



Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

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Apr/May/June 2020

FVA Youth Activist of the Year 2019



Nolan Martinez receiving the FVA Award flanked by his proud grandparents and parents Eric & Brittany Livingston.

Nolan Martinez has been very active in the animal rights community over the years. His growth, courage, leadership and abilities continue to amaze everyone.

He's participated in countless demonstrations, (rain or shine) like Ringling Bros., SeaWorld, and Fur Free Friday.

He has gotten his hands dirty during park clean-ups to boost a cleaner environment.

He has volunteered his time at events like ThanksVegan and even Have A Heart for set up, during and break down.

And since his mother's (Brittany Livingston) involvement in Tampa Bay Veg Fest, he has always been her key helper in the Kids Zone area not only the day of, but in preparation leading up to the event.

He currently follows a vegetarian lifestyle which is a wonderful step in the right direction.

Last year, he attended the Florida's Fish & Wildlife Commission hearing where he submitted comments and spoke with representatives regarding elephant rides in Florida.

As a result, he was invited to speak on WMNF's Talking Animals Radio Show with Duncan Strauss to discuss the hearing and recent involvements.

And when FVA needed extra hands to help move storage units since we are constantly growing and accumulating props, literature and items for events, he was there to pitch in.

He has also promoted recycling as a major part of his student council platform to encourage peers to be more aware of their environment. He always promotes recycling at each scouting event and gets the other boys involved in picking up after themselves responsibly.

He has warmed the hearts of those around him and has helped Brittany personally stay strong with the movement by being a motivation and a hope for future generations to stay involved with this very same movement. Brittany, FVA Board member, personally presented the Youth Activist of the Year Award to her amazing son, Nolan Martinez.

Thanks to our wonderful sponsors

Thanks Vegan

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Miss Vi's Cook-up
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FVA Board at Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction held at Solid Rock Community School

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Solid Rock Community School (SRCS)



Michele Fasnacht

A 501c3 non-profit, tax exempt, co-educational plant-based K-12 private school

It is located in Tarpon Springs, Pinellas County, less than three miles from neighboring Pasco and Hillsborough counties. Established in 2004, their mission is to honor the uniqueness of the students.

SRCS emphasizes individualized, whole-child development. They are dedicated to providing a challenging educational program that meets students' academic, social, physical, and emotional needs.

Their two mottos, "Experience the Solid Rock Difference" and "Educating Out of the Box," refer to the uniqueness of their educational programs.



Michele Fasnacht is the visionary and founder of Solid Rock Community School, a K-12 non-profit private school. With Solid Rock she began a revolutionary concept in K-12 education that has benefited thousands of students. Michele has spoken at numerous conferences regarding "Educating Out of the Box" and has been awarded the Tinfoil Star award for Leaders in Innovative Education. With decades of experience in public, private, virtual, and homeschool programs Michele is willing to create programs to best suit the individual. Michele is also a professional certified health and wellness coach and holistic nutrition practitioner. After battling progressive Multiple Sclerosis (MS), being sick for decades, diagnosed legally blind, and being barely able to walk or function, she enjoys sharing her success with others and helping them transition to a plant-based diet – the only evidence based diet that can prevent and reverse disability and disease.

Michele also serves on the board of directors as the vice-chair of the Plant Based Lifestyle Movement of Tampa Bay- which is a collaboration between medical practitioners and passionate community members committed to amplifying the message of plant based nutrition's power to prevent, halt, and often even heal our most debilitating chronic illnesses.

The Solid Rock Community School "One Meal a Day" program offers freshly prepared healthy plant-based lunch to the student body each school day. These meals are low in fat, cholesterol-free, and high in nutrients. SRCS is committed to making sure all students have the opportunity to eat fresh and healthy plant foods for at least one meal a day.

SRSC had recently hosted a successful FVA's annual Have-A-Heart Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction. She and her husband Eric also own Green Culture vegan restaurant which provided the delicious entrees and desserts.

If you like to help support the first plant-based school in Florida (also one of the first in the country) and bring healthy fresh meals to the students, <http://solidrockcommunityschool.org/plant-based-meal-program> has these options available:

- Friendly Donor \$50-450
- Meal to Student Sponsor \$1360
- General Meal Program Sponsor \$500-\$7000
- Plant-Based Kitchen Sponsor \$30000
- All Kids Sponsor \$100000

FVA Courageous Activist Award 2019



Carole Baskin, center, receiving the award from Myriam Parham, FVA President, in red sweater and Melissa Zepeda, FVA Board Advisor .

How many Animal Rights persons have been targeted by a ‘hitman’? Well, Carole Baskin has and she is a survivor. A federal jury convicted Oklahoma zookeeper Joseph Maldonado-Passage on two counts of hiring someone to murder Tampa Big Cat Rescue owner Carole Baskin, capping a decade-long feud between the two over the exploitation of captive big cats.

