

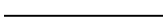
The organization. was formed to serve a retirement community, Sun City Center (the "Community") which is located on Florida's west coast in Hillsborough County. The Community was designed in the early 1960's to reflect a desire to provide activities, clubs, recreational facilities, housing and hospital services for residents over the age of fifty (50) years and their households, with the actual average age of the Community being sixty-seven (67) years of age. The Community is an environment especially conducive to the dignity and independence of the elderly.

The organization's purpose, as provided in its Articles of Incorporation, is not only to serve the elderly residents of the Community but also to operate in lieu of a municipal government, and to avoid, for the benefit of residents, many costs of government by supplementing but not duplicating services of Hillsborough County through maximum use of volunteer services. Thus, in operating in accordance with its stated purposes, the organization is not only providing for the needs of the elderly but is also lessening the burdens of Hillsborough County by providing for those needs.

To accomplish its purposes, the organization manages recreational facilities owned for the benefit of all Community residents and enforces on behalf of all its residents zoning benefitting the Community. The organization currently operates no "profit making business or commercial activities" and does not anticipate doing so.

The organization's activities lessen the burdens of

1 /  
664, 4+  
•  
i ., ::



Hillsborough County because many activities handled by the organization would otherwise have to be handled by Hillsborough County. As indicated in the following discussion the organization operates in the areas of public safety, roads and streets, health care, recreation facilities, fire protection, consumer assistance, emergency ambulance service, programs for the elderly, voter registration and elections.

The organization's Community Ball is provided free of charge to Hillsborough County for holding meetings, hearings, elections and interviews by the County Administrator, the County Commissioners and the County Planning Department for all citizens living in Hillsborough County. The costs for operating the Community Hall is estimated to be \$200 a day with funds coming entirely from the organization's membership dues. Thus, the use of the Community Hall lessens the County's burden of locating and paying for a location to hold such meetings and elections.

The organization's library is funded by the organization and is open to Hillsborough County residents. The use of the library clearly alleviates the County's burden by providing a library source free of charge to Hillsborough County residents.

Without the organization, the security patrol protecting the Community could not operate as it is manned by approximately 1,000 Community volunteers who patrol all areas in the Community in three patrol cars 24 hours daily. All of the equipment is furnished by volunteer contributions at no cost to Hillsborough County. The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Department and the security patrol have radio communication at all times and the Sheriff's Department has acknowledged that

the security patrol volunteers have been extremely successful in deterring crime in the Community as well as relieving the "manpower" and the financial pressure in the Sheriff's Department.

"The Community's volunteer fire department has been rated one of the best in the State. The insurance industries rate areas for fire protection on a score of one to ten. One best, ten worst. In 1980, Sun City Center was rated nine but through the dedication and training of the organization's volunteers, the insurance rating has dropped to six. The drop in rate provided significant cost savings to the Community. A new fire station was constructed at no cost to Hillsborough County but with donated funds. Obviously, this volunteerism has created substantial cost savings to Hillsborough County.

In addition to the security patrol and the fire department, the Community's Emergency Squad basic life support ambulance unit depends entirely upon donations from the community for financial support, and upon volunteer services of residents who dedicate their time and talents. The Emergency Squad has some 125 volunteers divided among eight teams that report for 24-hour duty every eighth day. Each member receives specialized training for his specific assignment, as required by County and State. A second group of 65 consists of expeditors who man the phones, maintenance people and sanitizers. A third group, the Community Relations Committee, periodically visits all the organization's residents to furnish

information and precautionary aids. The Squad maintains a loan closet of wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, etc., which are available on request. Residents are encouraged to visit the Squad House to inspect its operations and facilities, and become involved, if they wish.

As is clear from the aforementioned activities, the organization's major resource is its membership who tirelessly volunteer. From these volunteers, the organization has created "talent banks" to assist Hillsborough County in various areas. The following examples indicate such assistance:

(1) Five (5) members of the organization volunteered their expertise in proposing recommendations on centralized purchasing for the entire Hillsborough County operation.

