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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF PASCO - PINELLAS RESPONDS TO CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK WITH RESTAURANT PARTNERSHIPS

Agency Leads a Coordinated Effort to Ensure the Safety & Wellbeing of Seniors throughout Pinellas and Pasco

St. Petersburg, FL, April 10th – The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco Pinellas (AAAPP), a local nonprofit organization focused on coordinating services to keep seniors healthy and independent, has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic with innovative programming to support seniors.

The program, known as “Dining Out at Home,” involves partnering with local restaurants to safely serve seniors meals at home while also supporting the local economy. This initiative is part of a statewide effort championed by the Department of Elder Affairs, the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association. AAAPP and its nutrition providers, Pasco County Nutrition and Neighborly Care Network, will contract directly with local restaurants to provide home-delivered meals to local seniors in need.

“We’re just seeing a real need for seniors to get food, and on the other side, a real need for restaurants to be able to keep their doors open. So we thought this was a real interesting way that we could help many more seniors and our local economy,” said Ann Marie Winter, Executive Director. “For us, it was a real win-win.”

Each year, AAAPP serves more than 50,000 local older adults through a variety of programs, including home meal delivery, transportation, adult day care, health and wellbeing programming, and information and referral services provided through the Elder Helpline. The Agency accomplishes this through a network of local non-profit and for-profit partnerships. The Dining Out at Home program taps into this network of partners to directly address issues seniors are experiencing related to social distancing measures put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19.

About the Area Agency on Aging of Pasco Pinellas

The Area Agency on Aging of Pasco Pinellas is a non-profit organization that has been serving seniors and individuals with disabilities in our community since 1974. We serve as the Aging and Disability Resource Center for the entire two county area, providing an initial entry point for all aging and disability social services and coordinating a network of partners and providers to better meet the needs of our aging population. Our mission is to be a trusted resource to advocate, educate and empower seniors, adults with disabilities and

caregivers which promotes independence, in partnership with the community. Find out more at www.AgingCareFL.org.

About the Florida Department of Elder Affairs

The Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. The Department provides most direct services through its Division of Statewide Community-Based Services, which works through the state's eleven Area Agencies on Aging and local service providers to deliver essential services to a vital segment of the population. For more information, please visit www.elderaffairs.org.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Ann Marie Winter at 727-570-9696, or email AnnMarie.Winter@AAAPP.org.