FVA Business Supporter of the Year Award 2019



Deana Miniawi receiving award from FVA Board member, Chris Capozziello

FVA HAH Guest Speaker Logan Vindett



Tony & Logan Vindett

FVA Activist of the Year Award 2019



Recipient Dani Hall with FVA President, Myriam Parham

Our FVA Activist of the Year, **Dani Hall** is a very busy lady who literally jumped in head first to volunteer with FVA

She has attended many of our demonstrations, including; puppy mills, anti-trophy hunting, and horse racing and has helped with our Al Lopez Park quarterly clean-ups, where we meet quarterly for 2 hours to clean up the garbage that can harm the natural wildlife, environment, and the people and domestic animals who visit the park. For doing this cleanup, the park posts a sign at the entrance saying “FVA has adopted this park”. Dani is a regular attendee at our monthly **Vegan Support Groups** held at the Downtown Tampa library. She has stepped up to help us facilitate several sessions when one of the usual leaders couldn’t attend and has become an indispensable and integral part of the team. We appreciate and look forward to her contributions.

Every year, during nesting season, Dani spends many hours at our beaches protecting birds & turtles. In addition to helping FVA, she has volunteered with many groups that help animals, people and the environment. She is a wife, mom, biologist, a full-time student and a long-time activist in human, environmental, animal and food rights. In her own words, *“At the end of the day I’m a scientist that loves animals and the natural world and I want to ensure that there is a habitat left for them when we’re through mucking things up.”*

This year’s Activist of the Year exemplifies sheer unselfish dedication to helping animals, humans and our entire planet.

FVA In Action

Dear FVA members, friends & readers, once again we share with you our **FVA meet-up** events! **We now have over 4,000 signed up as ‘interested’ in our group & activities.** As you can see, we continue to have a variety of opportunities for you to become involved. **WHERE ARE YOU?** Please join our Meet-Up, please sign up for events that interest you, then **PLEASE attend the events and help the animals!** (If for some reason you find that you are unable to attend, *please* be kind enough to change your RSVP. This will help us to better know what type of attendance to expect at our events and plan appropriately.)

FVA in the Community/Tablings:

1/9 & 3/5, Vegan Support Groups, at John F. Germany Library Tampa, Hosts Cathy Unruh, Kim Gronemeyer & Myriam Parham, 1/9, Kim led out on “Taking Care of Yourself & 3/5 we had Open Forum

2/29 – FVA Annual Have A Heart for the Animals Dinner/Fundraiser, held at Solid Rock Community School and catered by Green Culture. **Awards presented to: Dani Hall,** FVA 2019 Activist of the Year, **Nolan Martinez,** FVA Youth Activist of the Year, **Carole Baskin,** from Big Cat Rescue for Courageous Activist, **Mohammed Awad, MD,** 2019 Animal Hero, for rescuing dog caught in elevator door, **& All GF Vegan** for FVA Business Supporter of the year, presented to **Deana Miniawi,** owner.

3/21 - FLSARC Small Animal Emergency Sheltering Training, SPCA Florida Adoption Ctr., Lakeland

3/22 - FVA Quarterly Al Lopez Park Clean Ups, 10am-12, Please check **FVA meetup** for future dates.

FVA in Media:

3/14—Marie & Suzanne’s Pet Declawing interview with Christine Holtzman (Community News Publications- The Laker/Lutz News)

FVA Demos for the Animals:

1/11 & 2/22 – Go Vegan demos., St. Pete Saturday Market, Hosted by Hussein Mourtada

1/11 – Showmen’s Circus Protest, Gibsonton, FL

1/18 - Protest at St. Pete Beer and Bacon Festival, Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg

1/23 - Board of Hillsborough County Commissioners Meeting/Pet Retail Ordinance Discussion

2/8 - Worldwide Rally Against Trophy Hunting-Clearwater Mall

3/4 - Board of Hillsborough County Commissioners Meeting/Pet Retail Ordinance Vote

In addition to the events above, monthly activities are held at several local vegan restaurants. These include: **New Leaf Café Breakfast buffet, Loving Hut buffet, & Lotus Vegan Buffet.** Please check our FVA calendar to join us at these events so we can get to know each other. We hope to see you soon!



One of many tables at FVA’s HAH event



Marie & Suzanne tabling at Pet Fair held by Pet Fair organized by Unity Church, North Tampa

FVA’s Animal Hero: Dr Mohammed Awad



Dr. Mohammed Awad in action

Surveillance video from the lobby of the Olympus Harbor Island Apartments showed Dr. Mohammed Awad walking into the front door, where a woman was tending to her dog after stepping off the elevator.

