**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Center of Hope hosts Pink Party for breast cancer awareness Oct. 4**

*News anchor Jeannie Blaylock joins panel at free event to encourage community to #EndCancer with early detection; games, raffles, food all part of the fun*

**Jacksonville, Fla. (Sept. 25, 2023) –** The Center of Hope at Emmett Reed Community Center is kicking off Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October with a Pink Party on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

The Pink Party’s focus will be on fun, fellowship and information, with First Coast News anchor Jeannie Blaylock joining a panel of women from the 32209 community to share their experiences with breast cancer and why early detection is so important. Raffles, pink food, swag bag giveaways and on-site registration for the upcoming Buddy Bus mobile mammography event with Baptist Health and MD Anderson, are all part of the Center of Hope’s ‘Think Pink’ theme.

“Community health is one of the pillars of the Center of Hope – that call to action comes directly from the residents we serve,” said Jada Hunter, executive director for community reinvestment at Center of Hope. “By talking openly about breast cancer with our friends at the Pink Party, we hope to break down some of the stigma and fears around it and make this part of the larger conversation about our health.”

Blaylock encourages anybody interested in the Pink Party to invite a friend or family member and come check it out for themselves. “It could be one mother you save with your story,” and that’s worth it, she says.

For more information about this or other Center of Hope events, go to CenterofHopeFL.org or call 904-265-6787.

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Oct. 4

 6 p.m.-8 p.m.

**WHERE:**       Center of Hope

Emmett Reed Community Center

 1093 W. 6th St.

 Jacksonville, FL 32209

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*(more)*

**About the Center of Hope at Emmett Reed Community Center**

[The Center of Hope](https://www.fssjax.org/center-of-hope/) is a family–strengthening and neighborhood partnership working to enhance safety and well-being for all children and families in marginalized communities. The Center promotes positive outcomes of safety and well-being for all children and families in our community’s most vulnerable areas, with a focus on the 32209 ZIP code, through the development and delivery of comprehensive services and supports. For more information, go to [CenterofHopeFL.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmmartin%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CD2P6WV97%5CCenterofHopeFL.org).

**About Family Support Services (FSS) of Duval and Nassau Counties**

Family Support Services is the lead agency for family preservation, foster care, and adoption services in Duval, Nassau, Pasco and Pinellas counties. Through community-based care, FSS provides services and programs to help prevent child abuse and neglect, to promote a healthy family environment and to care for our community's children in foster care. For more information, go to [www.familysupport.org](http://www.familysupport.org/).

**MEDIA:** Image of Jeannie Blaylock provided by Jeannie Blaylock. Flier for Center of Hope Pink Party provided. For Center of Hope B-roll, email media@fssnf.org, Attn: Chanel Martin, with a direct link for download. **Interested media should call 904-708-1245** to schedule an interview with Jada Hunter, executive director of Center of Hope.