Approximately 50 teams from all over Jacksonville converged in the Prime Osborn Convention Center Nov. 5 to pack nutritious meals to give to families deemed “food insecure” and hungry within the greater Jacksonville area.

Within four hours, hundreds of boxes were filled with more than 600,000 meals. In the boxes were bags comprised with the raw materials to make six meals such as beans and rice or cheesy macaroni, said Dean Porter of San Marco, who with his wife, Sherri, founded the organization.

Packing the meals provides teams representing local businesses with an “amazing team building experience,” he said. All the ingredients are supplied by Hunger Fight, however the business partners are able to determine where the food will be distributed, such as local food banks, pantries, or churches so that it will have the impact they see fit. The cost of each meal is 25 cents per serving.

The 23rd annual Dinner with Bill and Friends was held Nov. 4 at The Arc Jacksonville Village, beginning with home tours and cocktails and followed by dinner and entertainment. Chair for the fundraising event was Audrey Moran, Baptist Health Senior Vice President, Social Responsibility & Community Advocacy.

The celebration is named in memory of Bill Sackter, an early ambassador for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Sackter spent the better part of his life in an institution and, when eventually released into the community, he spoke often of the need all people have for “a good friend, a good job and a good home.”

Dinner with Bill and Friends applauds the achievements of people with disabilities and helps sustain the programs that support them. Donations and sponsorships ensure that The Arc Jacksonville continues to elevate and empower individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to achieve the “Good Life” everyone desires – a good home, a good job and good friends.