The woman had not held onto the leash which trailed on the floor behind her dog. The elevator doors then closed on the leash and the elevator started ascending pulling the dog to the ceiling, thus choking it.

Dr Awad’s first attempt to free the dog did not work, but summoned his strength for a second attempt which got the dog loose!

Dr. Awad was all set to attend FVA’s HAH dinner to receive his award, but due to a flight delay was unfortunately unable to make it. In his absence, a video of the rescue was shown and a presentation was made by Kim Gronemeyer, PhD

Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FLSARC)



FLSARC Volunteers who just completed the Train The Trainer course at SPCA, Lakeland

The Florida State Animal Response Coalition (FL-SARC) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to all-hazard disaster preparation, planning, training, response and recovery during animal emergencies. FL-SARC is organized under the auspices of Florida state and local emergency management agencies utilizing the principles of The Incident Command System (ICS). When a hurricane, fire, tornado or other disaster threatens the state of Florida, they will be there to assist with teams of trained volunteers.

FLSARC teaches and deploys skilled volunteers throughout the state of Florida. Working with the State Agriculture Response Team, volunteers have deployed to numerous counties during recent disasters like hurricane Irma. They have assisted Florida counties when their local animal care resources are overwhelmed during animal-related epidemics, pet friendly emergency shelters, and floods. To maintain the most advanced skills and techniques, FLSARC also deploys with national organizations to rescue and care for animals involved with severe animal hoarding, unlicensed puppy mills, and criminal animal fighting.

Standardized trainings assure that each individual responder has the training required to become a professional Animal Disaster Responder. When they are called upon to assist, you can be confident that our volunteers have completed a set of trainings that exceed the national standard. They know their job, they understand how to protect their entire family, their team members, themselves and the animals they care for during disasters.

One of FLSARC's volunteers and instructors is FVA Board member, **Trevor Chin**. You can see him in the above picture and he 'stands out' being the only oriental person in the area working on animal-related issues. He also belongs to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), Red Rover team (Formerly Emergency Animal Rescue Service EARS), Florida State Agriculture Response Team (FLSART), CPR-Certified, is a Last (or was that the First?) Responder and is also a HAM-radio operator.

If anyone is adventurous enough to become a FLSARC volunteer to help animals in disaster situations, here is the following schedule of trainings from <http://www.flsarc.org>

FL-003-RESP: Small Animal Emergency Sheltering: Awareness Level (Level 1)

Course Description: This Awareness Level class gives students the knowledge necessary to work in an emergency animal shelter. This class provides expertise and practical experience required to become a professional disaster animal responder. The Awareness Level Small Animal Emergency Sheltering class is certified by the Florida Department of Emergency Management and is required to respond in Florida to help companion animals during a disaster.

Course topics include: Personal Preparedness, Overview of the Incident Command System, Deployment Preparedness, Assisting in Shelter Set Up, Daily Care and Feeding, Proper Cage Cleaning and Disinfection, Animal Behavior, Stress Management, Zoonotic Diseases, Personal Safety and more....

Tuition: \$100

Prerequisites: Must be age 18 or older

2020 AWARENESS LEVEL CLASS SCHEDULE

(Tentative) Saturday, APR 25, 2020 - Jacksonville, FL

(Tentative) Saturday, MAY 16, 2020 - Pensacola, FL

Saturday, JUN 20, 2020 - Sarasota, FL - Hosted by Cat Depot

Saturday, JUL 11, 2020 - Panama City, FL - Hosted by Operation Spay Bay

(Tentative) Saturday, JUL 18, 2020 - Fort Myers, FL

(Tentative) Saturday, AUG 8, 2020 - Fort Lauderdale, FL

Saturday, OCT 10, 2020 - Lakeland, FL - Hosted by SPCA Florida

(Tentative) Saturday, NOV 14, 2020 - Port St. Lucie

You can receive this newsletter via email or download it from the FVA website. To go paperless please email fvaonline@yahoo.com and let us know. You will both help the environment and enable FVA have more resources for helping animals.

YES I want to support Florida Voices for Animals, Inc.

Enclosed is my annual membership fee or donation:

☐ \$300 Teddy* Lifetime ☐ \$100 Patron ☐ \$50 Family ☐ \$30 Individual ☐ \$15 Student ☐ _____ Other

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____ FAX: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____

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I would like to volunteer for:

☐ Phone Tree ☐ Attending Demonstrations ☐ Staffing Outreach Tables ☐ Website ☐ Newsletter

☐ Investigations ☐ Other: _____

I prefer to receive my Newsletters: ☐ Electronically via email ☐ Regular Mail

** In loving memory of Keith Roghair's dog, Teddy*



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GOOD NEWS



☺ **Feb 2020: White Castle is the first fast-food chain to offer Vegan Cheese.** The Impossible Sliders will feature dairy-free cheddar made by Bellevue, Washington-based brand, GoodPlanet Foods. Vegan cheese will be available New Jersey and New York City White Castle locations starting March 1.

