making and setting out the signs last month.

They say the signs provide a fun diversion for kids, show solidarity for homebound neighbors and thank the first responders, health care professionals and essential workers on the front lines of the coronavirus pandemic.

The movement echoes similar efforts elsewhere in Palm Beach County, including a safari hunt with stuffed animals in Lake Worth Beach and nightly rounds of applause for nurses, doctors and first responders in West Palm Beach.

An unscientific survey the ThePalmBeachPost conducted over an hour Friday afternoon turned up at least 35 heart signs.

One on 178th Road North that propped up in a front lawn asks for prayers for local heroes. Another on Alexander Run says



A sign on 169th Court North in Jupiter Farms on Friday. (SAM HOWARD/PALMBEACHPOST.COM)

"We can beat COVID-19!"

If Facebook posts are any indication, there are more around the neighborhood this week. Some residents apparently spent the weekend crafting and putting up more.

Down the street from Jupiter Farms Elementary, Ashley Malcolm said Friday she made her sign with her two young daughters. There's a message scrawled on it that says everyone is "in this together."

Her older daughter, age 10, came up with the slogan. Malcolm agrees with it, saying the thought is especially meaningful these days.

"I think it's awesome," Malcolm said of the community-wide effort. "All of us are in the same situation."

The Jupiter Farms heart initiative follows in the path of other nationwide campaigns.

A Facebook group for a movement called A World of Hearts includes more than 500,000 members. Another group, called Heart Hunters, boasts more than 750,000. Both suggest displaying hearts like many in Jupiter Farms have.

Sarah Havel, who lives in the southwest corner of the Farms, suspects she may have been one of the first in the community to put out a sign. A Facebook post by her aunt in Connecticut, describing a hearts campaign there, inspired her to do it.

She propped up a piece of plywood with a big red heart in front of her house March 28. It was a pretty basic design, Havel acknowledged, especially compared to some of the newer signs popping up around the neighborhood.

"This is simple," she said. "Some people are really going to



Michael and Maverick Zimmer, ages 4 and 1, respectively, stand next to a handmade heart sign in front of their Jupiter Farms home. (CHRISTAL ZIMMER)

extremes and using creativity."

The 45-year-old has been in self-isolation for a couple weeks after her husband Joe, a firefighter in Miami-Dade County, was exposed to the virus.

They aren't sick and Havel said she's still able to work remotely through her nursing job at the University of Miami. Hearing about the deluge of new hearts and the "heart hunters" scouring the Farms for signs has kept her entertained.

"Of course it brings a smile to your face that they're in too," she said. "Everybody's got the love vibe."

The showing of support is personal for Christal Zimmer. Her sister is a nurse practitioner in St. Lucie County.

Zimmer said her husband, Kevin, surprised the family by painting a pink heart onto the back of an old picture frame. They set it out last week.

"It's beautiful to see the encouragement and the blessings everyone's putting out there," she said.

This is par for the course for Jupiter Farms, said 13-year resident Jackie Sickels.

Like Kevin Zimmer, Sickels did some recycling when she made her sign. She and her 8-year-old son, Dash, made their heart out of an old cookie sheet and markers.

Sickels described a groundswell of community support that's manifesting in other ways, too. Residents are using Facebook to connect others with supplies they need or find senior citizens in need of some help, she said.

"It's definitely a community that comes together when needed," Sickels said.

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## #WEAREPALMBEACHCOUNTY

#WeArePalmBeachCounty is an initiative that features local businesses and people who are adapting to the coronavirus crisis.

Here are the newest updates we have received so far. The full list can be found on palm-beachpost.com:

### Arts

**Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens:** The 2-acre gardens is offering free programs available online for all different age groups including: Zoom Video Webinars from Minx Boren, a master certified coach and author of "Healing is a Journey" and "Friendship is a Journey"; Children Inspiring Children, Enriching Students' Lives with Stories and History in the Gardens. This video program will feature the book "The American Jungle: The Adventures of Charlie Pierce,"



by award-winning children's author and Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens trustee, Harvey Oyer. Also a virtual Earth Day celebration and virtual garden tours will be offered. Details of these programs are at ans.org.

### Business

**Pike & Lustig LLP:** This South Florida law firm, with offices in West Palm Beach and Miami, has set up a free hotline where businesses and organizations can ask questions. Callers need not be

current Pike & Lustig clients. Call 1-866-Pike-Law. Members of the law firm speak both English and Spanish. There is also a coronavirus-specific blog with commonly asked questions at turnpikelaw.com.

**Cary Stamp & Co:** The company has launched a pro bono financial consulting campaign for any individual, family or business that would benefit from talking and asking questions about finances and investments in this uncertain time. Most advisers have CFP or ChFC professional designations. Email info@carystamp.com.

**DiMartino Plumbing:** Need plumbing help? Plumbers can easily stay 6 feet (or more) away from customers. Employees use hand sanitizer before and after every appointment. They wear shoe covers, masks and gloves (when available). Call 561-733-0500 or text the word GO to 82149 for easy appointment scheduling.

### Charities

**Palm Beach County Food Bank:** The parent company for Downtown Palm Beach Gardens recently gifted the Food Bank with a \$25,000 check from ShopCore's Core Giving Foundation, to provide access to nutritious food for those suffering to put food on the table.

### Services

**Holy Spirit Lutheran Church:** The quilting group has been making masks for weeks. Donations have gone to Jupiter Medical Center, Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center and local doctors' offices. Some masks were sent up to New York. Contact Barbara Antonelli at barbara.e.antonelli@icloud.com for further information.

**Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League:** Adoption fees are being waived for cats and dogs that are

1 year or older. Available animals can be viewed at PeggyAdams.org. The adoption center is open daily by appointment. Email adoptions@peggyadams.org or call 561-686-6656. Peggy's Pantry, a free pet food bank for local residents struggling financially, is open by appointment Tuesday through Saturday. To learn more and to donate visit PeggyAdams.org/Peggys-Pantry.

**Junior League of the Palm Beaches:** The organization is closing its year early and will be unable to award its annual Community Assistance Grants to nonprofits. To immediately assist those in the community affected by the coronavirus, the board of directors has voted to award \$22,500 to the United Way of Palm Beach, which is on the front lines of helping all local nonprofits during this crisis. The United Way will match the donation.