(2) An organization's talent bank committee was established to recommend methods of handling solid waste between the waste station and the Hillsborough County dump, which recommendations are presently being implemented.

(3) An organization's utilities committee monitors and advises Hillsborough County on utility problems in the Community. For example, the water committee works with Hillsborough County to ensure proper function of the Community water works as well as the quality of water for the Community.

(4) An organizational environmental committee continually reviews the spill waste to ensure proper control and works with Hillsborough County to ensure control of the numerous lakes in the Community.

(5) An organizational committee reviews all streets and sidewalks in the Community and advises Hillsborough County on those streets needing repair and resurfacing, thus relieving Hillsborough County of inspection.

(6) Other organizational committees monitor cable TV, telephone and power and receive and process the complaints.

(7) An organizational committee also receives complaints regarding animal, fowl and insect control.

(8) The organization's members recently provided assistance to citizens over 65 years of age in obtaining discount on waste removal from Hillsborough County. The program eliminated the need for senior citizens to travel to Tampa to apply.

(9) The County has requested and received a community volunteer to serve on the County overview Advisory Committee reviewing a 750 million bond issue for water sewers and wastewater.

Through the volunteerism of the organization's members in the approximately 130 various clubs, groups, service clubs, church groups, etc., thousands of dollars in time is given to charitable organizations which in turn donate money to migrant worker centers and other charitable causes. The provision of these volunteer services, enabling the charitable organizations to give money to worthy causes, considerably relieves Hillsborough County and the State of Florida from providing such services and funds.

While the organization clearly lessens the burdens of Hillsborough County, it is also clear that the organization's activities are critical to the Community's elderly welfare and that it serves the recreational, intellectual, social, physical, mental health, civic and cultural needs of senior citizens, primarily age sixty-five (65) and over who are residents of the Community.

The organization's major asset, the recreational complex, is a meeting place for the elderly residents and also provides for the recreational needs of the elderly with facilities for lawnbowling, shuffleboard, horseshoe, volleyball, tennis courts, indoor and outdoor swimming pool and exercise rooms.

The recreational complex is also the meeting place of many tax exempt clubs such as the Weavers Guild, the Ceramics Club, the Sawdust Engineers, the Poetry Workshop, the Investment Club, the Garden Club, the Bridge Club, a branch of the Hillsborough County Adult Education Service, the Art Club, the Amateur Radio Club, etc. for which these clubs are charged no rent. Furthermore, members give volunteer hours to the clubs which require help in the selling or making of products, for which, when sold, the proceeds are ultimately contributed for charitable purposes.

The recreational complex provides one convenient central place enabling the tax exempt entities to make frequent use of volunteer labor on an efficient basis which promotes the interests of the volunteer residents and the tax exempt

entities. Without the organization's recreational complex many of these entities would not be able to operate and many elderly residents of the Community would have no opportunity to work and volunteer their time and effort. While the entities benefit through the volunteerism of the organization's members the entities, in turn, give the elderly opportunities to be physically active, keep their mind stimulated and, most importantly, feel a real sense of importance, dignity and worthiness.

The organization's members provide a plethora of volunteer services which interact with Hillsborough County, various charitable organizations and elderly needs of the Community. Through this interaction and utilization of the organization members' wisdom and experience the burdens of government are considerably lessened. The charitable organizations housed by the organization's recreational complex can operate rent-free thus providing those entities with many more funds and most importantly the elderly volunteers retain their sense of dignity, self-worth and independence which keeps them alert and a contributing factor in society. There is no reason why the elderly should ever be "shut-off" or not utilized as a very valuable resource as the organization has done. Through the organization's activities it is clear that the organization's tax exempt purposes are met:

- (1) Clearly lessens the burdens of government.
- (2) Clearly provides relief for the elderly.
- (3) Clearly provides essential services (rent-free use of space) for other tax exempt entities.