☺ **Feb 2020: Burger King now has the Impossible Burger.** The chain launched a trial of the Impossible Whopper last April Fools Day. Last August, it launched nationwide.

☺ **Feb 2020: Dunkin Donuts offers Beyond Meat breakfast sausages.** They were launched nationwide last October after a successful trial in New York City.

☺ **Feb 2020: Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) has Beyond Meat fried chicken.** KFC recently launched vegan Beyond Meat fried chicken across 70 locations earlier this month, building on the success of its Atlanta trial over the summer. The meat-free fried chicken now features a new recipe, with an improved taste and texture. If the trial goes well, the fast-food giant may launch vegan fried chicken nationwide.

☺ **Mar 2020: THE ORDINANCE TO BAN DOG AND CAT SALES IN HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY WAS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY THE BOCC** On March 14th, the amendments to Hillsborough County Ordinance No. 17-12 passed! The ordinance prohibits all Hillsborough County pet retailers, including those that sell animals online, from purchasing any dogs or cats that come from an animal breeder after the effective date. The change also prohibits the sale of any animal in public places such as flea markets or yard sales. Puppies Tampa and All About Puppies are being allowed one year to transition to adoptions where dogs or cats must be obtained from animal shelters or rescue organizations instead of private breeders.

All About Puppies and Puppies Tampa are required to spay & neuter all the animals that are now in their stores and obtain a certificate from a local "humane entity" like the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals vouching for the living conditions of the animals kept by breeders who source their puppies.

FVA wants to thank all the people that took time off work and came from near and far to speak for the dogs and cats that are living in deplorable conditions in puppy mills. We thank all that sent email messages and made those very important calls for the animals.

ALL your voices were heard!

Please send a thank-you email to the commissioners at:

<https://www.hillsboroughcounty.org/government/board-of-county-commissioners>



Our mission is to educate the public about animal abuse and exploitation. Please renew your membership if it has expired. Check your label.

M Paid membership and renewal date **L Lifetime member**
X Newsletter exchange **C Courtesy**

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

All events are posted on our Meetup Calendar so if you haven't signed up for our meetup go to www.meetup.com, search for Florida Voices for Animals then sign up.

Every Tue & Thu at 10:30am WUSF Ch 16.3 **Christina Cooks** cooking show with **Christina Pirello**

Every Wed at 10am WMNF 88.5FM **Talking Animals** radio show with **Duncan Strauss**

Every Fri at 11am WUSF Ch 16.1 **Jazzy Vegetarian** cooking show with **Laura Theodore**

Check out the **Vegan Myth Busters** radio show hosted by **Ellen Jaffe Jones** anytime by visiting <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1667198786868267/>

Please check FVA Meetup for **Vegan Support Group** mtg Location TBA. FVA is hosting a series of vegan support groups on the first Thursday of each month to help you cope with the challenges of living in a non-vegan world.

1st Sat / month Postponed **Loving Hut Vegan Buffet** Sat 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6:30pm), 1905 E Fletcher Ave, Tampa FL 33612, 813-977-7888. Loving Hut's website is http://www.lovinghut.us/tampa_01/ This all-vegan buffet is on the 1st Saturday of the month.

1st Sun / month Postponed **New Leaf Café Brunch**, 9am-12pm 11813 N Armenia Ave, Tampa, FL Enjoy an all-vegan brunch which takes place first Sunday of the month.

3rd Sat / month Postponed **Lotus Vegan Meetup Buffet**, 11am-9pm (Meetup at 6pm), 6575 Park Blvd, Pinellas Park, FL Enjoy an all-vegan buffet at Lotus Vegan Restaurant. This buffet takes place 3rd Saturday of the month.

Postponed to May or June. Please check FVA Meetup for **FVA Tabling at Central FL Earth Day** 10am-6pm Lake Eola Park 512 E Washington St, Orlando, FL Volunteers needed for four 2-hr shifts: 10-12 12-2 2-4 4-6 RSVP on Meetup, email fvaonline@yahoo.com or call 727-656-8368

5/9 (Sat) **FVA Demo Empty The Tanks** 11am-12:30pm Clearwater Mall Entrance 2719 Gulf-to-Bay Blvd, Clearwater, FL Empty The Tanks worldwide is a global event which aims to raise awareness of the truth behind Sea World and other captive marine animal facilities. This is a day for everyone around the world to stand up against marine mammal captivity. The abuse and exploitation of these sentient beings has no place in the 21st century.